CONTENTS

Register today for the 2008 Summer Institute on Service-Learning! "Service Learning: A Strategy for Keeping Youth In School."
http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm

Here is an invitation from Conference Co-Chair, Sandy Addis, to come to Atlanta for the 2008 National Dropout Prevention Network Conference.
http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/ndpcvideo/addis.mov

Top Stories

America's Promise Alliance has released a new report, *Cities in Crisis*, which finds that America's largest cities are struggling to keep students in school.
http://www.americaspromise.org/uploadedFiles/AmericasPromiseAlliance/Dropout_Crisis/SWANSONCitiesInCrisis040108.pdf

For the first time, more than one in every 100 adults is now confined in an American jail or prison. A new report from the Pew Center on the States.
http://stage.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/One%20in%20100.pdf

Sound Connections

Policies and Practices Related to Student Failure and Dropping Out: Tools and Resources, the March Radio Webcast, featured Dr. Ray Morley. Learn how you can personalize student learning and get the tools and resources to enable you to do so.
http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast/ep.php?ep=00002

Tune in on April 22, 2008, at 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time, for our next radio Webcast program, *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis*, when our guest will be Franklin Schargel, co-author of *From At Risk to Academic Excellence: What Successful Leaders Do.*
http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast

Videos

The U.S. Department of Education TV program, *Dropout Prevention: Helping All Students Get on Track for Success,* that aired live on February 19, 2008, featured Dr. Jay Smink, Executive Director of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, and Debra Duardo, NPDN Board member from Los Angeles Unified School District.
http://www.connectlive.com/events/ednews/20080219.html

Tom Chapin has released a new song titled "Not on the Test." The song satirizes the American education system's renewed focus on rote teaching, in which tests have become the sole reason to teach and learn.
http://www.notonthetest.com

Funding Sources

Women's Sports Foundation GoGirlGo! Grants provide financial assistance to sports/physical activity programs seeking to add new or expanded program participation opportunities for an underserved population of girls, particularly economically disadvantaged girls and/or girls from populations with high incidences of health-risk behaviors. Average Award: $5,700.
Deadline: May 9, 2008.

http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/cgi-bin/iowa/funding/featured.html?record=40

$5 Million in Grants Available for Student Service and Service-Learning Projects from Learn and Serve America.
Deadline: April 30, 2008.
http://www.learnandserve.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp

International Notes
In the UK, government-backed careers advice for youngsters and adults is patchy and needs improvement, research suggests.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/7318919.stm

Policy Updates
In this policy brief, the Center on Education Policy highlights two patterns regarding state high school exit exam pass rates.
http://www.cep-dc.org/_data/n_0001/resources/live/HSEEPolicyPercentagePassRateFeb2008.pdf

A new report provides a glimpse into problems faced by Native Americans in schools, by explaining the variety of laws that form a bureaucratic labyrinth that education advocates must learn to navigate to help students succeed.
http://www.ecs.org/00CN3789

Youth with Disabilities in the Foster Care System: Barriers to Success and Proposed Policy Solutions, a policy report by the National Council on Disability (NCD), examines this uniquely situated population in terms of the issues that affect them and the policy solutions that can be implemented to improve their outcomes.
http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2008/pdf/FosterCareSystem_Report.pdf

Students With Disabilities
Graduation Requirements for Students With Disabilities: Policy Recommendations. This Policy Forum Proceedings briefly discusses the federal, state, and local roles that affect graduation requirements for all students with disabilities.
http://www.projectforum.org

Should Different Graduation Requirements Be Offered to Students with Disabilities? Join the discussion on this question at this link.
http://www.rtc.pdx.edu/FeaturedDiscussions/pgFD51.php

Effective Strategies
Community Collaboration
Findings from a landmark six-year study by the Community Involvement Program of the Annenberg Institute for School Reform reveal that sophisticated community organizing at the grassroots level produces major improvements in student achievement.
http://www.annenberginstitute.org/pdf/OrganizedCommunities.pdf

In New York City, nearly 70% of dropouts begin high school at low literacy levels. To address their needs, the Youth Development Institute (YDI) began the Community Education Pathways to Success (CEPS), which provide the academic, vocational and personal support needed by people with low skill levels.
http://www.campbell-kibler.com/2007%20CEPS%20%20final%20evaluation%20report.pdf

Increasing community involvement in out-of-school programs has the potential to create significant benefits for the communities they serve. This Child Trends brief discusses how community involvement can become a crucial factor for out-of-school programs.

http://www.childtrends.org//files/Child_Trends-2008_03_12_PI_CommunityPartner.pdf

Service-Learning
Florida Learn & Serve is pleased to release a new publication highlighting five longstanding (an average of 11 years) middle and high school service-learning projects—*5 Case Portraits: Exemplary Service-Learning Programs in Middle and High Schools in Florida.*
http://www.fsu.edu/~flserve/resources/caseportraits.html

Youth Service America announces a new effective practices publication titled *Effective Practices for Engaging At-Risk Youth in Service.*
http://tools.ysa.org/downloads/modules/Engaging_At-Risk_Youth_in_Service.pdf

Resources and Tools
Rethinking How Schools Address Student Misbehavior & Disengagement is the topic of the Spring 2008 newsletter from the School Mental Health Project. Research shows that positive approaches are more effective.
http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/Newsletter/spring08.pdf

Both family risks and neighborhood risks are related to whether children are involved in out-of-school time programs. Only 9% of children from low-risk families who live in low-risk neighborhoods are not involved, compared with 49% of children from high-risk families who live in high-risk neighborhoods as shown in this Child Trends study.
http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2008_02_05_Risks.pdf

NCES has just expanded the State Education Reforms (SER) Web site. This site compiles and disseminates data on state-level education reform efforts in four areas: (1) standards, assessment, and accountability, (2) school finance reforms, (3) resources for learning, and (4) state support for school choice options.
http://nces.ed.gov/programs/statereform/

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

Sources: PEN Weekly; Project Forum; Learn and Serve America; IES Newsflash; School Mental Health Project; Florida Learn and Serve; Youth Service America, AYP, ECS, BBC