

# The Work of OregonASK

## Statewide Afterschool Network

OregonASK is a collaboration of statewide agencies and local organizations working together to support, expand, and advocate for quality out-of-school time programs and activities for children, youth, and families throughout Oregon.



### Training

OregonASK's certified Master Trainers share expertise in afterschool curriculum implementation, behavior support, youth development, family engagement, and more. We offer training available asynchronously on-demand, live online, and in-person. All trainings are approved by the Oregon Center for Career Development's Registry system.



### Consultation & Coaching

OregonASK brings expertise to programs and individuals who want to focus on organizational and programmatic issues, as well as individual skills or needs.



### Research & Evaluation

The research and evaluation team demonstrates the value, reach, and impact of afterschool and summer programs by conducting research and producing reports. OregonASK also maintains Oregon's Quality Standards for Afterschool and Summer.



### Resources & Curriculum

As an active member in the national afterschool landscape, OregonASK serves as the state affiliate to the National Afterschool Association and the Mott Foundation's 50 State Afterschool Network, enabling us to bring high-quality resources back to Oregon. Our curriculum development specialists collaborate with programs to help customize community-specific implementation of inquiry-based content to fit every community.



### Connection

We use our knowledge of afterschool and summer programs and partners across the state to connect people who can learn from one another and build sustainable relationships with partner organizations.

## Partnerships

As Partners in the network, organizations have opportunities to connect with other professionals from out-of-school time programs, find new local, state or national partners, gain access to affordable professional development and program resources, and take advantage of unified messaging to raise the voice of afterschool & summer learning in Oregon. As a collaborative, we align our work with partners from outside the world of education, such as government and business, to make us as efficient and impactful as possible. Participation in the statewide afterschool network helps programs increase connections and credibility as they connect to the National Network, statewide agencies, and local champions.



## Policy

Providers, organizations, and agencies interested in the field of afterschool look to OregonASK to answer questions and keep them informed about local, state, and national issues, including legislation that impacts children, youth, and families in our communities. Our work is centered on educating policymakers through research, tools, strategies, and partnerships with many organizations throughout the state. We educate the community about ways that afterschool & summer programs keep kids safe, inspire learning and help working families. We work directly with providers, public administrators, and elected officials to create policies that support the work of afterschool programs, professional, and youth in Oregon.



## Professional Development

OregonASK recognizes the crucial link between what youth experience in afterschool and summer programs and the skills and knowledge of the program staff who work with them. To keep improving the overall quality of afterschool & summer programs in Oregon, our direct training opportunities serve hundreds annually, and develop the professional development infrastructure for all out-of-school time providers in the state. OregonASK believes that quality afterschool programs are critical for providing every youth



# OregonASK Technical Assistance Overview

For more than a decade, OregonASK has provided technical assistance under various levels of contract for 21st Century Community Learning Centers in Oregon. In alignment with Oregon's state guidance and national requirements, we have outlined below several ways we anticipate continuing to support programs. We encourage programs to consider what services or support might help take your program to the next level of quality, community connection, and whole child support. [If you have more specific questions, please reach out to discuss different one-one-one support options.](#)

Available to program coordinators, managers, and staff. Technical assistance services can include training, consultation, assistance with stakeholder engagements, data and reporting support, and program observation and evaluation.



## Training

We offer training available asynchronously on-demand, live online, and in-person. All training is approved by the Oregon Center for Career Development's Registry system.



## Consultation & Coaching

### Consultation

Consultation to share expertise and help focus organizational and programmatic work, as well as support individual skills or needs.

### Coaching

OregonASK educator coaching is a process that aims to improve performance and focuses on what afterschool professionals can do here and now to improve facilitation of curriculum and skill building after training. This process is meant to extend support for facilitators as they develop toward their goals for working with youth. An OregonASK trainer provides coaching to clients to consider goals and how to help clients meet them, reinforcing the clients growth with important resources and discussion.



## Research & Evaluation

Consultation or direct support on evaluation activities, including survey development, data analysis & visualization, and report writing.



## Resources & Curriculum

Curriculum alignment to academic standards. Available for Common Core, Next Generation Science Standards, HEPA, CASEL, Physical Activity Standards, and National Art Standards



## Connection

### Formal and Informal Alignment

Providing support to align organizational goals and day to day program practices with school day efforts. Work can be focused around one particular standard or topic, (behavior, science, etc) or working towards overall mission coordination. May include specific documentation of recommendations, tools, resources, etc. that could be used with further implementation guidance as well.

### Stakeholder Engagement

Supporting authentic engagement opportunities, outreach, facilitation, growth, etc. as needed to meet the needs of youth and families in the community. Level of support is dependent on program need and may include material development, outreach support, meeting facilitation, strategic planning or other.

Technical Assistance Fees	\$100/hour
Materials Fee	TBD
Mileage	(# of miles roundtrip x current IRS mileage rate)

No taping or recording is allowed by participants. OregonASK holds the rights to all recordings.

OregonASK has the right to modify billing fees after a signed Training Agreement if there is an increase in participants.

