

# National Dropout Prevention Center/Network



## Impact Report 2012

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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network Impact Report 2012 published February 2013.

Cover photos, clockwise from top left: STEM in a South Carolina PAR school; Mr. William Mendoza, Director of White House Initiatives on American Indian and Alaska Native Education, Washington, DC, speaking at the regional conference in Phoenix, AZ; Allysa Gailer from Georgia gives a thumbs up to graduates; networking and learning at the 2011 FORUM.

### Impact Report Production Staff

NDPC/N Executive Director: Beth Reynolds; Editor: Cairen Withington; Production Editors: Peg Chrestman and David Windham, with contributions from NDPC/N staff members.

### About NDPC/N

The National Dropout Prevention Center and the National Dropout Prevention Network (the latter a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization) are located administratively and physically at Clemson University in Clemson, SC. The Center and Network work together to bring research to practice, and to provide evidence-based technical assistance and resources to educators and others working with students at risk of dropping out before completing their formal education. The Center and the Network are self-funded and operate through the support of Network members and conference attendees; through the support of Clemson University and our partners and benefactors; through business, education, and foundation gifts and support; and through grants and contracts for research, program evaluation and/or assessment, and other services. Also housed within NDPC/N is the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities. For information, or to support us, please visit our Web site ([www.dropoutprevention.org](http://www.dropoutprevention.org)) or write us at [ndpc@clemson.edu](mailto:ndpc@clemson.edu)

# National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

## Impact Report 2012



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# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of the National Dropout Prevention Center and Network,

This past year we celebrated the Center's 25th anniversary as a leader in dropout prevention research and solutions. For the past two decades, hallmarks of our work have been deep research around factors that contribute to the dropout crisis as well as research on strategies that in combination aid schools and districts in tackling the problem. We believe that graduation matters, and we are committed to ensuring that every student, not just some or most, is provided the needed support and interventions to graduate and lead a productive life. Education is the great equalizer and often determines the difference between lifetime prosperity and financial despair, between unemployment coupled with social program dependency and a successful career.

Our vision remains steadfast. We envision a future where more and more students are engaged and successful in schooling and subsequently in life. This report chronicles our ongoing efforts and work to address the dropout crisis. While our core work continues, our staff and partners have been generating new and thrilling ideas to improve graduation rates and better support the work of practitioners. We invite you to see how our mission is unfolding via the data captured in this document. With your support, we will keep working, learning, and disseminating what we discover...

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth P. Reynolds". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Beth P. Reynolds, Ph.D.

