

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Register today for the 2nd Annual National Forum on Dropout Prevention Strategies for Native and Tribal Communities to be held in Phoenix, AZ, April 19-21, 2010.

http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm#2010_Native_American

Top Stories

A new report from the College Board that cites "overwhelming barriers" for U.S. minority males in becoming educated and productive citizens, proposes national strategies to erase "disparities in educational attainment" and find "new ways of reaching the increasingly diverse U.S. student population."
<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/educational-crisis-facing-young-men-of-color.pdf>

Partners In Learning Network

The National Dropout Prevention Center (NDPC) has partnered with Microsoft in their Partners In Learning Network (PILN) to host a moderated professional development community on key issues and solutions to dropout prevention. Once you become part of the PILN, you can join the NDPC - Dropout Prevention Community. Join the PILN today!

<http://us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com/Pages/default.aspx>

A free Web cast sponsored by the PILN/NDPC – Dropout Prevention Community will be keynoted by Dr. Steve Edwards on March 17th at 6:30 PM (ET), 5:30 PM (CT), 4:30 PM (MT), and 3:30 PM (PT), The webcast is titled *A Nation Still At Risk: The Grim Realities of School Dropouts*. Register today.
<https://swrt.worktankseattle.com/webcast/4018/preview.aspx>

Sound Connections

The March 16th *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* will be focusing on The Parent-Child Home Program with Sarah Walzer. Information will be posted for your free participation this week!

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

Listen to a conversation with Linda Cantu of the Coca Cola Valued Youth Program, coordinated by the Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA - www.idra.org) and a past Crystal Star Award program winner.

<http://www.clemson.edu/curp/NDPCSACantu.html>

Videos

Renee Murray of the Southern Regional Education Board describes the Big Six—six reading comprehension skills that all successful students must learn.

<http://www.clemson.edu/curp/NDPCMBMurray.html>

Find out more about how content teachers can help their students understand their reading materials better in this monograph co-authored by Renee Murray, Patrick O'Connor, and William Bintz, *Improving Reading for Academic Success: Strategies for Enhancing Adolescent Literacy*.

http://www.dropoutprevention.org/pubs/new_releases.php

Funding Sources

The US Department of Education will fund initiatives ranging from \$250,000-\$750,000 for the School Leadership Grant Program which is designed to assist high-need local educational agencies in recruiting and training principals. Deadline: 04/06/10

<http://ed.gov/programs/leadership/applicant.html>

Honor the Earth awards up to \$5,000 for its *Native Communities Building Resilience* program for organizations that lack access to other federal and/or tribal funding resources. Deadline 03/30/10
<http://honorearth.org/grantmaking>

Policy Updates

A new report from the Advancement Project examines the joint effects of zero-tolerance discipline and high-stakes testing. *Test, Punish, and Push Out: How Zero Tolerance and High-Stakes Testing Funnel Youth into the School to Prison Pipeline.*

<http://www.advancementproject.org/sites/default/files/publications/01-EducationReport-2009v8-HiRes.pdf>

The Data Quality Campaign's new report, *Inaugural Overview of States' Actions To Leverage Data To Improve Student Success*, finds that states are making impressive progress toward building longitudinal data systems and are taking the first steps to ensure that new information is used to improve student outcomes and system-wide performance.

http://www.dataqualitycampaign.org/files/DQC_survey-report_JAN2010.pdf

International Notes

A teacher uses donkeys to bring a mobile library to children in rural Colombia. More than 4,000 youngsters have benefited since the program began in 1990.

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/LIVING/02/25/cnnheroes.soriano/index.html?hpt=C1>

Effective Strategies

Professional Development

If you missed the recent *Solutions* broadcast with Dr. Stephanie Hirsh, Executive Director of the National Staff Development Council, tune in today to the archive.

<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast/ep.php?ep=00021>

Dr. Hirsh has invited members of our Network to have a three-month free membership with the National Staff Development Council. To try out membership, go to

<http://www.nsdcc.org/commerce/taste.cfm>

The education community has focused too little on the recruitment, evaluation, development, placement, and retention of highly effective teachers, according to a new report, *Empowering Effective Teachers*, from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/united-states/Documents/empowering-effective-teachers-empowering-strategy.pdf>

School-Community Collaboration

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan talks with Charlie Rose about how schools should become the center of community life.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuO_nB7WY9w&feature=player_embedded#

Educational Technology

The Alliance for Excellent Education released a brief that details how the integral use of online technology in today's secondary school classrooms can strengthen the teacher workforce, improve student outcomes, and allow states to do more despite flat education budgets.

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

Resources and Tools

Mind The (Other) Gap! The Growing Excellence Gap in K-12 Education. This report reviews national and state assessment data for the existence of "excellence gaps," differences between subgroups of students performing at the highest levels of achievement.

<https://www.iub.edu/~ceep/Gap/excellence/ExcellenceGapBrief.pdf>

Gallup Student Poll measures students' hope, engagement, and well-being. Schools can participate for free! The next poll will be administered March 2 - April 2. School principals and school district administrators are eligible to register schools and districts for the Gallup Student Poll.

www.gallupstudentpoll.com

The Fourth Annual National Conference on Girl Bullying and Other forms of Relational Aggression will take place 06/25/10 – 06/27/10 in San Antonio, Texas.

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

Reminder: The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network now has a Facebook page! Become a fan today and find out about the latest resources and tools in dropout prevention! Begin or join discussion groups to discuss issues related to your dropout prevention efforts. Search for us in “Pages.”

<http://www.facebook.com>

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: PEN Weekly NewsBlast, All4Ed, YSA, AYPF, CNN