

**DROPOUT PREVENTION UPDATE**  
**March 7, 2011 — Volume 11 Number 3**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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**Professional Development Series Debuts**

The National Dropout Prevention Center announces the debut of a brand new series of professional development resources: *The Professional Development Series*. The first in the series is *The Positive Effects of Mentoring*, created in partnership with MENTOR. <http://www.dropoutprevention.org/publications/professional-development-series>

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**Hold the date of October 9 - 12, 2011**, for the 23rd Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference: "STAY: Systems Together Advancing Youth", in Schaumburg, IL. <http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferences/23rd-annual-ndpn-conference> **Call for presenters:** <http://www.cvent.com/events/23rd-annual-ndpn-conference-call-for-presenters/event-summary-4c78309f7cd041ef9365bf51b1b4fefe.aspx>

**Top Stories**

School Turnarounds - A report from the Donnell-Kay Foundation explores recent federal and state policies that affect low-performing schools in Colorado. <http://www.dkfoundation.org/PDF/SchoolTurnaroundsInColorado-Jan2011.pdf>

**Sound Connections**

NDPC Webinar. Angela Wall, an instructor at Wayne Community College, and one of her students, Bernard Green, will explain to listeners what Project-Based Learning (PBL) is, why students benefit from it, how teachers can use it, and how to avoid pitfalls. The presenters will provide enough resources for teachers so they can conduct their own project. Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 3:30 to 4:30 pm EST. <http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast/current>

An interview where Dr. Jim Stone, Director of the National Center for Research in Career and Technical Education, discusses Career and Technical Education (CTE). <http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradiopod/NDPC/YD110228Stone.mp3>

Listen to a webinar by Dr. Shelley H. Billig, Vice President of RMC Research, discussing "Service-Learning Evaluation: An Overview," is now available on the NSLC site at: <http://servicelearning.org/webinars/service-learning-evaluation>

**Videos**

DOJ's Civil Rights Division released a video that focuses on stopping bullying and harassment of youth who do not conform to traditional expectations about gender roles or appearance. <http://blogs.usdoj.gov/blog/archives/1088>

**Funding Sources**

Access for Young People with Disabilities Grants -- Sponsor: Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation Deadline: June 1, 2011. <http://www.meaf.org/grants.php>

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Nature of Learning Up to \$5,000. Deadline: April 1, 2011. [http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Charter\\_Programs\\_List&CONTENTID=18432&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm](http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Charter_Programs_List&CONTENTID=18432&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm)

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes honors young people who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet Deadline: April 30, 2011. <http://bit.ly/edhitj>

Learn and Serve America Youth Engagement Zones Grants will fund schools and organizations to help students come to class eager to learn and graduate ready to succeed. Deadline: March 31, 2011 [www.nationalservice.gov/for\\_organizations/funding/nofa\\_detail.asp?tbl\\_nofa\\_id=86](http://www.nationalservice.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=86)

2011 Craig Tufts Educational Award is given to a young person ( 8 to 18) to attend a week-long, summer outdoor educational adventure camp with a parent or guardian. Deadline: March 31, 2011 [www.familysummits.org/craigtufts.php](http://www.familysummits.org/craigtufts.php)

Learning Forward Foundation grants and scholarships. Deadline March 15, 2011  
[http://www.learningforward.org/getinvolved/scholarships\\_grants.cfm](http://www.learningforward.org/getinvolved/scholarships_grants.cfm)

Target Foundation Early Childhood Reading Grants Deadline April 30, 2011  
<http://sites.target.com/site/en/company/page.jsp?contentId=WCMP04-031821>

\$1500 for biology teachers Deadline March 15, 2011 <http://www.nabt.org/websites/institution/index.php?p=631>

National Service Agency Provides Funding Opportunity to Increase Academic Engagement Through Service-Learning  
Deadline March 3, 2011 [http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/newsroom/releases\\_detail.asp?tbl\\_pr\\_id=1933](http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/newsroom/releases_detail.asp?tbl_pr_id=1933)

### **Policy Updates**

STEM EDUCATION - The latest issue of ECS' The Progress of Education Reform identifies promising and research-based approaches for enhancing student interest and achievement in STEM disciplines, including approaches that come with a smaller state-budget price tag. <http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/91/79/9179.pdf>

Preparation, Placement, Proficiency: Improving Middle Grades Math Performance. The new study, Improving Middle Grades Mathematics Performance, uses longitudinal data from nearly 70,000 8th grade students to look at the preparedness and success of students who were placed in Algebra I in grade 8, as measured by the California Standards Tests. <http://www.edsource.org/?id=148&order=10315&pid=2557&auth=UIVSVFFNVEV3TWpNPTBVeE1qazVOREU0TmprMQ%3D%3D>

Moving Beyond the Three Tier Intervention Pyramid: Toward a Comprehensive Framework for Student and Learning Supports illustrates a multidimensional intervention framework that can foster development and implementation of a comprehensive and coherent system. <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/briefs/threetier.pdf>

### **Effective Strategies**

#### **Family Engagement**

A new resource, Working Systemically in Action: Engaging Family & Community, a Guide for Facilitators, help reframe the way educators work with parents, families, and community members. Through real-life examples and practical guidance, this resource shows educators how to engage family and community members to support every aspect of school improvement. <http://www.sedl.org/ws/ws-fam-comm.pdf>

The Growing and Sustaining Family Engagement: A toolkit for Parents and Community Partners  
<http://www.cssp.org/publications/growingandsustainingparentengagementtoolkit.pdf>