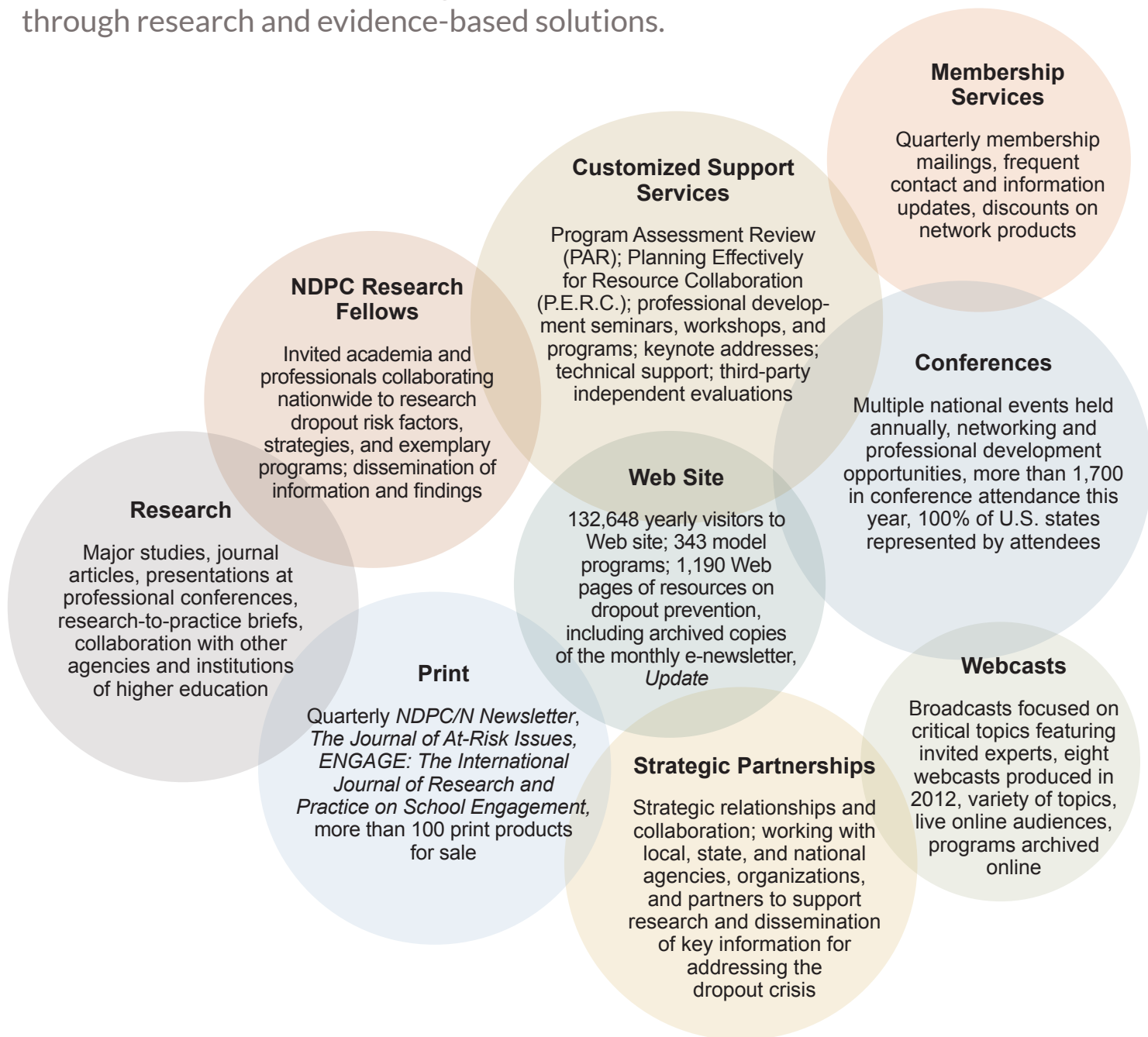
Executive Director

National Dropout Prevention Center and Network

*After more than 23 years of executive leadership under Dr. Jay Smink and interim leadership by Dr. Sam Drew, NDPC/N welcomed Dr. Beth P. Reynolds as its new Executive Director effective June 18, 2012. Among other assets, Dr. Reynolds brings with her extensive skills in K-12 public educational leadership, program development and evaluation, professional learning, and program management. Please email Dr. Reynolds at [breyno2@clermson.edu](mailto:breyno2@clermson.edu) and/or take a moment to introduce yourself at any of our upcoming events and forums. Welcome to NDPC/N, Dr. Reynolds!*

# Major Ways We Fulfill Our Mission

The mission of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network is to increase graduation rates through research and evidence-based solutions.



SINCE 1987, NDPC/N HAS WORKED TO IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE TO FULLY DEVELOP THE ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, WORK, AND HEALTHY LIFE SKILLS NEEDED TO GRADUATE AND LEAD PRODUCTIVE LIVES. BY PROMOTING AWARENESS OF SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS AND POLICIES RELATED TO DROPOUT PREVENTION, NDPC/N HAS MADE A HUGE IMPACT ON EDUCATION FROM THE LOCAL TO THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

During 2011-12  
NDPC/N added  
**13**  
new partners to  
make a total of  
**201**

# RESEARCH AND PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

## Research Fellows

In mid-2012, NDPC launched a formal effort to broaden its impact through more collaborative research and outreach, more Center-initiated presentations and workshops, and the production of more practical and evidence-based resources. Key to this effort is our new Research Fellows Program and forthcoming Practitioner Fellows Program, working together to more efficiently and effectively move research-based practices and evidence-based solutions to the field. Benefits will include:

- Network expansion
- Increased capacity to investigate at-risk factors, model programs, effective strategies, and conditions under which best practices are most likely to flourish
- Increased capacity to build awareness, promote the adoption of best practices, and advocate for those practices that are research- and evidence-based
- Increased quality of research through collaborative efforts

## Other Research News

Among other research efforts during FY2012, NDPC completed work on a five-year grant funded through a partnership with the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education (NRCCTE) - University of Louisville. The study involved South Carolina's career pathways policies and their effects on career and technical education and student success in high schools. Links to journal articles, annual reports, podcasts, and major findings from this study can be found on our Web site as well as NRCCTE's Web site ([www.nrccte.org](http://www.nrccte.org)).

