

**Pre-Conference Workshop Descriptions**  
22<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference in Philadelphia, PA  
*From Rhetoric to Action: Ready, Set, Graduate!*  
Sunday, November 14, 2010  
*Must be pre-registered. Cost of each workshop is \$45.*

**PCW1: The PAR Advantage...A Dropout Early Warning System With Research-Based Solutions**  
**Sunday, November 14, 2010, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Presenters: Dr. Sam Drew, Dr. Terry Cash, and Mrs. Bev Sevick – National Dropout Prevention Center, Clemson, SC

The PAR Advantage process offers systemic improvement through the use of quantitative and qualitative data, involvement of the community, and the development of long-range dropout prevention plans. PAR Advantage—with the integration of research-based risk factors, predictive analytics through a Predictive Risk Index Assessment System, and a secure web-portal management tool with effective strategies and interventions—is now the most efficient, powerful, and cost-effective solution for school districts to use in dropout prevention.

**PCW2: Service Learning: A Strategy for Student Success**

**Sunday, November 14, 2010, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Presenter: Ms. Joan Liptrot–Institute for Global Education and Service Learning, Levittown, PA

Identified as one of the 15 effective strategies for dropout prevention, service learning helps youth find success in the classroom while participating in their community. In a recent report “Engaged for Success” from Civic Enterprises the authors say “...service-learning could be a promising way to not only stem the tide of dropouts, but create a new generation of youth who are academically prepared for success in college and who possess a strong sense of civic responsibility.” More specialized than community service, service learning involves applying classroom learning through investigation of a community problem, planning ways to solve it, action through service, reflection on the experience and what was learned, and demonstration of results. This exciting, interactive session will lead participants through the steps for implementing a service learning project with youth and provide a wealth of examples and resources.

**PCW3: Re-engaging Disconnected Youth**

**Sunday, November 14, 2010, 1:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Presenters: Portland Public Schools & Open Meadow Alternative Schools, Boston Private Industry Council & Boston Public Schools, Philadelphia Youth Network and the School District of Philadelphia

Learn from School District, Workforce Development, and Community Organization leaders in Portland, Boston, and Philadelphia about how they've focused on re-engaging out of school youth. Participants can expect an intense session focused on the "how-to's" of a comprehensive strategy to engage disconnected youth in diploma or GED pathways. Presenters will walk participants through the following strategies with an eye to how to replicate the programs in other communities of all sizes:

\*Launching one-stop Re-Engagement Centers for Out-of-School Youth (OSY) \*Developing street outreach teams for hard to reach OSY

\*Using data to drive re-engagement efforts

\*Creating partnerships between Districts, City government, Youth Workforce partners and community organizations to maximize resources in re-engaging youth

## **PCW4: Ninth Grade Counts**

**Sunday, November 14, 2010, 1:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Presenters are members of the national Pathways to Graduation Workgroup from Chicago and Portland

One of the most challenging transitions for youth is the ninth grade. When we fail to engage youth at risk of dropping out during this critical transition, they are very likely to drop out prior to earning their diploma. In this session, learn from several cities with a track record of success in creating programs -- both large and small scale -- to identify at-risk youth and develop intensive experiences in the summer before ninth grade. Participants will dig deep into both program design and student outcomes data to understand how the various models work and how to replicate this success. Highlights of the session:

\*An alternative school's small program targeted for 200 at-risk youth including a full-week, overnight experience and a year-long after school component during 9th grade;

\*A month-long, city-wide summer program for more than 10,000 rising 9th graders including academic and co-curricular engagement; and

\*One small city's effort across all sectors -- education, business, and non-profit -- to engage every 9th grader in that city in either summer internships, academic preparation programs, or youth service programs with a focus on the importance of high school and postsecondary completion.