

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**July 1, 2008 — Volume 8, Number 1**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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You can now subscribe to *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* radio webcasts as Podcasts using iTunes®

<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast/>

**Top Stories**

The *National Indian Education Study* (NIES) is a two-part study designed to describe the condition of education for American Indian and Alaska Native students in the United States.

[http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nies/nies\\_2007/n0001.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nies/nies_2007/n0001.asp)

Alliance for Excellent Education's newly released issue brief tells about the high cost of high school dropouts: *The High Cost of High School Dropouts: What the Nation Pays for Inadequate High Schools*.

<http://www.all4ed.org/files/HighCost.pdf>

**Sound Connections**

Two webcasts on service-learning are archived as described below.

The 2008 Service-Learning Works-in-Progress Seminar presented public forum on *Service-Learning Research and Its Implications for Public Policy*.

[http://nslp.convio.net/video/Emerging\\_Scholars.mov](http://nslp.convio.net/video/Emerging_Scholars.mov)

*Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* focused on service-learning practice and dropout prevention for the June broadcast.

<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast/ep.php>

**Videos**

In the latest installment of "Wise Words," Bob Wise, president of the Alliance for Excellent Education and former governor of West Virginia, talks about the 1.2 million students from the class of 2008 who will not graduate with their peers. He says that these students will cost the nation over \$300 billion in lost wages and revenues over the course of their lifetimes.

[http://www.all4ed.org/publication\\_material/WiseWords](http://www.all4ed.org/publication_material/WiseWords)

**Funding Sources**

National Service Agency to award \$3.5 million in funding to serve disadvantaged youth.

Deadline is July 29, 2008.

[http://www.nationalservice.gov/for\\_organizations/funding/nofa\\_detail.asp?tbl\\_nofa\\_id=60](http://www.nationalservice.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=60)

Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Foundation Education Grants support programs/partnerships that promote educational opportunities for diverse populations in the United States. Maximum Award: \$25,000. Eligibility: 501(c)(3) organizations.

Deadline: October 1, 2008.

<http://www.tommy.com/opencms/opencms/corporate/foundation/aboutthefoundation.html/>

**Policy Updates**

The signatories to "A Broader, Bolder Approach to Education" are diverse national leaders from all political and policy spectrums, who have come to agree that the policy embodied in NCLB has failed. The release of the "Broader, Bolder" statement marks the beginning of a long-term effort to

persuade federal, state, and local policymakers to consider a more enriching framework as they work to support every child's education.

[http://www.boldapproach.org/bold\\_approach\\_full\\_statement.pdf](http://www.boldapproach.org/bold_approach_full_statement.pdf)

This paper presents a picture of risk and challenge for youth in distressed communities and outlines how these communities can band together to create a continuum of supportive activities to bolster youth for success in school and life.

<http://www.clasp.org/publications/collectiveresponsibility.pdf>

## **International Notes**

*The Contribution of Early Childhood Education to a Sustainable Society* explains how to educate young children with the aim of preventing further degradation of our planet and contributing to a sustainable society where values of human rights, peace and justice are upheld.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001593/159355E.pdf>

## **Students With Disabilities**

A recent Teleseminar focused on *Engaging Students With School: The Essential Dimension of Dropout Prevention Programs*, presented by Dr. Sandra L. Christenson of the University of Minnesota.

<http://www.ndpc-sd.org/documents/Teleseminars/Christenson-080122/Christiansen-Engaging-Students-20080122.pdf>

## **Effective Strategies**

### **Safe Learning Environments**

*Best Practices To Address Community Gang Problems: OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model* is available at

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/222799.pdf>

Selected titles in the popular series *Safe and Secure Guides to Creating Safer Schools* have been revised and are being released along with updated mentoring guides under the title of *Strategies for Creating a Safe Learning Environment for Children*.

<http://gwired.gwu.edu/hamfish/Publications/Guides/>

### **Family Engagement**

The U. S. Department of Education has developed a publication, *Empowering Parents School Box: A Tool To Equip Parents For the School Year*, that it is distributing free of charge. Link to "What Parents Need to Know" below.

<http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/involve/schoolbox/booklet1/parents.pdf>

Researchers using national data from more than 10,000 eighth-grade students in public and private schools, their parents, teachers, and school administrators conclude that "students do much better in school when their parents are actively involved in their education."

[http://snipurl.com/unh\\_parents](http://snipurl.com/unh_parents)

### **Afterschool Opportunities**

A new Child Trends brief, *Strategies for Improving Out-of-School Programs in Rural Communities*, highlights the challenges faced by rural programs and suggests several strategies that can strengthen these programs.

[http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child\\_Trends-2008\\_05\\_05\\_RB\\_RuralOST.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2008_05_05_RB_RuralOST.pdf)

## **Resources and Tools**

The qualities that differentiate high-achieving and low-achieving rural high schools are community involvement and the school's commitment to student excellence, reports *Science Daily*.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/06/080619174221.htm>

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 19th annual *Kids Count Data Book*, released on June 12, is a national and state-by-state profile of the well-being of America's children. The Data Book seeks to enrich discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all kids. It ranks states on 10 key measures and provides data on the economic, health, education, and social conditions of America's children and families.

<http://www.kidscount.org/datacenter/databook.jsp>

### **Feedback**

We appreciate comments from our readers. We invite new subscribers to receive the *Dropout Prevention Update*. Please contact us at [ndpc@clemsn.edu](mailto:ndpc@clemsn.edu).

**Sources:** JUVJUST, K-12SL Listserv, National Service Briefing, PEN Weekly Newsblast, Hamilton Fish Institute, Straight A's, MiddleWeb, Child Trends