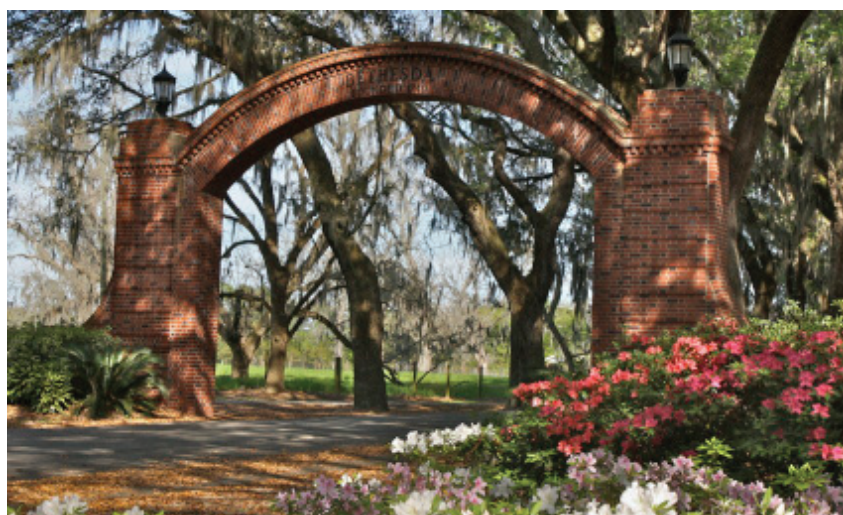
## Program Assessment Reviews

The Program Assessment Review (PAR) process is an external review process guided by our experienced national experts. NDPC/N developed the PAR process to provide schools with strategies, solutions, and professional assistance to develop the capacity for self-directed, continuous school improvement with an emphasis on increased student achievement and graduation rates. During FY2012, PARs took place in schools from coast to coast. PAR results can be dramatic. For example, we were recently informed that in just five years, one PAR school that implemented all of the PAR team's recommendations progressed from being the school with the highest *dropout* rate in their state to the school with the second highest *graduation* rate in the state. For more information on PAR, see our Web site (particularly the PAR Web pages and our recent 25th anniversary newsletter) or contact us.





CTE/CAREER PATHWAYS RESEARCH TEAM FROM CLEMSON: CATHY HAMMOND, JULIA SHARP, SAM DREW, CATHERINE MOBLEY, AND CAIREN WITHINGTON



NDPC/N WAS CONTRACTED TO PROVIDE A PAR AT BETHESDA ACADEMY IN SAVANNAH, GA. (PHOTO PROVIDED BY BETHESDA ACADEMY)

In 2011-12  
NDPC/N conducted  
PARs in more than  
**30**  
school districts in  
**5**  
states

TWELVE NDPC RESEARCH FELLOWS WERE NAMED IN JUNE 2012: LEE CRANDALL (PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY); PATRICK O'CONNOR (TEACHING LEARNING AND CURRICULUM STUDIES, KENT STATE UNIVERSITY); COLLEEN DAWICKI (THE URBAN INITIATIVE, UMASS-DARTMOUTH); JENNIE FARMER (SPECIAL EDUCATION, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY); ROBERT SHUMER (RESEARCH AND EVALUATION, THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA); SHANAN CHAPPELL (THE CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS, OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY); JANE CLARK LINDLE (EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY); KATHY HEADLEY (RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES IN HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY); DOLORES STEGELIN (EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY); TERRY PICKERAL (SCHOOL CLIMATE, CASCADE EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS); SAM DREW (ADVISORY FELLOW AND FOUNDER OF THE FELLOWS PROGRAM); AND SUZANNE ROSENBLITH (TEACHER EDUCATION, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY)



# DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

NDPC/N has become a well-established national resource for sharing evidence-based solutions for student success. New publications during FY2012 included *Reentry Programs for Out-of-School Youth with Disabilities* and *Research-Based Remedial Reading Strategies for Teens*. We provide information regularly through:

