Dropout Prevention Update
October 1, 2004- Volume 4- Number 4
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Sixteenth Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference program is now available. http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm

Top Stories
PEN/GiveKidsGoodSchools.org has created an online survey to help document the impact of NCLB. http://www.GiveKidsGoodSchools.com

ERIC Education Library's new look debuts online. http://www.eric.ed.gov/

George W. Bush and John Kerry have put forth extensive proposals to increase the number of American high school graduates as part of their presidential campaigns.
http://www.all4ed.org/publications/ThePresidentialCandidates/index.html

Funding Sources
The Target Corporation offers funding projects aimed at creating opportunities for students in visual art, music, and drama in their communities. Each store is authorized to make Arts in Education Grants within its community. Deadline: November 1, 2004.
http://target.com/target_group/community_giving/index.jhtml?content=target%5ffcg%5ffindex

Youth Service America and State Farm have partnered to present the State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Grant for teachers/professors, youth (ages 5-25), and school-based service-learning coordinators to implement service-learning projects for National Youth Service Day 2005, April 15-17. Deadline: October 18, 2004. http://www.ysa.org/awards/award_grant.cfm

The Digi-Block Grant program allows teachers and groups of teachers to apply for Digi-Block Learning System materials and training valued up to $5,000. Deadline: October 15, 2004.
http://www.digi-block.com/grant

Policy Updates
Every day of the school year an average of 3,000 students drop out of high school and very few take notice. http://www.educationnews.org/alternative-certification.htm

NASSP has issued guidelines to assist school leaders as they address the school-beverage issue and related health concerns, engage their communities in informed discussions, and initiate decisions. http://www.principals.org/schoolimprove/school_beverage_partnerships.cfm

International Notes
Comparisons of starting salaries for teachers worldwide. http://www.nationmaster.com/graph-T/edu_pri_tea_sal_sta

Education at a Glance compares education facts in an international perspective.
http://www.oecd.org/document/7/0,2340,en_2649_34515_33712135_1_1_1_1,00.html

Students With Disabilities
The National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities web site is now up.
http://www.dropoutprevention.org/NDPC-SD/index.htm

NICHCY has launched a new information service. http://www.nichcy.org/SurveyIntro1.html

The 2004 National Organization on Disability/Harris Survey of Americans with Disabilities covers the participation gaps between Americans with and without disabilities in ten major life activities. http://www.nod.org/stats/

Effective Strategies
Educational Technology
Two economists state that today's digital divide is between students who can use a computer to do valuable work and those who cannot. http://edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=01murnane.h24

Bruce Whitehead shares "seven golden nuggets" to help ensure the success of your school's technology implementation plans. http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/voice/voice006.shtml

A new report from the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation indicates that children between the ages of 8 and 18 with less educated parents or who attend school in lower-income communities are significantly less likely than other children to use the Internet. http://www.kff.org/entmedia/7090.cfm

Professional Development
The web-based Teaching Perspectives Inventory is a free tool that can help teachers collect their thoughts and summarize their ideas about teaching. http://www.teachingperspectives.com/

Brenda Dyck provides tools and suggestions for teachers to develop a personal professional development plan. http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/voice/voice128.shtml

This annotated collection of resources about high-quality professional learning contains more than 30 Internet documents and websites. http://www.teacherleaders.org/misc/Ferriter_HQPDresources.pdf

Safe Learning Environments
This middle school-oriented article includes advice from a suspension expert and shares tips for creating successful in-school suspension programs. http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/admin/admin329.shtml

Do zero-tolerance policies make schools safe? Read the pros and cons in this report. http://www.asbj.com/current/research.html

The MindOH! Foundation has created cyberbullying and other bullying resources for the victims of bullying, those who bully, and for bystanders. http://www.mindohfoundation.org/bullying.htm

Resources & Tools
The *Teachability Index* uses 16 social, economic, and demographic characteristics to measure the overall difficulty of educating students. http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/ewp_06.pdf

Sam M. Intrator, a veteran teacher, outlines many different strategies for creating episodes of engaged time in the classroom. http://www.ascd.org/publications/ed_lead/200409/intrator.html

Are you a highly qualified teacher? Take the federal test to get a feel for what is required. http://www.reacheverychild.com/

Ruby Payne, the well-known author of *A Framework for Understanding Poverty,* maintains that the most effective way to engage high-poverty students in learning is by building relationships. http://snipurl.com/classceiling

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemson.edu Sources: Education News, Reports, & Commentaries, EdWeek, ENC, eSn, Middle Web, NASSP News, NICHCY, Pen Weekly, Philanthropy Digest, RFP Bulletin, SMHP