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DROPOUT PREVENTION UPDATE
January 4, 2011 — Volume 10 Number 7
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Register today for the 23rd Annual At-Risk Youth National Forum, "Expanding, Improving and Enhancing School and Community Relationships to Increase the Graduation Rate" February 20-23, 2011, in Myrtle Beach, SC.
http://www.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=42434b6f-68fa-44bc-b0a9-2b1a183f0ae8

Top Stories

High school graduates and dropouts are focus of new NCES report. http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011012.pdf

The 2025 Campaign for Black Men and Boys has released a report with recommendations aimed at drastically altering life outcomes for black men and boys. http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/documents/files/2025BMBfulldoc.pdf

Sound Connections

The topic for January's Solutions to the Dropout Crisis is *Project-Based Learning: A Working Model for Student Engagement*. Join Angela Wall, Bernard Green, and the Solutions team on Tuesday, January 11, 2011, at 3:30 p.m. EDT. If you call in to ask a question, you will receive a free NDPC publication! www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast

Upcoming ASCD Webinars
  Leading and Managing A Differentiated Classroom with Carol Tomlinson and Marcia Imbeau, January 4, 2011, 4:00 p.m. ET Register at   https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/747110336
  Quality ECE Programs for ALL Children: Operating Standards for High Quality Inclusive Child Care, by Bob Siegel, National Director of Easter Seals Children's Services. Offered at 2 pm on January 19, 2011. Register at https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/780126976
  Getting To "Got It!" with Betty Garner, January 25, 2011, 3:00 p.m. ET Register at https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/798651704
  Curriculum 21: Essential Education in a Changing World. Listen in as Heidi Jacobs discusses "upgrading" out-of-date curriculum through the integration of technology, global portals and 21st-century content. http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AagUtxitBXzukDCicOzeCicNVdRc

Videos

Teacher of the Year Jamie Yoos believes in experiential learning to help students stay engaged. Meet Jamie and see him in action! http://www.washingtonea.org/content/video/09/toy2010/frame.html

Funding Sources

Special Olympics Get Into It Grants (Deadline: January 19) www.YSA.org/getintoit

LEGO: Children's Fund Grants for early childhood: Maximum $5,000. Eligibility: 501(c)3 organizations. (Deadline: January 15, 2011). http://www.legochildrensfund.org/Guidelines.html

Sodexo Hunger Grants to engage youth in addressing the issue of hunger in their communities through service-learning.from $500 to $5,000 (Deadline January 2011) www.YSA.org/grants

Social Venture Partners Out-of-School Time Grants http://www.svpseattle.org/grantmaking/grantmaking-areas/out-of-school-time/2011%20Out%20of%20School%20Grant%20Guidelines.pdf (Deadline: February 4, 2011)

Policy Updates

Marci Young of Pre-K Now says it's time to pay attention to a reform that works. Voluntary, high-quality pre-kindergarten http://voices.washingtonpost.com/answer-sheet/guest-bloggers/the-first-step-in-education-re.html

Education leaders of FL, IN, LA, RI, and VA announced they created a new education-chiefs group to press a policy agenda topped by school choice and performance-driven evaluations for teachers and principals. blogs.edweek.org/edweek/state_edwatch/2010/11/five_ed_chiefs_undertake_aggressive_reforms_in_new_group.html

Bullying and harassment in schools often includes violations of federally protected civil rights, the federal government warned in new guidelines for educators on how to address the problem. http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/10/26/schools.bullying.discrimination/index.html

The Digital Learning Council issued a report offering ten policy suggestions that would help improve online learning & reform other aspects of education. http://www.edweek.org/media/12-1-0_digital_learning_now_report.pdf

Excerpt from U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights press release: "The Department of Education issued guidance to support educators in combating bullying in schools by clarifying when student bullying may violate federal education anti-discrimination laws." www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201010.html

President signs Child Nutrition Bill http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/12/13/president-obama-signs-healthy-hunger-free-kids-act-2010-law

International Notes
U.S. Rises to International Average in Science http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011004.pdf