- Our online resource library, family/student resources, and grant resources pages
- Web site links to resources and information related to the 15 Effective Strategies
- Our print newsletter (1,300 copies mailed out quarterly and issues archived online)
- Production and sale of books, booklets, and games (we offer over 100 titles)
- Our monthly e-newsletter, *Update*, emailed free of charge monthly to 5,000 readers and archived online
- Two peer-reviewed journals, *The Journal of At-Risk Issues*, and a new online international journal, *ENGAGE*, released in 2013
- Radio webcasts on hot topics featuring invited guests (eight monthly productions in 2012), with over 100 live listeners and many more tuning in to the archived recordings—all produced in partnership with Clemson Radio Productions with the support of Catapult Learning and Penn Foster
- The NDPC/N Web site, [www.dropoutprevention.org](http://www.dropoutprevention.org), with over 175,000 visits during 2012 (about 14,000 per month) and 466,000 page views
- Presentations, workshops, and seminars

ALISON REIS OF PHILADELPHIA TAKES A LOOK AT THE SALE OF THE MONTH BOOK, *CREATING A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS*, AT THE FORUM IN FEBRUARY.



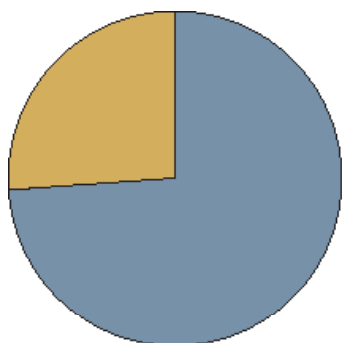


THE SOLUTIONS TO THE DROPOUT CRISIS HOSTS:  
TERRY CASH, SAM DREW, AND MARTY DUCKENFIELD

SOLUTIONS GUESTS IN 2012 INCLUDED TERRY PICKERAL (SCHOOL CLIMATE); DOLORES STEGELIN (REGGIO EMILIA APPROACH); MICHAEL VANKEULEN (SERVICE LEARNING); TERRY PETERSON (AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS); TAMMY PAWLOSKI (POVERTY AND THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP); AND LARA KAUFMANN (PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS). CENTER STAFF AND OTHERS ALSO PARTICIPATED IN A PROGRAM LOOKING TO THE FUTURE OF NDPC/N AND ONE ON CAREER PATHWAYS

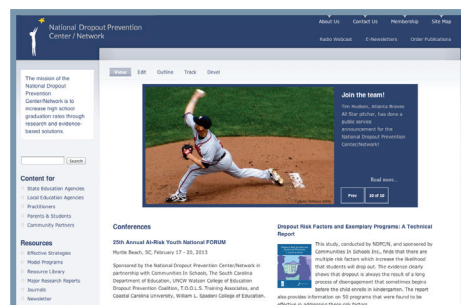
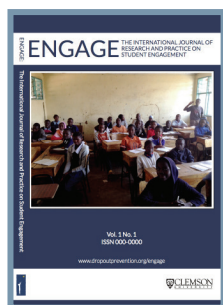


176,539 Web Site Hits in 2012



Visitors to Web Site  
132,648 Unique IP Addresses  
466,254 Pageviews

Most Viewed Content  
Top 5 Reasons to Stay in School  
Home Page  
Effective Strategies  
Dropout Statistics  
Model Programs  
Conferences



PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE *ENGAGE: THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH AND PRACTICE ON SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT*, *THE JOURNAL OF AT-RISK ISSUES*, THE NDPC/N NEWSLETTER, AND THE E-NEWSLETTER *UPDATE*. IN 2012 THE CENTER ALSO PRODUCED A PSA STARRING TIM HUDSON, ALL STAR PITCHER FOR THE ATLANTA BRAVES.

# CONFERENCES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Through conferences and other professional development opportunities, NDPC/N disseminates information related to effective strategies and research-based programs aimed at increasing the graduation rate.

The Network, working with co-sponsors and partners, hosts an annual national conference that consistently draws a nationwide audience of more than 700 teachers, administrators, state and local leaders, and community and faith-based practitioners in education and youth development. In October 2011, the Network conference was held in Schaumburg, Illinois. The theme was “S.T.A.Y. —Systems Together Advancing Youth.” In 2012, the conference was held in Orlando, Florida, and the theme was “Ignite the Potential Within: Connect, Inspire, Graduate!” In 2013, we will be in Atlanta, Georgia.

