Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Consider submitting a proposal to present at the upcoming NDPC/N Conferences.
http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm#2008_NDPN

Top Stories

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced final regulations to strengthen and clarify *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB), focusing on improved accountability and transparency, uniform and disaggregated graduation rates and improved parental notification for Supplemental Education Services and public school choice.
http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2008/10/10282008.html

The Education Trust report, *Counting on Graduation*, provides information about what states are doing (and not doing) to boost graduation rates and offers specific recommendations for state leaders.
http://www2.edtrust.org/NR/rdonlyres/6CA84103-BB12-4754-8675-17B18A8582AC/0/CountingonGraduation1008.pdf

Sound Connections

The recent *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* presentation on Tuesday, October 28, 2009, on the strategy of *a Teen Parent Program in Pasco, Washington* and its role in helping teen parents graduate is now archived online and also available as a podcast on iTunes. The next program, November 25, 2008, will feature Dr. Terry B. Grier, Superintendent of San Diego Unified School District, and will be on the successful middle college high schools in Guilford County, North Carolina, where Dr. Grier was previously superintendent.
http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast

Videos

Alliance for Education hosted a Briefing on Student Engagement: Pedro Noguera discussed "Student Engagement as a Dropout Prevention Strategy."
http://wm.nmmstream.net/aee/events/120908/noguera1.asx

A Vision of StudentsToday.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGCJ46vyR9o

Funding Sources

Alan Shepard Technology In Education Award: to recognize outstanding contributions by K-12 educators and District level personnel in the field of Educational Technology. Maximum award, $500.
Deadline: Jan. 16, 2009.
http://www.amfcse.org/Alan%20Shepard%20Award/alan_shepard_award.htm

Policy Updates

The Learning First Alliance, a partnership of 18 major national education associations, has put forth six principles for "appropriate and constructive federal involvement in education."
http://www.publicschoolinsights.org/resources.dyn/LFAFederalRoleFINAL.pdf

International Notes

Projects to improve prisoners' basic skills and qualifications in English jails have "failed in almost every respect," a UK Members of Parliament committee said.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7698457.stm

Students With Disabilities
In its recent reports, *Rewards and Roadblocks: How Special Education Students Are Faring Under No Child Left Behind* and *Challenging Change: How Schools and Districts Are Improving Academic Achievement for Special Education Students*, NCLD has uncovered astonishing improvements across the U.S. for students with disabilities because of NCLB's accountability provisions.
http://ncld.convio.net/site/R?i=202kTh4kNP3qy5OBcFtUYA..
http://ncld.convio.net/site/R?i=mDaqm17h-72N5z4FuINRvw..

Effective Strategies
Safe Learning Environments
Global Issues Resource Center announces the availability of the 1st Report to the Nation on Youth Courts and Teen Courts, 1993-2008. Available as a Word document.
http://www.creducation.org/cre/section/single_entry/youth_courts/

American juvenile justice policy is in a period of transition. The Future of Children's latest report, *Juvenile Justice*, examines juvenile justice policies and practices with the goal of promoting reforms to the justice system that are based on solid evidence.
http://www.futureofchildren.org/usr_doc/Justice_08_02.pdf

Strategies to Address Gang Crime: A Guidebook for Local Law Enforcement. The focus of the guidebook is on the use of problem-solving strategies to help agencies select the interventions most appropriate for their jurisdictions.
http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/files/RIC/Publications/e060810142Gang-book-web.pdf

Family Engagement
The National Women's Law Center is hosting a free webinar for educators, service providers, advocates, and individuals on helping pregnant and parenting students stay in school. *Promising Practices for Helping Pregnant and Parenting Students to Succeed* - 1:00 p.m. EST, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008. Register now.
http://action.nwlc.org/dropoutwebinar

A wide variety of resources are available at this Web site:
http://www.thenewpress.com/index.php?option=com_title&task=view_title&metaproductid=1296

Educational Technology
MySpace and YouTube and Blogs, Oh My! Enhancing Your Youth Program With Web 2.0 Tools. The so-called "Web 2.0" tools—and youth's enthusiasm for them—have both implications and opportunities for adults who manage and volunteer for youth-serving programs.
http://nationalserviceresources.org/files/Youth-Impact-vol-2.pdf

A 4th-grade teacher in Greenville, SC, knows a lot about classroom blogs. His students at the Stone Academy of the Communication Arts produce webcasts and podcasts, and keep parents and the rest of the school up to date on their classroom projects via an active blog.
http://blog.stenhouse.com/archives/2008/09/24/getting-started-with-classroom-blogs/

Resources and Tools
Children in Central Cities and Rural Communities Experience High Rates of Poverty. New data indicate that more than 13 million children are living in poverty, 22 percent of rural children and 25 percent of children living in central cities, according to a new report released by the Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire. Read the factsheet.

http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/FS_RuralChildPoverty_08.pdf

The authors of the report, *Reaching America's Health Potential Starts With Healthy Children: How Do States Compare?* say that children who live in households without a high school graduate are twice as likely to be in less-than-optimal health as children living with a high school graduate. http://www.commissiononhealth.org/Documents/ChildrensHealth_Chartbook.pdf

The importance of Early Warning Systems is the focus of the National High School Center (NHSC) issue brief "Developing Early Warning Systems to Identify Potential High School Dropouts." http://www.betterhighschools.org/docs/IssueBrief_EarlyWarningSystemsGuide_081408.pdf

Feedback
We appreciate comments from our readers. We invite new subscribers to receive the Dropout Prevention Update. Please contact us at ndpc@clemson.edu.

Sources: National Service Briefing, MiddleWeb, NCPIE, NCPC, The Resource Center, NCLD, All4Ed, eQuiNews, BBC