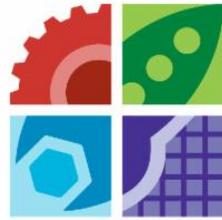


January 2019



AFTERSCHOOL STEM HUB

The Afterschool Lab Report



INTRODUCTION: POLICY UPDATES

After 35 days, the partial shutdown has temporarily ended. While the Education Department was spared, including the primary funding stream for afterschool programs, the length of the shutdown put a strain on many afterschool programs who rely on

additional services like afterschool snack and meals. Additionally, funding for science agencies were included in the shutdown, meaning many ongoing research efforts and grant program support were impacted, including a NASA STEM challenge competition for

21st Century Community Learning Center programs. If Congress and the president cannot agree on funding levels for the remaining seven appropriation bills by February 15, we could see another partial shutdown. More on the impacts of the previous shutdown can be found [here](#).

President Trump Signs NSF STEM Education Research Bill: Before the 115th Congress adjourned and left town in December, Congress passed a STEM bill relating to apprenticeships, which was signed by the president. [H.R. 5509](#), the Innovations in Mentoring, Training, and Apprenticeships Act, provides \$40 million in funding for the National Science Foundation to provide grants to universities and community colleges for research into STEM education approaches and STEM-related workforce issues.

5-Year Strategic STEM Education Plan: On December 5, the Trump administration released their 5-year STEM education strategy, entitled [Charting a Course for Success: America's Strategy for STEM Education](#). The plan will help shape how the administration and federal agencies incorporate STEM education efforts into their priorities, with specific emphasis on promoting equity and providing opportunities for young people to gain the employability skills they need to be successful in their careers. A full summary on the report, and how it intersects with afterschool STEM, can be found [here](#).

New Director of OSTP: Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier was confirmed in late December as the new Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy at the White House. Dr. Droegemeier, a meteorologist and former vice-president of research at the University of Oklahoma, will become the president's top science advisor. The appointment of Dr. Droegemeier ends nearly two years without a science advisor in the White House. The Afterschool STEM Hub looks forward to working with Director Droegemeier over the coming years.

MATERIALS: NEW TOOLS & RESOURCES

New STEM Program Profiles: Look no further for examples of quality STEM programs. The Afterschool Alliance has recently updated their STEM program profiles, including four completely new profiles from STEM programs across the country. Developed by faculty at the University of Chicago, [CryptoClub](#) teaches students valuable math skills through cryptography. [Tech Kids Unlimited](#) helps

students with special needs in Brooklyn, New York, build technology and social emotional skills that they need to enter the workforce. [Global Kids Inc.](#) empowers students to use technology to solve problems in their communities. [All Kids Are](#)

STEM Hub Memo to Federal Agencies: The Afterschool STEM Hub published a memo to federal agencies late this month in response to the Trump Administration's 5-year STEM education strategy that was released in early December 2018. The memo provides background information on afterschool and summer STEM programs, and offers recommendations to expand access and increase quality of STEM

programs. We look forward to meeting with agency representatives to share examples of successful afterschool and summer STEM efforts and provide recommendations to incorporate into their STEM education and engagement plans.

[Scientists](#) (AKA Science) works with community schools across Portland, Oregon, to engage youth in hands-on STEM learning opportunities.

[Read the memo!](#)

[Explore the profiles!](#)

METHODS: UPCOMING ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Share your support for museums:

This year's [Museum Advocacy Day](#) is taking place February 25-26, but you don't have to be in Washington, D.C., to make the case for museums. Check out ways you can advocate from home and join the conversation on the importance of museums using [#museumsadvocacyday](#) and [#museumsadvocacy2019](#).

STEM Professional Development at the NAA

Annual Convention: The National AfterSchool Association's 2019 Annual Convention is taking place in New York City on March 15-18. This year's convention will include more than 30 workshops dedicated to STEM and a general session on STEM and leadership.

[Learn more!](#)

[Advocate from anywhere!](#)

Ways to engage in the next quarter: The next three months are filled with opportunities to engage and promote the importance of STEM learning. Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for ways to engage and share out.

- Black History Month - *February 2019*
- Engineers Week – *February 17-23*
- National Nutrition Month – *March 2019*
- National Library Week – *April 7-13*





RESULTS: IMPACTS OF COORDINATED ADVOCACY

Computer Science Education Week: Thank you to everyone who made CSEdWeek 2018 a huge success! Last year's Hour of Code was the biggest ever, with **220,545 registered events** for 2018. In addition to Hour of Code, as part of CSEdWeek 24,000 teachers and nearly 200 governments, school districts, universities, and organizations have pledged to expand opportunities for computer science worldwide. Building off of last year's success, it is never too early to start planning for CSEdWeek 2019 - mark your calendars for December 9-15!

Federal advocacy around 5-year STEM education strategy: With the release of the Trump administration's STEM education strategy, federal agencies will now be working to implement the strategy into their STEM education and engagement plans during the next two months. This provides an opportunity for STEM education experts and advocates to provide agency representatives with innovative ideas and strategies for expanding access to STEM opportunities. The STEM Hub will be working to provide federal agencies with ideas, starting with the memo shared above, over the coming months.

State-level afterschool STEM advocacy continues: The Afterschool Alliance, in partnership with the STEM Education Coalition, will enter into the third year of a state-level STEM policy effort with statewide afterschool networks. This year, 16 state networks will be working to build capacity and advance legislative priorities related to afterschool STEM quality and access. More information on this year's states and priorities are available [here](#).

FURTHER READING

Issue 8 of Connected Science Learning is all about afterschool STEM! The Issue highlights programs that demonstrate how afterschool programs can engage and inspire youth with STEM. Explore Issue 8 to

In honor of National Mentoring Month in January, the National Girls Collaborative Project worked with the Society of Women Engineers, National Center for Women & Information Technology, the Association for

read about the [Maryland Out-of-School Time Network's STEMbassadors](#), [The Franklin Institute's STEM 3D programming](#), and [a feature on resources from STEM Hub member the National AfterSchool Association](#).

Women in Science, and NASA to produce four blogs on the importance female mentors for girls in STEM.

Read the blogs!

Explore Issue 8!