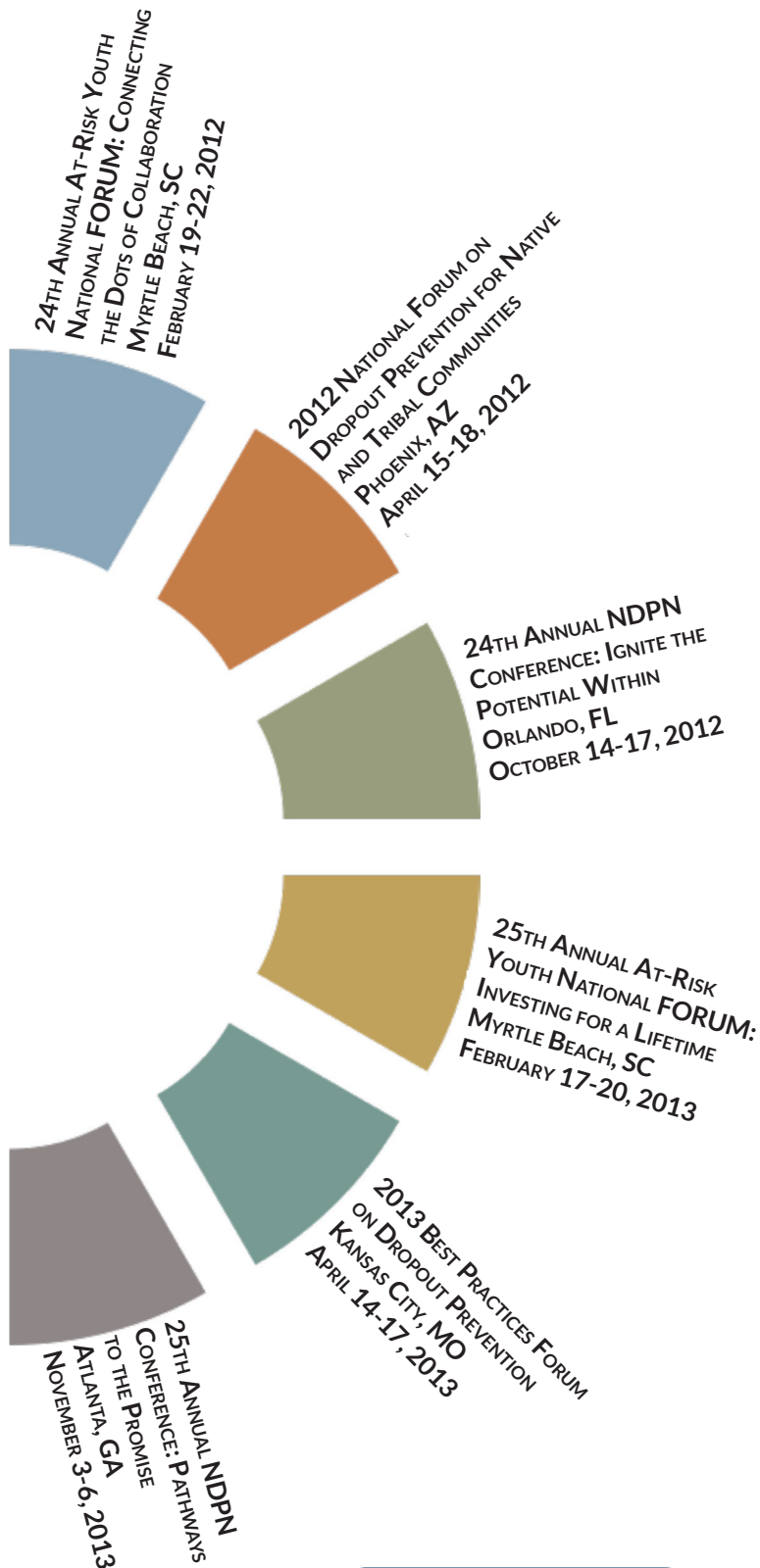
Each year, NDPC/N, with the support of co-sponsors, offers its Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM. For the past 17 years this event has been held in February in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

NDPC/N also works with local and regional planning teams to conduct regional conferences each year. The 2011 Educational Strategies and Student Engagement Institute was held in St. Petersburg, Florida, and the 2012 National Forum on Dropout Prevention for Native and Tribal Communities was held in Phoenix, Arizona. A regional conference, the Best Practices Forum on Dropout Prevention, is scheduled for 2013 in Kansas City, Missouri.

