

DROPOUT PREVENTION UPDATE
October 1, 2010 — Volume 10 Number 4
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Register today for the 22nd Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference, “From Rhetoric to Action: Ready, Set, Graduate!” November 14-17, 2010, in Philadelphia, PA.

<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=2ab9c91d-1dc1-46c9-b84f-bc158419b416>

Top Stories

There's amazing traction around the issue of summer learning right now. See President Obama discuss it on the *The Today Show*. <http://www.summerlearning.org/>

Learn more about summer learning at *Summer Changes Everything™*, the only national conference focused entirely on summer, to be held November 9-10, 2010, in Indianapolis, IN. <http://www.summerlearning.org/conference>

Sound Connections

The topic for October's *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* is *Beyond the Bully Pulpit: The Mayor's Role in Dropout Prevention*. Join Edward M. Lambert, Jr. and the *Solutions* team on Tuesday, October 12, at 3:30 p.m. EDT. If you call in to ask a question, you will receive a free NDPC publication! <http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast>

Hear Edward M. Lambert, Jr. discuss the mayor's role in dropout prevention.

<http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradiocx/NDPCLambertI/VW.aspx>

Offering High School Credit Through Expanded Learning is a webinar opportunity offered on October 28, 2010, from 1:00 to 2:00 pm EDT. Space is limited; register now at <http://www.aypf.org/Webinars/Wb102810.htm>.

Videos

According to Sugata Mitra, an advocate for child-driven education, the best teachers and schools don't exist where they're needed most. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/techtalks/sugata-mitra-the-child-dr_b_708043.html

Sal Khan, a Harvard MBA, has developed several thousand video tutorials.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/khanacademy?blend=1&ob=4> See the *Resources* section for a link to the free tutorials.

Funding Sources

The Lexus Eco Challenge program is designed to inspire middle and high school students to learn about the environment and take action to improve it. Deadline: Challenge One (Land/Water) – 11/3/10; Challenge Two (Air/Climate) – 1/19/11.

<http://www.scholastic.com/lexus>

The VFW's National Citizenship Education Teachers' Award recognizes top K-12 teachers who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history and traditions. Eligibility: teachers K-12. Deadline: 11/1/10.

http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=cmtylevel&did=1832&http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=ojzalicab&et=1103693550951&s=61437&e=001FnGp_mnINSIRSWkui05HRLwX4Ijn9e-otJ8G6yU0CD2RYirrJ33-JhwEU4akMQOh7ck9ySkbtgrFftakT9RinihATx90M5M87OUbemi5o9W2OQm17dVOJCTwU6LIX9JP_gX6LWCMln5APQOT1rfNL4vwTk8P7F

Project Ignition for students grades 9 – 12 using service-learning to help address teen driver safety issues.

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

There is still time to apply for the Verizon Foundation Literacy grant, the Tiger Wood Foundation grant and the State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning grants features in the September *Update*. The links are listed here:

<http://www.YSA.org/goodneighbor> (11/1/10)

<http://web.tigerwoodsfoundation.org/programs/grants/index> (10/31/10)

<http://foundation.verizon.com/grant/guidelines.shtml> (10/15/10)

Policy Updates

The federal e-Rate program gets a significant update—high speed broadband for schools and libraries, an off-campus wireless pilot, and community access. http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2010/db0923/DOC-301649A1.pdf

There is a lot of talk about Value Added Assessments (VAA) for teacher evaluations. A recent study by the Economic Policy Institute suggests we may be moving too quickly. http://epi.3cdn.net/b9667271ee6c154195_t9m6ijj8k.pdf

The Use of Value-Added Measures of Teacher Effectiveness in Policy and Practice, a study by John Corcoran. <http://www.annenberginstitute.org/pdf/valueAddedReport.pdf>

International Notes

“U.S. Educators Seek Lessons From Scandinavia—Project-Based Learning.”
<http://www.eschoolnews.com/2008/03/03/u-s-educators-seek-lessons-from-scandinavia/?ast=47>

The *Global Competitiveness Report 2010-2011*.
http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GlobalCompetitivenessReport_2010-11.pdf