For more information, contact [general@oregonask.org](mailto:general@oregonask.org)

# OregonASK: Who We Are



## Beth Unverzagt, Executive Director

During the past 15 years, since the 2005 inception of the Oregon Network, Beth has worked on numerous initiatives including advocacy for school age programs, creation of the school age standards and competencies, training and technical assistance for school age programs. Beth believes that all children and youth should have expanded learning opportunities, regardless of the economic status of their families. In 2016, she was recognized as a White House Champion of Change for her work in summer learning. Beth is an artist, book lover, grandmother of two and a world traveler.



## Bethany Thrasher, Communications Manager

Bethany is the Community Relations Manager, having been working for OregonASK since starting as a VISTA in 2012. For a decade, she supported informal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), participating in statewide work groups and cross-sector convenings, and increasing equitable expanded learning opportunities. In 2015-16, Bethany was selected as a White Riley Peterson Fellow to advance policy in support of afterschool and summer. In recent years, efforts have focused on summer learning policy, workforce preparedness systems building, and whole child well-being efforts. With a Bachelor's in Social Work, she is excited to pursue her deep commitment to supporting whole, healthy youth in thriving communities. Bethany is a proud mom of 3 boys and starting her journey as local PTA president at her boys school.



## Katie Lahey, Research Manager

As Research Manager, Katie collaborates with colleagues to collect data on afterschool and summer programs, to evaluate the impact of particular projects, and to produce reports. While she loves a well-organized spreadsheet, Katie is most dedicated to telling the story of afterschool: the triumphs of afterschool programs and the youth they serve, as well as the stories of the young people who don't yet have access to enriching, life-changing afterschool and summer experiences. By uplifting these stories, Katie hopes to help build strategies and systems that create opportunity for every child across Oregon.





### Kelsey Nagel, Training & Curriculum Designer

Kelsey Nagel is a Training and Curriculum Designer who supports network partnerships & communication, training & curriculum development, and graphic design at OregonASK. Kelsey is passionate about creating accessible educational experiences that are exciting and inclusive. She holds a BA in Creative Writing, a Master's Degree in Teaching Early Childhood and Elementary Education, and an Oregon Teaching License. Before her work with OregonASK, she was an upper elementary school teacher and afterschool educator.



### Monica McQueen, Entrepreneurship Project Director

Monica has a Masters in Library and Information Science, and has worked as a bilingual Library / Media / Technology Specialist in international schools in Geneva, Amsterdam, Luxembourg, Seattle and Portland. She has helped run many different enrichment programs for K-12 students in her schools, and also worked as the Programs Director for a remote-learning charter school in Oregon. She helps advocate for and connect expanded learning programs with curriculum, resources, and ideas to implement more entrepreneurial skills and mindset learning, and incorporate entrepreneurship into STEAM, career-connected learning and other learning programs. In the past, she integrated entrepreneurship skills while teaching things like design thinking, JA Biztown, Lego Robotics, maker space, agricultural science and other classes.



### Rachel Kessler, Learning Design Coordinator

Rachel provides facilitation, training, and coaching for programs including support for STEM initiatives and academic and enrichment goals for programs. She is also the lead curriculum developer for the Network, spending time on STEAM, literacy, service learning, careers, and most recently, the Prysm Arts curriculum and strategies for front line staff and program leadership. Her Professional Development has also earned "Top 10 Session" awards at the National Afterschool Association conferences four years in a row, including sessions such as Art and Youth Voice, The 'A' in STEAM, and Equitable Art practices in Afterschool. Rachel is also the lead on National efforts to train Network leads on sustainable and expansive STEAM strategies, Content development and partnering for the Mizzen by Mott App, and the development of OregonASK tools such as the STEM Mentors' Toolkit. Rachel has been with OregonASK since November 2014 and is also a professional artist living in Portland. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art from California Institute for the Arts, and a Masters Degree from ArtCenter College of Design.



## Stephanie Balke, OregonASK Associate

Stephanie has a strong passion for fostering quality in afterschool programs and is excited to bring her field experience and education background into the OregonASK quality team that supports professional development initiatives across Oregon. Stephanie earned her degree in Elementary Education in 2013 and has worked with public, non-profit, and for-profit educators; finding her passion to be in afterschool. She participated in Mizzen by Mott pioneer program and was selected as a panel presenter. She was chosen as a 2021 Next Generation of Afterschool Leader by the National Afterschool Association. In her free time, Stephanie, her husband, and new addition to the family, Nathan, enjoy going to the park, doing crafts, and participating in library story time.

## Amber Lomascola, Program Specialist

Amber's passion for afterschool was ignited during her 3 Americorps and California Conservation Corps terms that led her to creating and managing an afterschool program, teaching special education programs, and facilitating field trips throughout the community. She spent several years working in a Child Development Center and the following 11 years dedicated to raising her 4 children on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Amber started with OregonASK after having worked for nearly a decade managing the Expanding Horizon Youth Center (EHYC) in Myrtle Creek OR. During her time at the Tribal-specific afterschool and summer program, the EHYC supported over 70 2nd to 12th grade youth, with outcomes that exceed state graduation rates. The full service program provided food, tutoring, technology assistance, outdoor recreation, arts and crafts, and summer STEAM curriculum with strong district and community connections. Amber currently holds 4 AS degrees, a certification in ECE Indigenous First Students and is currently finishing her BS of Social Science at PSU. She is passionate about keeping her kids connected to their culture through traditional art and activities. Amber's unique perspective of being from and working in small rural communities guides her motivation for promoting the importance of Afterschool programming for all.