#### **Early Childhood**

New Vanderbilt Study which will be fully released this week, shows strong gains by kids who attend pre-kindergarten. The initial results are from the first rigorous longitudinal study.  
<http://news.vanderbilt.edu/2011/02/tennessee-pre-k-students-see-82-percent-gain-over-peers/>

#### **Literacy**

Partners for Student Success Literacy Efforts Over the Long Haul When staff members at one Maryland school discovered that students' reading scores weren't improving as hoped, they took action to motivate the students to read and to get parents involved. [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_admin/partners/partners022.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/partners/partners022.shtml)

#### **Alternative Schooling**

Blended Learning - A report from Innosight Institute looks at the future of blended learning at the K-12 level.  
<http://www.innosightinstitute.org/innosight/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/The-Rise-of-K-12-Blended-Learning.pdf>

#### **Service Learning**

Register now for the 22nd Annual National Service-Learning Conference to be held in Atlanta, April 6 - 9, 2011.  
<http://nslc.nylc.org/>

#### **After-School Opportunities**

What Works in Out-of-School Programs for African American and Latino Children New Analyses Based on Rigorously Evaluated Programs from Child Trends. [http://www.childtrends.org/files/Child\\_Trends-2011\\_02\\_01\\_RB\\_WW4AAchildren.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/files/Child_Trends-2011_02_01_RB_WW4AAchildren.pdf) and  
[http://www.childtrends.org/files/Child\\_Trends-2011\\_02\\_01\\_RB\\_WW4LatinoChildren.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/files/Child_Trends-2011_02_01_RB_WW4LatinoChildren.pdf)

Everyone knows the transition to high school can be a challenging one. That's why high schools have initiated "summer camps" and special programs that track and support students who experience difficulty during the first

months in their new surroundings [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_admin/admin/admin613.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/admin/admin613.shtml)

### **Professional Development**

How mentoring is helping one district retain science teachers An Oakland, Calif., mentoring program developed in partnership with the New Teacher Center is helping the district overcome its struggle with a high turnover rate for science teachers. [http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/living-in-dialogue/2011/01/teamscience\\_tames\\_teacher\\_turn.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+LivingInDialogue+%28Teacher+Magazine+Blog%3A+Living+in+Dialogue%29](http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/living-in-dialogue/2011/01/teamscience_tames_teacher_turn.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+LivingInDialogue+%28Teacher+Magazine+Blog%3A+Living+in+Dialogue%29)

### **Career and Technology Education (CTE)**

The Pathways to Prosperity Project at the Harvard Graduate School of Education has released a new report that argues our national strategy for education is too narrowly focused on an academic, classroom-based approach. According to the report, this strategy has produced only incremental gains in achievement, even as other nations outpace the United States. The report therefore advocates a broader vision of school reform that embraces multiple pathways for young people to successfully transition from adolescence to adulthood. [http://www.gse.harvard.edu/news\\_events/features/2011/Pathways\\_to\\_Prosperty\\_Feb2011.pdf](http://www.gse.harvard.edu/news_events/features/2011/Pathways_to_Prosperty_Feb2011.pdf)

### **Resources and Tools**

Cool School Tool #6: 'Time Monsters' Teaches Kids to Tell Time Telling time can be a difficult skill for many kids, but thanks to the 'Time Monsters' Web page, many kids are successfully learning to figure out half-past and quarter-to. <http://ofprincipalconcern-educationworld.blogspot.com/2011/01/cool-school-tool-6-time-monsters.html>

Chemistry Now. Middle grades science teachers will want to peruse the growing chemistry-related offerings at the NBC Learn website, where they'll discover resources suitable for teaching tweens. You'll find short videos, charts, related news stories and lesson plans, all with the aim to connect science topics to everyday life. <http://bit.ly/chemistry-now>

Ten Ways to Involve Fathers in Their Children's Education Boys and girls need positive male role models too. When fathers take an active role in education, schools report an increase in student achievement. [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_curr/columnists/davies/davies011.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/columnists/davies/davies011.shtml)

Holocaust historical data goes digital. The world's largest collection of Holocaust documents is going digital: Israel's Holocaust memorial, Yad Vashem, is teaming up with Google to make its photographs and documents interactive and searchable on the internet. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/2011/02/02/holocaust-historical-data-goes-digital-2/>

Great Web Sites for Kids. An online directory of vetted Web sites for kids. <http://ala.org/gwstemplate.cfm?section=greatwebsites&template=/cfapps/gws/default.cfm>

New Orleans teacher uses quirky methods to engage students in math. White, a former engineer, self-produces math videos set to popular songs and has encouraged more than half of this year's seniors to participate in a national math contest. [http://www.nola.com/education/index.ssf/2011/01/offbeat\\_lusher\\_charter\\_school.html](http://www.nola.com/education/index.ssf/2011/01/offbeat_lusher_charter_school.html)

Recognition opportunity for teachers Application window is open for US Innovative Education Forum (IEF) This event takes place in July in Redmond and is a premier celebration of the most creative & innovative teachers in the US. Winners from this go on to represent the US at the Worldwide event which is in Washington, DC in November. Microsoft covers all the costs to attend the IEF, so teachers do not have any out of pocket expenses. To best articulate the benefits of attending, there is a video with a few of last year's attendees encouraging their peers to apply. <http://www.microsoft.com/education/uspiil/USIEF/default.msp>

New resource gives teachers free access to educational tools <http://www.TheGateway.org>

**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](mailto:ndpc@clemsn.edu).

**Sources:** PEN; Youth Service America; PTA Parent; eSN Tools for Schools; ECS eConnection; Mental Health in Schools (UCLA); OJJDP; SEDL; *Education World*; ASCD; Middle Web; eClassroom News