

Dropout Prevention Update
February 1, 2006- Volume 5, Number 8
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

The Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, a federally backed professional society, focuses solely on advancing scientifically rigorous studies in education. <http://www.sree-net.org/>

Clemson University has a new Youth Development online Masters Degree Program.
<http://www.hehd.clemson.edu/ode/youthdev/youthdev1.htm>

Funding Sources

The Christopher Columbus Awards Program combines science and technology with community problem-solving at the middle school level. The maximum Award is \$25,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Walt Disney World to attend the program's National Championship Week. Deadline: February 13, 2006. <http://www.christophercolumbusawards.com/>

Hewlett-Packard will award grants of up to \$8 million in cash and technology that are designed to facilitate innovative programs teaching with mobile technology in classrooms around the country. Deadline: February 15, 2006. http://grants.hp.com/us/programs/tech_teaching/index.html

The Coca-Cola Company invites middle level schools across the nation to participate in Live It! a program of geared to promoting healthy, active lifestyles. Participating schools receive Stepometers for each student, teacher guides, and other materials. <http://www.liveitprogram.com/>

Policy Updates

When Learning Counts examines the licensure content for principals in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, and finds that licensing requirements are misaligned with today's ambitions for school leaders and vary widely. <http://www.crpe.org/pubs/introWhenLearningCounts.shtml>

More districts are training their subs in classroom management and instructional skills so a teacher's absence does not mean a loss of learning.
http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/admin/admin429.shtml

International Notes

The education systems of the independent states of the former Soviet Union have undergone considerable changes over the past few years. <http://www.wes.org/ewenr/05dec/feature.htm>

The United Nations is supporting a project to give a \$100, hand-cranked laptop computer to schoolchildren around the globe. http://www.boston.com/news/education/higher/articles/2006/01/26/un_body_backs_100_laptop_for_worlds_kids/

Students With Disabilities

Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. has been awarded a contract to develop and test interventions to help youth with disabilities maximize their economic self-sufficiency as they move from school to work. <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/disability/ytd.asp>

If you are an artist or poet with LD (ages 4-18), you are encouraged to submit entries for this year's NCLD Art & Poetry Competition. This year's theme is "Welcome to the Land of LD." Deadline: March 3, 2006. <http://www.ld.org/awards/art/2006/index.cfm>

Effective Strategies

Career and Technical Education

National Job Corps Study: Findings Using Administrative Earnings Data provides the most solid empirical evidence to date on the program's longer-term earnings impacts and cost-effectiveness. <http://www.mathematica-pr.com/Press%20Releases/jobcorpsjan06.asp>

CTE and Dropping Out of High School examines the association between the CTE-to-academic-course taking ratio and the likelihood of dropping out. <http://www.nccte.org/publications/infosynthesis/r&dreport/DroppingOut-Plank.pdf>

Our Success is our Graduates profiles an IT career ladder program for at-risk, low-income, young adults with outstanding results, <http://www.jff.org/jff/kc/library/0267>

Educational Technology

The Learning With Laptops Web site provides useful information and resources for schools that are planning or implementing student laptop computer programs. <http://www.learningwithlaptops.org/>

The Laptop Institute is a national think tank for schools using or considering laptops as a tool for learning. <http://www.laptopinstitute.com>

Want to learn more about the online-learning phenomenon? This report features profiles of model programs and interviews with students, teachers, and experts. <http://www.edutopia.org/onlinelearning/>

Family Engagement

The National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign has three new publications to assist parents and caregivers in talking to their kids about drugs and alcohol. Available in several languages. <http://www.theantidrug.com/news/resourcealist.aspx?id=4>

Parents' Reports of School Practices to Provide Information to Families examines these in relation to the frequency of parent involvement at their children's schools. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2006041>

Resources & Tools

The National High School Center at the American Institutes for Research (AIR) will serve as a central source of in-depth knowledge, expertise, and analysis on high school improvement. <http://www.betterhighschools.org/>

Reconnecting Disadvantaged Young Men examines field programs and research studies and recommends specific strategies to enhance education, training, and employment opportunities for disadvantaged youth. <http://www.urban.org/pubs/reconnecting/chapter1.html>

A Harvard Family Research Project report finds that participating in out-of-school time activities correlates with better academic performance. <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/conference>

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemsun.edu Sources: ECS, EducationNews.org, Edutopia, EDWeek, JFF Newswire, Mathematica, Middle Web, NASSP Bulletin, NCES, PEN Weekly, rtcUpdates