Effective Strategies

Systemic Renewal

A Harvard report: *How High Schools Become Exemplary: Ways That Leadership Raises Achievement and Narrows Gaps by Improving Instruction in 15 Public High Schools*.
<http://www.agi.harvard.edu/events/2009Conference/2009AGIConferenceReport6-30-2010web.pdf>

The largest high school in Massachusetts says “4100 Students Prove ‘Small is Better’ Rule Wrong”—an excerpt from the above-mentioned report. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/28/education/28school.html?src=mv>

Literacy

The Federal Role in Confronting the Crisis in Adolescent Literacy calls for a greater federal role to confront literacy crisis in middle and high schools. <http://www.all4ed.org/files/FedRoleConfrontingAdolLit.pdf>

The federal *Enhanced Reading Opportunities Final Report* suggests extra, explicit reading classes can boost reading skills for struggling adolescents, but the short-lived improvements aren't enough to catch up students who are years behind the curve. <http://www.mdrc.org/publications/565/full.pdf>

Professional Development

This report analyzes the positive impact of the *Teacher Study Group PD Model* developed by the International Research Group and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. <http://aer.sagepub.com/content/47/3/694.full.pdf>

Read the study that raises questions about the effectiveness of ‘merit pay’ as an education reform strategy. http://www.performanceincentives.org/data/files/pages/POINT%20REPORT_9.21.10.pdf, watch a 60-min. video of the findings with questions and answers <http://news.vanderbilt.edu/2010/09/video-pay-for-performance-results-qa/>, or watch a 14 min. video outlining the results of the study. <http://news.vanderbilt.edu/2010/09/video-pay-for-performance-results>

Video: *Not Your Grandmother's PD* provides tips and stories about teacher-driven professional development. <http://www.ascd.org/ascd-express/home.aspx>

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

A video sharing the new generation of Career and Technical Education.
<http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/26184891/vp/39378648#39401351>

High School Career Academies: A 40-Year Proven Model for Improving College and Career Readiness.
This publication provides an overview of career academies along with policy recommendations to expand the model. <http://www.aypf.org/documents/092409CareerAcademiesPolicyPaper.pdf>

Students with Disabilities

There is a growing concern that there has been significant misdiagnosis of children purported to have Attention Deficiency Hyperactivity Disorder and/or Learning Disabilities.
http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=MIimg&_imagekey=B6V8K-50PCM5Y-1-F&_cdi=5873&_user=590719&_pii=S0167629610000962&_origin=search&_coverDate=09%2F30%2F2010&_sk=999709

Resources and Tools

Why Professional Development? For all those times when leaders need to explain what PD is and why it is important, here's a collection of basic questions and answers written with parents, community members and policy makers in mind; it also describes what constitutes good professional learning.

http://www.learningforward.org/advancing/Why_PD_Matters_Web.pdf

The latest Census Bureau data show a significant and alarming increase in poverty and extreme poverty among women, men, and children in the United States in 2009.

<http://www.nwlc.org/resource/poverty-among-women-and-families-2000-2009-great-recession-brings-highest-rate-15-years>

Khan Academy's link to free online tutorials can be accessed at <http://www.khanacademy.org>.

Tune into the *Access to Advancement* series about the opportunities for, and achievements of, women with disabilities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Part 1 of the series provides five fascinating stories that describe the latest practices, programs, and tools for supporting students with disabilities in their pursuit of STEM careers. Part 2 tells the compelling stories of five successful women with disabilities who are studying or working in STEM fields.

<http://www.womeninscience.org>

Teaching math and science with tradebooks increases student engagement. <http://bit.ly/msp-trade-bks>

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: Alliance for Excellent Education, *American Educational Research Journal*, American Youth Policy Forum, American Youth Policy Forum, Annenberg Institute for Social Reform, ASCD, Consortium for School Networking, Economic Policy Institute, eSchool News, Harvard University, Journal of Health Economics, Learning Forward, MiddleWeb, National Career Academy Coalition, National Center on Performance Incentives, National Summer Learning Institute, Scholastic, Inc., National Youth Leadership Council, NDPC/N, Society for Research in Child Development, State Farm, TEDTalks, The Today Show, U.S Department of Education, WAMC Northeast Public Radio, World Economic Forum.