How the world's most improved school systems keep getting better.   A report by McKinsey & Company http://www.mckinsey.com/App_Media/Reports/SSO/Worlds_School_Systems_Final.pdf

Effective Strategies

Systemic Renewal
Texas high-school library resembles high-tech coffee bar. A Texas high school has modernized its library by removing thousands of books and giving students free access to online books and establishing a place for students to sit on couches, use laptops, drink coffee and read electronic books. http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/7316574.html

Safe Learning Environments
No Name Calling Week - January 24-28 www.nonamecallingweek.org

U.S. ED's IES' National Center for Education Statistics and U.S. Justice's OJP's BJS Releases New Indicator Report on School Crime. http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011002.pdf

OJJDP Bulletin provides *Gang Prevention: An Overview of Research and Programs;* Research on how gangs form and why youth join them. It also describes how community members can start assessing their gang problems and enhance prevention and intervention activities. http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/231116.pdf

Family Engagement
"An Associated Press-Stanford University Poll on education found that 68 percent of adults believe parents deserve heavy blame for what's wrong with the U.S. education system — more than teachers, school administrators, the government, or teachers unions." http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=131988387

Beyond Random Acts provides a research-based framing of family engagement; examines policy levers that can drive change in promoting systemic family, school, and community engagement; focuses on data systems as a powerful tool to engage families for 21st century student learning, and examines the family's role in transforming low-performing schools. http://www.hfrp.org/content/download/3809/104680/file/PolicyForumPaper-120710-FINAL.pdf

Early Childhood
A Governor's Guide to Supporting a Comprehensive, High-Quality Early Childhood State System. http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/1010GOVSGUIDEEARLYCHILD.PDF

Literacy
A literary website for teens called Figment went live Monday and provides an online venue for students to write, read and share original fiction they create on their computers or mobile phones. http://www.figment.com/

Mentoring-Tutoring
National Mentoring Month - January www.nationalmentoringmonth.org

Service Learning
MLK Day of Service - January 17, 2011. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"   http://mlkday.gov/index.php

Learning by Serving: 2,000 Ideas for Service-Learning Projects http://learnandserve.hhp.ufl.edu/resources/Hot%20Topics/HT-%20Entire%20Doc.pdf

"Connecting Community With Curriculum"
Article focuses on school-community partnerships and features project examples from National Center for Learning and Citizenship at the Education Commission of the States (ECS), Learn and Serve America, State Farm, and service-learning leaders in VT, WI and CA. www.districtadministration.com/viewarticle.aspx?articleid=2565

After-School Opportunities
What one teacher is doing to engage girls in computer science.
http://www.edutopia.org/blog/computer-science-education-girls-increase-interest-suzie-boss

This new report, *Engaging Older Youth*, examines program practices and structural features of almost 200 OST programs located in six diverse cities primarily serving low-income youth.
http://www.hfrp.org/content/download/3627/102254/file/EngagingOlderYouth-042710.pdf

Students with Disabilities
Assistive technology devices enable students with disabilities to express what they know, and rapid advancements in technology are helping to "redefine ability and disability." http://www.techmatrix.org

A Wake Forest University computer-science professor and his students have developed an application for the iPad or iPhone that will help those with developmental disabilities to communicate. The VerbalVictor app uses pictures to accompany recorded phrases that users can select. http://www.wtop.com/?nid=108&sid=2212238

Resources and Tools
Box Cars and One-Eyed Jacks Math Games With Joanne and Jane "What's Your Number?" teaches decimals.
http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/boxcars/boxcars006.shtml

Review Games Reviewing for tests can be a dreaded chore for both students and teachers. These resources will help tired educators liven up review time; students will enjoy the games, and teachers will see the results in improved test scores. http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/strategy/strategy025.shtml

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@clemson.edu.

Sources: SmartBrief, ASCD, eSchoolNews, IES, The Scout Report, ECS eClips, Education World, Education Week, PISA, OJJDP, WTOP, CLASP, Washington Education Association, Social Venture Partners Seattle, PEW Center on the States