All of these conferences present opportunities for learning, networking, and sharing of information among teachers, counselors, administrators, researchers, policymakers, students, and anyone interested in the challenges of dropout prevention.

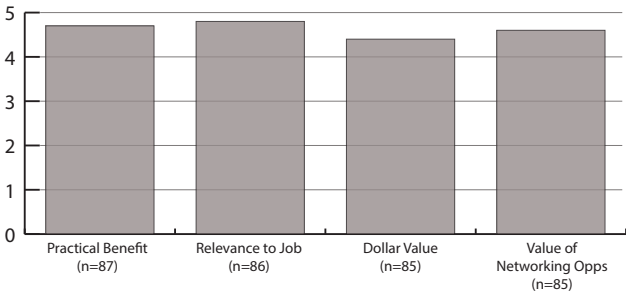
SAM DREW PRESENTS THE RILEY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN DROPOUT PREVENTION TO REPRESENTATIVE JERRY GOVAN AT THE FORUM IN FEBRUARY 2012.





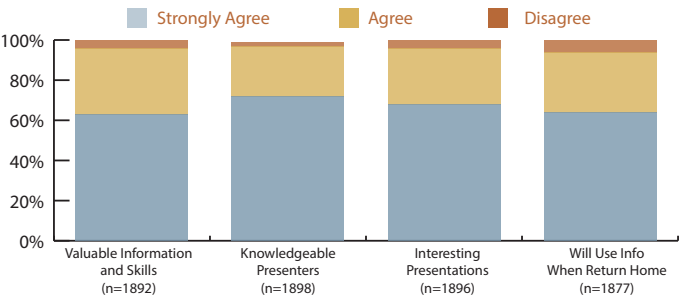
In 2011-12, NDPC/N worked with  
**33**  
 different sponsoring agencies to plan, manage, and implement  
**4**  
 major staff development conferences

### Overall Conference Evaluations (Scale: 1-5 With 5 Being Best)



ALMOST 1,900 SESSION EVALUATIONS AND 90 OVERALL EVALUATIONS FROM THE 2012 NDPN CONFERENCE IN ORLANDO WERE COLLECTED AND ANALYZED. ON A SCALE OF 1-5, THE OVERALL VALUE OF THE CONFERENCE APPROACHED A 5. EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE WERE THE RESPONSES RELATED TO SESSION QUALITY. ABOVE AND BELOW ARE REPRESENTATIVE QUESTIONS AND RESPONSE RATES FROM BOTH THE OVERALL CONFERENCE EVALUATIONS AND THE SESSION EVALUATIONS.

### Session Evaluations



During 2011-12, more than  
**1,700**  
 individuals representing  
**50**  
 states, the Virgin Islands,  
 and the United Kingdom,  
 participated in NDPC/N  
 conferences

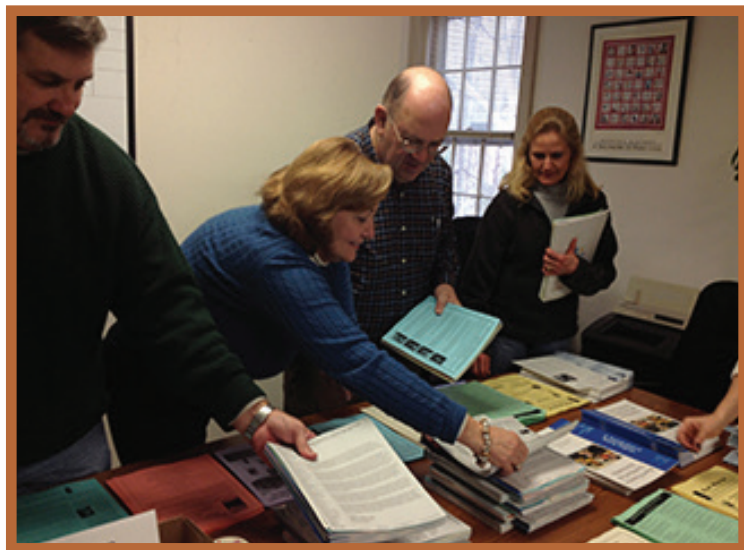
# NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

