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The next *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* radio webcast will air Tuesday, June 24, at 3:30 p.m. Learn how service-learning can foster resilience and school engagement in youth. Resources will be up by June 11th.
http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast/

Top Stories
The National Center for Education Statistics within the Institute of Education Sciences has released *The Condition of Education 2008,* a congressionally mandated report that provides an annual portrait of education in the United States.
http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008031.pdf

Sound Connections
Listen to May's Radio Webcast, *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* with guest Dr. Susan Limber. Dr. Limber's topic was bullying prevention. It is also available on I-Tunes.
http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast/ep.php?ep=00004

April 26 marked the 25th anniversary of the release of *A Nation at Risk,* issued by the National Commission on Excellence in Education. Milton Goldberg, the former staff director for the Commission, discusses this report and notes that many of the issues discussed in it are still issues today. Hear his remarks.
http://www.forumforeducation.org/upload_files/files/pvforum_educationdemocracy.mp3

Videos
Watch a two-part interview with Daniel Pink, author of *A Whole New Mind* talking about education issues vis-à-vis current economic trends world wide and other things.
Part 1:
http://www.eschoolnews.com/video-center/esn-techwatch/?i=53707;_hbguid=ca173c0a-c708-4f21-bceb-66e8a13f6c93=esn-techwatch
Part 2:
http://www.eschoolnews.com/video-center/esn-techwatch/index.cfm?i=53708;_hbguid=52465331-a240-494c-8517-8527ff20c02e

The late Bernard Gill of the National Youth Leadership Council talks about service-learning and its positive impact on African American males.
http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/0806GillSL.asx

Funding Sources
Sponsored by VSA arts with support from Volkswagen of America, Inc., the Green Light Awards program is open to young artists ages 16 to 25 living in the United States who have a physical, cognitive, or mental disability. The program will award a Grand Prize of $20,000, a First Award of $10,000, a Second Award of $6,000, and twelve Awards of Excellence of $2,000 each.
http://www.vsarts.org/PreBuilt/showcase/gallery/exhibits/vw/2007/index.html

United States Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration: Mentoring, Educational, and Employment Strategies to Improve Academic, Social, and Career Pathway Outcomes Grant. Deadline: June 11, 2008

http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=true&oppId=17689

OJJDP's FY 2008 Gang Prevention Coordination Assistance Program offers funding in support of community partnerships implementing two or more of the following antigang strategies: primary prevention, secondary prevention, gang intervention, and gang enforcement.
Deadline: June 13. More information:
http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2008/Gang.pdf

The Staples Foundation for Learning provides funding to programs that support or provide job skills and/or education for all people, with an emphasis on disadvantaged youth. Maximum Award: $25,000. Eligibility: 501(c)3 organizations.
Deadline: June 16, 2008.
http://www.staplesfoundation.org/foundapplication.html

Policy Updates
A new *Teacher Quality Research & Policy Brief* provides an overview of current teacher evaluation tools and processes and identifies the strengths and limitations of each. The brief also reveals results of new research from the REL Midwest study of district guidance to schools on teacher evaluation policies and presents policy options for states and districts.
http://www.tqsource.org/publications/February2008Brief.pdf

Federal, state, and local policies designed to distribute education funds systematically provide more money to higher-income students and wealthier schools. This is the conclusion of "School Funding's Tragic Flaw," a report by the Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE) and Education Sector.
http://www.crpe.org/cs/crpe/download/csr_files/pub_crpe_disp_may08.pdf

International Notes
There is an online campaign called "Don't Be a Drop Out" designed to encourage young people in the socially/economically disadvantaged suburbs of northern Adelaide (Australia) to stay in school or aim for meaningful employment.
http://www.messengernews.com.au/article/2008/04/28/4671_dont-be-a-drop-out-page.html

The Coordinators of the International Visits Team of the Specialist Schools & Academies Trust is seeking sites for a new International Leadership Learning Programme. Based in the UK, they have support for 36 groups of 10 participants to make study visits in other countries beginning in January 2009. If you would like your school to be a site and/or would like more information, contact the NDPC at ndpc@clemson.edu.

In the past 14 years Namibia's education system has undergone a transformation so sweeping that it could be described as extraordinary. Since gaining independence from South Africa in 1990, this young nation in Southwestern Africa has gone from an apartheid educational model that served only the privileged few -- and even those students were racially segregated -- to a structure that welcomes all children into integrated classrooms.
http://www.aed.org/News/Stories/namibiaed.cfm

Students With Disabilities
Big IDEAs is NDPC-SD's quarterly newsletter, which addresses current issues in dropout prevention and school completion. It features evidence-based dropout-prevention and recovery programs from around the nation as well as information about past and upcoming NDPC-SD events. Big IDEAs is available via electronic subscription and you can subscribe via:
http://www.ndpc-sd.org/dissemination/newsletter.php

Dropout Prevention and Youth with Disabilities: Strategies for Parents of High School Youth.
http://www.ndpc-sd.org/documents/PACER/PACER_Action_Sheet_php-c140.pdf

Effective Strategies
Family Engagement
A new report from the National School Boards Association (NSBA) discusses parental perceptions of the urban school climate in the hope of involving parents, families and communities in education because their participation is imperative for school success.
http://nsba.org/whatwethinkpdf

Students and their families are regularly confronted with a variety of transitions – changing schools, changing grades, encountering a range of other daily hassles and major life demands. This resource from the School Mental Health Project will provide solutions.
http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/transitions/transitions.pdf

Mounting research that links language-rich home environments with reading success and school achievement is driving educators and community groups to target families long before children even register for school.
http://www.edletter.org/insights/familyconversation.shtml

Career and Technology Education
To ensure that the United States will remain a dominant force in the global economy, the nation needs to develop an agenda to equip Americans with the skills necessary to be competitive, so says the Council on Competitiveness in its recent report *Thrive: The Skills Imperative.*
http://www.compete.org/images/uploads/File/PDF%20Files/Thrive.%20The%20Skills%20Imperative%20-%20FINAL%20PDF.PDF

A new study released by the Urban Institute explores employment outcomes for youth who age out of foster care in their mid-20s. Results suggest that foster youth, by age 24, are at a distinct disadvantage as they experience higher unemployment, lower income generation, and less stable job sustainability than young adults outside the system.
http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/1001174_employment_outcomes.pdf

Instructional Technology
Blogging helps many teens become more prolific writers. Sixty-five percent of teen bloggers believe that writing is essential to later success in life.
http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/?i=53663;_hbguid=e0da166a-2d66-434d-9c7c-01286ec3b126

The National Center for Technology Innovation recently held a panel on the effectiveness of research on educational technology. The video clips included in "Speaking Out on the Effectiveness of Research Regarding Educational Technology" show a debate over how findings from education technology research can effectively drive improvements in the field.
http://www.nationaltechcenter.org/index.php/events-main-page/annual-technology-conference2007/session-materials#Speaking_Out_session

Resources and Tools
Where the Girls Are: The Facts About Gender Equity in Education presents a comprehensive look at girls' educational achievement during the past 35 years, paying special attention to the relationship between girls' and boys' progress.
http://www.aauw.org/research/upload/whereGirlsAre.pdf

What Works for Education: Lessons from Experimental Evaluations of Programs and Social Interventions to Enhance Educational Outcomes. This Child Trends fact sheet is based on social interventions and programs that take place during out-of-school time.

http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2008_05_28_FS_WWEducation.pdf

Feedback

Sources: Pen Weekly Newsblast; UCLA School Mental Health Project; Straight A's; The National Service Briefing; Messenger Newspapers, NCES, Join Together, Child Trends