Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Registration for the 18th Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM, February 19-22 is now open
http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm

Top Stories
UC Berkeley researchers found that for every new dollar California spends on higher education, it
will receive three dollars. http://ucdata.berkeley.edu:7101/new_web/pubs/
Return_On_Investment_Final_Report.pdf

Civil rights advocates want to make an example of a rural South Dakota district over the "school-
to-prison pipeline." http://www.sanluisobispo.com/mld/sanluisobispo/news/nation/13331601.htm

Publicolor, a program in which students are permitted to paint their schools' interiors, is credited
by school officials with lowering dropout rates, decreasing discipline problems, and increasing
attendance. http://www.cnn.com/2005/EDUCATION/12/19/paint.in.schools.ap/index.html

Funding Sources
The "We the People Bookshelf" program invites public and school (K-12) libraries to apply to
receive free books. Deadline: January 17, 2006
http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/wethepeople/wepeople.htm

The State Farm Companies Foundation contributes to teacher excellence programs that improve
teacher quality, service-learning programs that integrate core classroom curriculum with service
to the community, and programs that incorporate the Baldrige criteria into education systems to
improve overall effectiveness. Deadline: January 15, 2006.
http://www.statefarm.com/foundati/foundati.htm

The Coming Up Taller Awards recognize and reward outstanding after-school and out-of-school
arts and humanities programs for underserved children and youth. Deadline: January 30, 2006.
http://www.cominguptaller.org/

Policy Updates
A new policy brief tracks state and district efforts to comply with the recently extended NCLB
deadline for paraeducators. http://www.recruitingteachers.org/resources/final_policy_brief.pdf

According to a new report by the Education Trust, most states significantly shortchange poor and
minority children when it comes to funding the schools they attend.
http://www2.edtrust.org/EdTrust/Press+Room/Funding+Gap+2005.htm

International Notes
UNICEF reports that forty-six countries are failing to get as many girls as boys into school.
http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_29995.html

The Reece Community High School in Devonport, Tasmania, is no ordinary school setting. One
of its buildings houses 100 students in four principal learning areas instead of classrooms.
http://www.edutopia.org/magazine/ed1article.php?id=Art_1389&issue=nov_05

Students With Disabilities

This searchable database from the Consortium for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Education (CADRE) contains research-based and policy/practice literature related to dispute resolution in special education. http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/raisesearch.cfm

The National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) presents a summary of its tenth survey of state directors of special education.
http://education.umn.edu/nceo/OnlinePubs/2005StateReport.htm

Effective Strategies
Early Childhood Education
The instructional and emotional aspects of interactions of children at risk of problems in first grade with their teacher and instructors, appears to help close the achievement gap.
http://www.tcrecord.org/Content.asp?ContentID=12224

The NIEER study of high-quality prekindergarten programs in five states reveals significant improvement in children's early language, literacy and mathematical development, improvement.
http://nieer.org/docs/index.php?DocID=129

Educational Technology
The New WWW: Whatever, Whenever, Wherever shares ideas about meeting the 21st Century education challenge. http://snipurl.com/NewWebLearning

Students practice pronouncing words given to them by a computer program, which listens and speaks back, giving students the one-on-one attention they'd get from a personal tutor.
http://www.projo.com/education/content/projo_20051205_ccri5.8619335.html

Safe Learning Environments
Anti-bullying programs actor North America are adding information about cyber bullying and its effects on today's youth. http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=5986

The *Stop Bullying Now* Web site offers teachers, parents and students a wide range of information and resources on how to identify, intervene in, and prevent bullying in schools.
http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/index.asp?area=main

Resources & Tools
High schools that succeed in boosting achievement of disadvantaged students engage in many of the same practices, including assigning the best teachers to the neediest classes, according to two new Education Trust reports. http://www2.edtrust.org/NR/rdonlyres/6226B581-83C3-4447-9CE7-31C5694B9EF6/0/GainingTractionGainingGround.pdf
http://www2.edtrust.org/NR/rdonlyres/012DC865-97CA-4C2F-8A04-9924E2F392F0/0/ThePowerToChange.pdf

Value-Added Accountability Models is designed to help policy makers and educators understand the benefits and limitations of using student progress to evaluate teachers.
http://www.ets.org/Media/Research/pdf/PICVAM.pdf

Elements of Effective Practice Toolkit for Mentoring available in English and Spanish.
http://www.mentoring.org/program_staff/eeptoolkit/index.php

A database developed by the Lumina Foundation allows you to review and compare high-school-to-college transition initiatives in all 50 states. http://www.apass.uiuc.edu/

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemson.edu Sources: ECS, EducationNews.org, Edutopia, eSn, NASSP Bulletin, PEN Weekly, rtcUpdates