

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

CONTENTS

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

The nomination deadline for the National Dropout Prevention Network's Crystal Star Awards is June 30, 2010.

<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/about/awards.htm#crystalStar>

Meet Dr. Patrick O'Connor, recipient of the NDPN 2009 Award for Distinguished Service and Leadership.

<http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/ndpcsaconnor2.aspx>

Top Stories

New results from a study by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development show that low-quality care in the first few years of life can have a persistent impact on a child's learning and behavior.

<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/news/releases/051410-early-child-care.cfm>

A video of Dr. James Griffin discussing the study findings can be found at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVw3V06ZLfg>

Just one out of ten Hispanic high school dropouts has a General Educational Development (GED) credential, which is widely regarded as the best "second chance" pathway to college, vocational training, and military service for adults who do not graduate high school.

<http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/122.pdf>

Partners In Learning Network

This month there will be discussion in the NDPC-Dropout Prevention Community facilitated by NDPC Executive Director Jay Smink and former Fall River, MA, mayor Ed Lambert, Director of the Urban Institute at U. Mass. Dartmouth. Become a member of the PILN and join the NDPC-Dropout Prevention Community to join discussion with colleagues and share your feedback, ideas, and success stories.

<http://login.live.com/wlogin.srf?appid=00000004801DD95&alg=wsignin1.0&appctx=http://us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com/Communities/d16691d4ea9c4c3b80c3aed8f36c3c66/Pages/default.aspx>

Sound Connections

The final 2009-2010 School Year radio webcast of *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* will be Tuesday, June 8, at 3:30 p.m. Our guests will be Brenda McLaughlin and Bob Seidel of the National Summer Learning Association and together we will discuss the "Role of High-Quality Summer Learning in High School Completion."

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

Meet Linda Harrill of Communities In Schools of North Carolina as she discusses community partnerships.

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

Videos

In this series of videos and written accounts, meet the top ten innovative teachers selected by PBS. The PBS Teachers Innovation Award winners use media creatively to engage and support their students in new ways.

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2010/05/prweb3965234.htm>

Funding Sources

CNCS recently announced the availability of \$5.4 million in grants to establish Youth Engagement Zones.

The purpose of the new initiative is to encourage collaborative community problem solving that increases students' academic and civic engagement while improving the odds that they will stay in school and graduate from high school. CNCS anticipates awarding between four and twelve 3-year grants of \$300,000 to \$450,000 per year.

Deadline: June 15, 2010.

http://www.nationalservice.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=82

The U.S. Department of Education is accepting applications for a \$10 million planning grants competition for the Promise Neighborhoods program, an initiative meant to support comprehensive, community-based efforts to prepare youths from economically distressed neighborhoods for college and careers. Up to 20 planning grants of up to \$500,000 each will be awarded. Deadline: July 1, 2010.

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/index.html>

The Safe Start Promising Approaches Project will develop and support practice enhancements and innovations to prevent and reduce the impact of children's exposure to violence in their homes and communities. Award: Up to \$250,000 per year.

Deadline: June 25, 2010.

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/funding/FundingDetail.asp?fi=198>

America's Promise Alliance and AT&T are looking for the energy, enthusiasm, creativity and commitment to help make this country a Grad Nation through the My Idea Grants program. My Idea will empower young people to examine the high school dropout crisis and take action to help more of their peers to graduate on time – improving outcomes for themselves and their community. Award: \$10,000-\$20,000.

Deadline: June 11, 2010.

<http://www.americaspromise.org/How-to-Help/Young-Leaders/My-Idea-Grants.aspx>

Policy Updates

The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) has recommendations for the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

<http://www.aypf.org/tripreports/2010/documents/AYPF%20Rural%20Education%20Brief.pdf>

"Reflections on the Charter School Movement" discusses how our nation's focus should be on creating quality in our educational delivery systems, whether those systems be in charter or public schools.

http://www.aisqw.org/data/files/News/HomepageNews/Toch_Kappan_May_10.pdf

RESTRUCTURING 'RESTRUCTURING': Improving Interventions for Low-Performing Schools and Districts, lays out a series of specific policy changes that can be made at the local, state, and federal levels to bring about the changes intended by educational funds provided through the Obama administration and NCLB.

http://www.educationsector.org/usr_doc/Restructuring.pdf

Students With Disabilities

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an effective strategy that can be used with students to affect their behavior in school and provide them with the supports that they need to reach desired behavioral outcomes and reduce their chances of dropping out.

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

International Notes

Read the Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2010, *Regional Overview of Education on Sub-Saharan Africa*, from UNESCO.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001865/186526E.pdf>

Effective Strategies

After-School Opportunities

Join communities across the country in celebrating the importance of summer learning on June 21, 2010,

Summer Learning Day.

http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=summer_learning_day

Systemic Renewal

K-12 school districts that lay off teachers by seniority, a policy known as “last in, first out,” disproportionately affect the programs and students in their poorer and more minority schools than in their wealthier, less minority counterparts.

http://www.crpe.org/cs/crpe/download/csr_files/rr_crpe_layoffs_rr9_may10.pdf

A new report from the High School Tiered Interventions Initiative (HSTII), a collaboration among the National High School Center, the Center on Instruction, and the National Center on Response to Intervention (RTI), summarizes what HSTII has learned thus far about effective implementation of RTI in high schools.

http://www.betterhighschools.org/pubs/documents/HSTII_LessonsLearned.pdf

Early Literacy Development

Children who read on grade level by the end of third grade are more successful in school, work, and in life. This KIDS COUNT special report affirms a commitment by the Casey Foundation to help ensure that all students are proficient in reading by the end of third grade and to help narrow the gap between advantaged and disadvantaged children.

http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Initiatives/KIDS%20COUNT/123/2010KCSpecReport/AEC_report_color_highres.pdf

Career and Technical Education

Thriving in Challenging Times reflects an increasing awareness among American employers and business leaders of the critical role they must play in supporting successful education models in their local communities.

[http://www.cord.org/uploadedfiles/Thriving_in_Challenging_Times\(web\).pdf](http://www.cord.org/uploadedfiles/Thriving_in_Challenging_Times(web).pdf)

Resources and Tools

Follow a Teach for America idealist young person through her entire first year of teaching, from the first training (actually even before) through the experience of being the teacher in the Mississippi Delta.

<http://sounditout.teachfor.us/>

The Condition of Education 2010 summarizes important developments and trends in education using the latest available data. The report presents 49 indicators on the status and condition of education, in addition to a special section on high-poverty schools.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/2010028.pdf>

Results after two years of using three reading comprehension curricula show gains from one program and no effects for the other two on reading comprehension for fifth-graders, according to a recent IES study.

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/pubs/20104015/pdf/20104015.pdf>

A brief from the Rennie Center identifies policies, programs and practices in schools that have steadily made progress in reducing their dropout rates over the past four school years.

<http://cl.exct.net/?qs=515647992580ca5be23473ddd637b850feca34c63745dda12df8b41534a64ecb>

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@clermson.edu.

Sources: PEN Weekly NewsBlast, NCRCTE, NSLA, NHSC/AIR, OJJDP, America's Promise, AYPF, MiddleWeb