Dropout Prevention Update
October 1, 2005- Volume 5- Number 4
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories
UNICEF will use 50% of their Trick-or-Treat proceeds for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. http://www.unicefusa.org/site/apps/nl/content2.asp?c=duLRi8O0H&b=33260&ct=1396261

Norfolk (Virginia) Public Schools system is the winner of the 2005 Broad Prize for Urban Education. http://www.broadfoundation.org/flagship/prize.shtml

The U.S. Department of Education is seeking teachers and school leaders to participate in their Teacher-to-Teacher Training Corps. Deadline: October 10, 2005. http://www.teacherquality.us/TeacherToTeacher/CallForTrainers.asp

Funding Sources
Grants, funded by the State Farm Companies Foundation, are available from Youth Service America for teachers, youth (ages 5-25), and school-based service-learning coordinators to implement service-learning projects for National & Global Youth Service Day April 21-23, 2006. Deadline: October 17, 2005. http://www.ysa.org/awards/award_grant.cfm

Public school employees impacted by Hurricane Katrina may apply for grants for housing, food, clothing, and other necessities. For information: call 1-866-247-2239, or e-mail: katrinarelief@nea.org or http://www.nea.org/katrina/index.html


Policy Updates
Dramatic gains in test scores by black and Hispanic students in Wake County (NC) may be attributed to integration by income. http://www.nytimes.com/2005/09/25/education/25raleigh.html

Renewing Our Schools, Securing Our Future, outlines a wide range of policy recommendations that go far beyond the goals of the No Child Left Behind Act. http://www.americanprogress.org/site/pp.asp?c=biJRJ8OVF&b=994995

International Notes
Tire Tracks is an online education program that engages students and teachers in the exploration of Africa. http://www.tiretracks.org/

British teachers are entitled by law to 10% of the timetable free from teaching in the classroom so they can get on with what is called PPA, or "planning, preparation and assessment". http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/4209222.stm

Students With Disabilities
Advice for parents on special education services for their children.  
http://www.aed.org/Education/US/speced101.cfm

**Effective Strategies**

**Alternative Schooling**
Cristo Rey schools for low-income students combine high academic standards with real-world work experience in corporate America. In return, the school, not the student, receives a paycheck.  
http://www.cristoreynetwork.org/

Teens who are recovering from substance abuse attend so-called recovery schools, aka “dry highs.”  
http://www.csba.org/csmag/csMagStoryTemplate.cfm?id=76

The American Architectural Foundation and KnowledgeWorks Foundation have created a video case study and discussion guide that will educate local leaders and residents about the benefits of creating “Schools as Centers of Community.”  

**Educational Technology**
A veteran math instructor says a teacher's best bet for getting students interested in mathematics is fantasy football.  

Twenty Must-Have Technology Skills for educators, along with links to Web sites.  
http://thejournal.com/magazine/vault/A5387.cfm

A recent survey found that nearly all states with textbook adoption policies now include software, digital content, and other technology-based media in their definitions of "instructional materials."  

**Family Engagement**
Free online calendar service for teachers to keep parents updated on class schedules and activities.  
http://www.trumba.com/

A toolkit of resources that Hispanic families can use to improve their children's performance in school.  

The Harvard Family Research Project has published an online guide to information, resources and tools dedicated to promoting and supporting family involvement in education.  

**Resources & Tools**
Former military who transition to teaching are meeting the nation’s growing need for specific kinds of teachers.  
http://www.ncei.com/

*Education: The State We’re In* provides a comprehensive, state-by-state snapshot of education today in America.  
http://www.americanprogress.org/site/pp.asp?c=bJNRJ8OVF&b=999991

Highly credentialed teachers from across North Carolina suggest ideas on how to get more accomplished teachers like themselves into the schools that need them most.  
http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/08/31/01nbptsnc.h25.html

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemson.edu  
Sources: ECS, Education Gadfly, EducationNews.org, eSn, National Service-Learning Partnership, NCLB Extra Credit, PEN Weekly, rtcUpdates