Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Farewell. This is my last issue of *Dropout Prevention Update* because I am retiring. Two other staff members are taking on the responsibility. It has been an honor and privilege to work with such dedicated and caring individuals.

Top Stories
The What Works Clearinghouse has begun posting reports on promising dropout prevention programs. http://www.whatworks.ed.gov/Topic.asp?tid=06&ReturnPage=default.asp

The National Education Association has a 12-point plan for stemming the national dropout rate. http://www.nea.org/presscenter/actionplan1.html

The Learning to Finish™ campaign addresses the dropout problem in communities ready to meet the challenge as a community-wide concern. http://www.pew-partnership.org/

Funding Sources
The Presidential Award for Reading and Technology honors educators in grades K-12 who are making an outstanding and innovative contribution to the use of technology in reading education. Deadline: November 15, 2006.
http://www.reading.org/association/awards/teachers_presidential.html

The Inspiration Awards celebrate America's most improved high schools. Secondary schools in which at least 40% of the students receive free or reduced-price lunches are eligible. Deadline: November 17, 2006. http://www.collegeboard.com/about/association/inspiration.html

The Alibris Collection Award is a grant of up to $3,000 worth of books to an academic, public, special, K-12, or international library supporting specific collection development projects. Deadline: December 1, 2006. http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/10004998/alibris

Policy Updates
The National Association of State Boards suggests that states establish financial education as a core academic subject from kindergarten through grade 12. http://nasbe.org/financial_literacy.pdf

A distillation of 27 studies on district leadership and student results found that actions aimed at creating "goal oriented" districts were the most powerful.
http://www.mcrel.org/topics/products/244/

International Notes
The White House Conference on Global Literacy featured a new international assessment of adult illiteracy in developing countries.
http://www.uis.unesco.org/ev.php?URL_ID=6409&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201

Primary school enrollments increased significantly in much of the developing world, but 77 million young children are still not attending school. http://www.education.nairobi-unesco.org/index.php

Students With Disabilities
RecognitionandResponse is a comprehensive online resource that provides educators with information about this approach to early education. http://www.recognitionandresponse.org/

This documentary follows the stories of five families as they struggle to understand their children's learning disabilities. http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/misunderstoodminds/

Effective Strategies
Educational Technology
A report finds that technology has a significant positive impact on student learning across all areas of the curriculum. http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=6600

NetDay Speak Up invites students, teachers, and parents from around the country to share their input in an online survey. http://www.netday.org/speakup/

A free online tool for calculating the value of a school system's educational technology investments. http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=6637 http://www.edtechvoi.org/

Safe Learning Environments
Juvenile Offenders and Victims 2006 National Report summarizes what is known about the prevalence and incidence of juvenile victimizations. http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=234394

Ripple Effects school safety profiler is a free web-based tool for students and staff to separately assess safety issues. http://www.rippleeffects.com/needs

Service-Learning
Giving Back: Introducing Community Service Learning provides skill-building strategies and materials to introduce juvenile offenders to fundamental concepts of community and community problems. http://www.crf-usa.org/YouthCourt/Giving_Back_2006.pdf

The *2006 National Civic and Political Health Survey* looks at how young Americans are participating in politics and communities and their attitudes towards government and current issues. http://www.civicyouth.org/research/products/youth_index_2006.htm

Resources & Tools
The College Ladder: Linking Secondary and Postsecondary Education for Success for All Students reviews 22 programs that provide opportunities for high school students to earn college-level credit or take college-level courses. www.aypf.org/publications

Teachers' satisfaction with their careers has increased significantly over the past two decades, according to the *MetLife Survey of the American Teacher: Expectations and Experiences,* 2006. http://www.metlife.com/WPSAssets/81821402701160505871V1F2006MetLifeTeacherSurvey.pdf

Child Trends has released two new research briefs addressing the term "at risk. http://www.childtrends.org/Files/DefiningAtRisk.pdf http://www.childtrends.org/Files/CumulativeRisksRTRRB.pdf

The Center for Data-Driven Reform in Education has created a free website called the Best Evidence Encyclopedia. http://www.bestevidence.org/

Educational Attainment in the United States: 2005 provides earning information. See Tables 8 & 9. http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/educ-attn.html

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