



December 18, 2024

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"My vision of advocacy begins by connecting with like-minded people that seek to use power to benefit everyone in the community. It begins with reflecting inwardly, and understanding wants and needs with a holistic perspective"

Colleen Roan, *My Dream*

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Welcome to the December 2024 edition of the [NOW Innovation Forum Newsletter](#). We are excited to share additional opportunities and resources with you as we close out another year. In this edition you're invited to:

- View the recording of this year's final webinar, *Building Community Power through Food and Education Systems Transformation*
- Listen to episode 3 of Season 3 of *In the Arena with NOW* podcast, featuring Dominique Bellegarde
- Check out the 2024 NOW Leadership Article, *My Dream*, by Colleen Roan, published this past summer
- Explore the Featured Resource, *Food Sovereignty Zine: Stories of Food Resiliency and Liberation*
- Support Our Campaign, *Together We Thrive*

Thank you for your commitment to children, families, and communities and for joining us as we journey through another year together.

Bienvenido a la edición de diciembre del 2024 del [Boletín Informativo del NOW Innovation Forum](#) (Foro de Innovación NOW). Estamos muy contentos de compartir oportunidades y recursos adicionales con usted mientras cerramos otro año. En esta edición estás invitado a:

- Ver la grabación del último taller virtual de este año, *Construyendo Poder Comunitario a través de la Transformación de los Sistemas Alimentarios y Educativos*
- Escuchar los episodios 1-3 de la temporada 3 del podcast *En la Arena con NOW*, con Dominique Bellegarde
- Ver el Artículo de Liderazgo de 2024 de NOW, *Mi Sueño*, publicado en el verano pasado, por Colleen Roan
- Explorar el Zine de Recursos Destacados, *Soberanía Alimentaria: Historias de Resiliencia y Liberación*
- Apoyar Nuestra Campaña, *Juntos Prosperamos*

Gracias por su compromiso a los niños, las familias, y las comunidades, y por acompañarnos en nuestro recorrido ante otro año juntos.

Network Highlights

Webinar Archive: *Building Community Power through Food and Education Systems Transformation*

Thank you for joining us on Thursday, December 5 for our closing webinar of the year! We were joined by **Tailor Coble**, FoodPrints Early Education Program Manager at FRESHFARM, who shared strategies for building community power at the intersection of early childhood education and food systems. View the webinar archive to access the recording, materials, and other resources to learn more.

[View Here](#)



New Episode: *In the Arena with NOW*



Episode 3 features "woman of the community," birth specialist, and Boston Breastfeeding Coalition (BBC) leader, **Dominique Bellegarde**. A true servant leader and long time Vital Village Networks champion for birthing people and families in Boston, Dominique shares how her personal experiences navigating motherhood and becoming a certified lactation counselor and educator shaped her journey of becoming an advocate. Tune in to hear Dominique reflect on the unique role of coalitions to bring about collective action and demonstrate the power and ripple effect of helping others and inviting others into the "circle."

[Subscribe Here](#)

2024 NOW Leadership Article Highlight: *My Dream*, by Colleen Roan, McKinley County Early Childhood Coalition

This summer, long-time NOW member and Peer Learning Cluster Co-Lead, **Colleen Roan**, shared her reflections on navigating advocacy pathways through relational and healing-centered strategies. A member of the Navajo Nation, Colleen serves as the Coordinator of the McKinley County Early Childhood Coalition where she supports partnering with stakeholders and creating a more cohesive, equitable and effective early childhood system and coordinating a continuum of family driven, community based, high quality prenatal to five programs and services that are available and accessible to all families in the country. *Read stories of local leaders and more in our NOW Leadership Article Series.*



[Read Here](#)

2024 Vital Village Resource Feature: *Food Sovereignty Zine: Stories of Food Resiliency and Liberation*



How can we build a community-powered food system that centers healing, resiliency, and parent and caregiver leadership? Last year, ten local food systems leaders from across the country connected through the 2023 Community Food Systems Fellowship explored this question and engaged in a co-design process to develop a zine sharing ancestral stories of food resiliency and liberation. This resource, *Stories of Food Resiliency and Liberation*, was published earlier this year and offers wisdom, resources, and reflections, on their experiences advocating for food sovereignty.

[Access the Resource Here](#)



This Giving Tuesday, we invited our network to join us in building healthier, more connected, and equitable communities for children and families. *Together We Thrive* embodies our shared commitment to uplift one another, recognizing that we're all part of a larger community of change-makers.

Our goal this is to reach our highest participation ever, and it's not too late to join the movement! Your contribution, regardless of amount or type of service, is vital to the power of our collective.

As one of our cherished network members shared: *"We are not simply an island but one body, many members... with hope, courage, and strength to keep moving forward."*

[Give Together, Give Today](#)

The NOW community hopes to stay connected and lift up the work and stories of all of our members. Follow and tag us so that we can virtually highlight the community-led transformation you are leading

[#VillageInMind](#)



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