NDPC/N supports a dynamic professional organization of network members, all brought together through a common goal of helping youth at risk of dropping out of school. Network membership is offered at three levels: student, individual, and institutional. All members have voting privileges at the annual NDPC/N Business Meeting and are eligible for election to the Board of Directors. Other benefits include:

- A subscription to the quarterly *NDPC/N Newsletter*
- Subscriptions to *The Journal of At-Risk Issues* and the monthly *Update*
- First-run copies of new publications from our *Effective Strategies for School Improvement Series* including practitioner guidebooks based on the 15 Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention
- First-run copies of new publications from our *Linking Learning With Life Series* which includes service-learning guidebooks and videos on a wide variety of topics for youth, educators, and community leaders
- Discounts on NDPC/N conferences and all NDPC/N developed publications
- Preferred program placement at NDPC/N conferences
- Notifications of programs and news from NDPC/N
- Courtesy copies of new NDPC/N research-based publications

Membership is both nationwide and international. For more information on joining our network link to [www.dropoutprevention.org/membership](http://www.dropoutprevention.org/membership)

NETWORK TEAM MEMBERS, JOHN GAILER, DENISE GIANFORCARO, JOHN PETERS, AND DEBBIE HALL, PREPARE PACKETS OF INFORMATION TO MAIL TO NETWORK MEMBERS







THE 2012 CRYSTAL STAR AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE WERE PRESENTED AT THE ORLANDO, FLORIDA, CONFERENCE. CLOCKWISE, L-R: THE TEAM FROM BERKELEY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT STAR ACADEMY FROM MONCKS CORNER, SC, WAS A RECIPIENT OF A PROGRAM AWARD; ASSISTANT CENTER DIRECTOR TERRY CASH PRESENTED FRED C. BEYER HIGH SCHOOL - ADVANCEDPATH ACADEMY FROM MODESTO, CA, A PROGRAM AWARD; NDPN BOARD MEMBER EURMON HERVEY CONGRATULATES ELAINE FAHRNER OF THE SIMON YOUTH ACADEMY AT OLD COCKRILL OF NASHVILLE, TN, AS SHE RECIEVED AN INDIVIDUAL AWARD; JON HEYMANN OF COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF JACKSONVILLE, FL, ALSO RECIEVED AN INDIVIDUAL AWARD; LINDA HARRILL, OF COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA, RECEIVED THE 2012 DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD



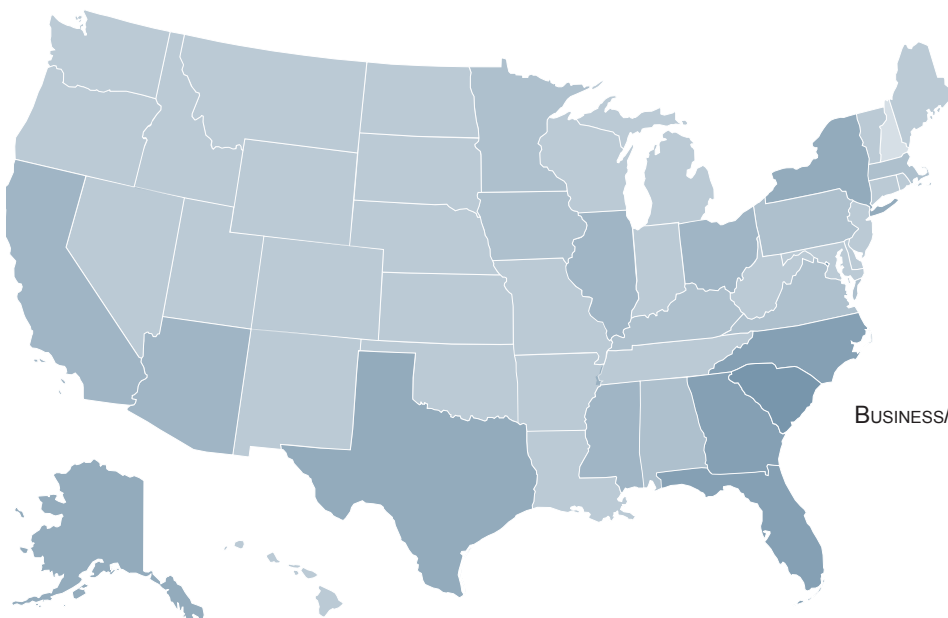

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*In 1986, at least 1 in 4 high school students was leaving school without a diploma. The Network began that year as a vision to enable people to communicate what they had learned about the causes and cures for students who were dropping out.*

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## Network Membership Across the U.S.A.

