

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**March 1, 2009 — Volume 8, Number 9**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

**CONTENTS**

[Top Stories](#) | [Crystal Star Award Winners](#) | [Sound Connections](#) | [Videos](#) | [Funding Sources](#) | [Policy Updates](#) | [International Notes](#) | [Students With Disabilities](#) | [Effective Strategies](#) | [Resources and Tools](#) | [Feedback](#)

*Submit your proposal now for the National Forum on Dropout Prevention Strategies for Native and Tribal Communities: Reconnecting Native Youth to Education, April 19-22, 2009, in Phoenix, Arizona. Proposal deadline is March 6, and registration is ready today!*

[http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm#2009\\_Native\\_American](http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm#2009_Native_American)

**Top Stories**

“And dropping out of high school is no longer an option. It's not just quitting on yourself, it's quitting on your country - and this country needs and values the talents of every American.”  
President Obama to joint session of Congress, February 24, 2009.

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/Remarks-of-President-Barack-Obama-Address-to-Joint-Session-of-Congress/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-of-President-Barack-Obama-Address-to-Joint-Session-of-Congress/)

The National Center for Education Statistics within the Institute of Education Sciences has released the report, *Course Credit Accrual and Dropping Out of High School, by Student Characteristics*.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009035rev.pdf>

**Crystal Star Award Winners**

One of the Program Awards winners of the 2008 Crystal Star Award for Excellence was Star Academy of Pickens County Schools, South Carolina.

<http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/NDPCMullisStapleton.aspx>

**Sound Connections**

Meet our next guest on *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis*, Stuart Udell, who will talk about “Improving Graduation Rates Through Virtual Learning.” Join us at 3:30 Eastern Time on Tuesday, March 10, 2009.

<http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/ndpcatludell.aspx>

**Videos**

Juneau, Alaska's Assistant Superintendent, Laury Scandling, talks about Native Alaskan and Native American educational issues. These are challenges that will be focused on at our Forum in Phoenix, Arizona in April.

<http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/NDPCScandling.aspx>

Students at Santa Fe High School helped write and act in a PSA on the benefits of staying in school.

[http://www.lightningwood.com/downloads/DO\\_IT\\_FOR\\_YOU\\_640.mov](http://www.lightningwood.com/downloads/DO_IT_FOR_YOU_640.mov)

**Funding Sources**

Educational grants from Dominion and the Dominion Foundation provide elementary and secondary educators with the tools they need to revitalize math and science programs through the study of energy and the environment. Deadline is May 1, 2009.

<http://www.dom.com/about/education/grants/grants.jsp>

The American Honda Foundation makes grants to K-12 schools, colleges, universities, trade schools, and other youth-focused non-profit organizations for programs that benefit youth and

scientific education. Deadline May 1, 2009.

<http://corporate.honda.com/america/philanthropy.aspx?id=ahf>

Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Grants of up to \$75,000 are available to current Drug-Free Communities programs that can provide mentoring services to new or developing community anti-drug coalitions. Deadline April 24, 2009.

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=RyJqJp2YYQZTTshxIXM2jWhpypSJR18m5Nrqy1wQ72v89yJR7F7J!-108218008?oppld=45329&flag2006=false&mode=VIEW>

## **Policy Updates**

The Education Stimulus Package: To make education's recovery plan a bit less confusing, learn where to find information about the economic recovery for higher education and K-12 schools.

<http://www.convergemaq.com/story.php?catid=231&storyid=108534>

*Educations Week's* education road map to state and federal politics. Find answers to your questions on the stimulus.

<http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/>

## **International Notes**

*Professional Learning in the Learning Profession: A Status Report on Teacher Development in the United States and Abroad.* The report examines what research has revealed about professional learning that improves teachers' practice and student learning.

<http://www.nsd.org/news/NSDCstudytechnicalreport2009.pdf>

## **Students with Disabilities**

Though research indicates that the majority of high school-age students with disabilities and their parents are satisfied with the services they receive, many still face barriers and challenges to receiving an equitable education. Get this Fact Sheet from the Alliance for Excellent Education.

[http://www.all4ed.org/files/Disabilities\\_FactSheet.pdf](http://www.all4ed.org/files/Disabilities_FactSheet.pdf)

The report, *School Is Not Supposed to Hurt*, identifies the abusive use of restraint or seclusion nationwide by school administrators, teachers, and auxiliary personnel, which has resulted in injury and trauma and, in far too many cases, death to children with disabilities.

<http://www.ndrn.org/sr/SR-Report.pdf>

## **Effective Strategies**

### **Career and Technical Education**

Job Shadow is a year-round effort to introduce young people to the world of work through job shadowing experiences.

<http://www.jobshadow.org/>

### **Service-Learning**

The intent of this guide is to provide an overview of the underlying theory and effective practices for engaging at-risk youth in service by examining the roles they have played – and can play – in serving their communities.

[http://tools.ysa.org/downloads/modules/Engaging\\_At-Risk\\_Youth\\_in\\_Service.pdf](http://tools.ysa.org/downloads/modules/Engaging_At-Risk_Youth_in_Service.pdf)

### **Out of School Time**

The National Center for Education Statistics within the Institute of Education Sciences has released the report, *After-School Programs in Public Elementary Schools*.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009043.pdf>

The Wallace Foundation has released a data-filled examination of the costs of 111 diverse, quality Out-of-School-Time programs in six cities.

<http://www.wallacefoundation.org/KnowledgeCenter/KnowledgeTopics/AreasOfContinuingInterest>

[/PhilanthropicIssues/Documents/The-Cost-of-Quality-OST-Programs.pdf](#)

## Resources and Tools

The Alliance for Excellent Education has created state reference cards for all fifty states and the District of Columbia that provide statistical snapshots of high schools in each state, including data on graduation rates, college readiness, academic achievement, and teachers' salaries.

[http://www.all4ed.org/about\\_the\\_crisis/schools/map](http://www.all4ed.org/about_the_crisis/schools/map)

*Paving the Way for Success in High School and Beyond: The Importance of Preparing Middle School Students for the Transition to Ninth Grade.* Research indicates that students unprepared to handle the transition are more likely to disengage from school, which in turn may lead to dropping out—and a host of related problems, thus perpetuating a cycle of poverty for disadvantaged, low-income youth.

[http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/assets/269\\_publication.pdf](http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/assets/269_publication.pdf)

Top Ten (Really 12!!) Websites for Teachers, offered for all educators by MiddleWeb.

<http://www.middleweb.com/10TeachingSites.html>

## Feedback

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

**Sources:** Resource Center, USDOE, YSA, All4Ed, Equinews, PEN Weekly Newsblast, AYPF, PPV, MiddleWeb, Join Together