

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

CONTENTS

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

Online registration is now open for the 21st Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference in San Antonio, Texas, October 25-28, 2009.

http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm#2009_NDP_Network

Top Stories

The President will deliver a speech about the importance of persisting and succeeding in school on Sept. 8, the first day of school for many children across America, at 1 p.m. EDT. Broadcast live on the internet.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov>

Department of Education Teaching Ambassador Fellows are developing suggested accompanying classroom activities to be made available at

<http://www.ed.gov>

Listening to Latinas: Barriers to High School Graduation, explores the causes of the dropout crisis for Latinas and identifies the actions needed to improve their graduation rates and get them ready for college.

<http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/ListeningtoLatinas.pdf>

Meet Lucy Flores, a young Latina, as she tells her story in *Listening to Latinas*.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s171lqapxMc>

Sound Connections

Learn about the Graduation Coaches Initiative in Georgia. This interview with Allen Fort and Jessica Broome will prepare you for the next *Solutions* radio webcast.

<http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/ndpcfortbroome.asx>

The kick-off *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* radio webcast for the 2009-2010 school year is set for September 8 at 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time. The program will feature Laura Brown and Fran Bay and the topic is *Graduation and Collaboration Coaches: Working Effectively Together*.

<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast/ep.php?ep=00016>

Video

The message to stay in school and graduate needs to be culturally sensitive. Knowing this, Wes Studi and the students from Santo Domingo Pueblo in New Mexico created a PSA with the strong message: *Make your own history - Graduate*. Produced by Silver Bullet Productions and Lightningwood Pictures.

<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/resource/psa/psa130.wmv>

Funding Sources

Race to the Top Fund provides competitive grants to encourage and reward states that are creating the conditions for education, innovation and reform - implementing ambitious plans in the four education reform areas described in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*.

http://www.tntp.org/files/TNTP_InterpretingR2T_2009.pdf

Youth Service America has funds for prevention of childhood obesity through service-learning.
Deadline: 10/22/09

<http://ysa.org/MyYSA/YSAContent/YSANews/tabid/219/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/175/UnitedHealthHEROESServiceLearningGrantsDeadlineOctober22.aspx>

State Farm's Youth Advisory Board grants are going live to the public. The service-learning grants range from \$25,000 - \$100,000 and are designed to create sustainable change in local communities across the U.S. and Canada.

Deadline: October 2, 2009

<http://www.statefarmyab.com/>

Policy Updates

Ensuring effective data use by teachers requires focus from policymakers at all levels, and the recognition that it's a significant shift for most teachers in how they perform their jobs.

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

As part of a series on the shortcomings of NCLB as it relates to high school accountability and improvement, the Alliance for Education has released a policy brief proposing a strengthened federal role in preparing students for college and careers.

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

International Notes

The most recent issue of *The International Journal on School Disaffection* was the last edited by founding editor, Reva Klein of London. The NDPC/N thanks her for her long commitment to this ground-breaking publication. We now welcome new editors from University of Edinburgh, Gwynedd Lloyd and Gillian McCluskey.

Students With Disabilities

Conference presentations are online from the 2009 "Building for the Future" State Planning Institute, held May 2009. The Institute's purpose was to provide professional development on school-completion strategies, other secondary transition education and services, and post-school outcome data collection and use within a continuous improvement process.

<http://www.ndpc-sd.org/dissemination/conferenceMaterialsPresentations.php>

Effective Strategies

Early Childhood Education

A report from the Alliance for Childhood warns that the nation is "blindly pursuing educational policies that could well damage the intellectual, social, and physical development of an entire generation."

http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/kindergarten_report.pdf

Professional Development

The Teaching Diverse Students Initiative (TDSI) helps educators meet this challenge by providing research-based resources for improving the teaching of racially and ethnically diverse students.

<http://www.tolerance.org/tdsi/>

Family Engagement

The economy is having an impact on the value parents place on the importance of volunteering in schools.

<http://www.greatschools.net/pdf/The-Economy's-Impact-on-Back-to-School.pdf>

Service-Learning

The latest issue of *The Generator* looks at how duration and intensity of service experiences enrich the service-learning experience.

http://www.nylc.org/rc_downloadfile.cfm?emoid=14:874&property=download&mode=download

Resources and Tools

A report from the GED Testing Service reveals that the number of adults who took the GED tests in 2008 rose to nearly 777,000, with an increased passing rate of 72% program wide. This is the highest number of test takers and the highest pass rate since the latest series of GED Tests was introduced in 2002.

http://www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ged/pubs/GED_ASR_2008.pdf

A new report from the National Governor's Association (NGA) details the results of its Advanced Placement Expansion Project, a large-scale initiative launched in 2005 to "redesign the American high school" in 51 pilot high schools in rural and urban school districts serving minority and low-income students.

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0908APREPORT.PDF>

Establishing a uniform and accurate measure of the high school graduation rate that is comparable across states is a critical step toward improving high school accountability. High School Graduation Rate guidance is provided in this USDE publication.

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/hsgrguidance.pdf>

Feedback

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

Sources: NWLC, PEN Weekly Newsblast, USDE, State Farm, YSA, CNCS, NYLC