Darker Shading Represents Heavier Concentration of Membership



### Membership Breakdown

K-12 SCHOOLS/DISTRICTS	- 47.6%
BUSINESS/NONPROFIT/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS	- 21.8%
HIGHER EDUCATION	- 14.9%
STATE/FEDERAL AGENCIES	- 5.9%
OTHER	- 9.6%

# NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK BOARD (AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2012)



**Dr. Sandy Addis**  
Director  
Pioneer Regional Ed.  
Service Agency  
Cleveland, GA



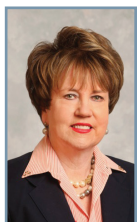
**Ms. Diane Castelbuono**  
Assoc. VP for Education  
United Way of  
Southeastern Philadelphia  
Philadelphia, PA



**Dr. John D. Barge**  
St. School Superintendent  
Georgia Dept. of Ed.  
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Student Services (PASS)  
Lake County Regional  
Office of Education  
Grayslake, IL



**Ms. Debra Duardo**  
Director of Pupil Services  
Dropout Prevention and  
Recovery Program for  
Los Angeles USD  
Los Angeles, CA



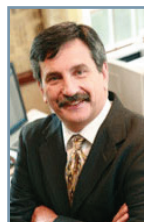
**Mr. Bobby Carrell**  
Carrell & Associates  
Monroe, GA



**Dr. Steven W. Edwards**  
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 National Urban Markets  
 McGraw-Hill Education  
 New York, NY



**Mrs. Carol Raines-Brown**  
 Board Member  
 Inglewood USD  
 Inglewood, CA



**Mr. Peter Gudmundsson**  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Dropout & Truancy  
 Prevention Network  
 Dallas, TX



**Dr. Beth P. Reynolds**  
 Executive Director  
 National Dropout Prevention  
 Center/Network  
 Clemson University  
 Clemson, SC



**Dr. Eurmon Hervey, Jr.**  
**NDPN Recording Secretary**  
 Executive Vice President  
 Edward Waters College  
 Jacksonville, FL



**Ms. Denine Torr**  
 Senior Manager  
 Community Initiatives  
 Dollar General Corp.  
 Goodlettsville, TN



**Dr. Michael Kaufman**  
 President & CEO  
 Specialized Educational  
 Services, Inc.  
 Yardley, PA



**Mr. Stuart J. Udell**  
**NDPN Chair**  
 President and CEO  
 Catapult Learning  
 Camden, NJ



**Mr. Haven Ladd**  
 Partner  
 The Parthenon Group  
 Boston, MA



**Mr. Robert York**  
 President  
 Advanced Academics, Inc.  
 Oklahoma City, OK



**Mr. Harold Levy**  
 Program Manager  
 Palm Ventures USA  
 Greenwich, CT

# NDPC/N Thanks Our Generous Supporters (FY2012)

21st Century Community Learning  
Centers of Florida  
Alaska Staff Development Network  
America's Promise Alliance  
Apex Learning  
Arizona Department of Education  
Association of Community Mental Health  
Authorities of Illinois  
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student  
Services, Florida Department of Education  
Bureau of Family and Community Outreach,  
Florida Department of Education  
Call Me Mister  
Cascade Educational Consultants  
Casino Arizona Talking Stick Resort  
Catapult Learning  
Center for Prevention Research and Development  
Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of  
Children of Poverty  
Clemson University Radio Productions  
College of Health, Education, and Human  
Development, Clemson University  
Communities In Schools of North Carolina  
Dollar General Corporation  
Drug Prevention Resource Center, Lakeland, FL  
EDIE Institute (The Institute for Evidence-Based  
Decision-Making in Education)  
ETV American Graduate  
Eugene T. Moore School of Education,  
Clemson University  
Florida Afterschool Alliance  
Florida Association of Alternative School  
Educators, Inc.  
Florida Association of School Social Workers  
Florida Department of Education  
Florida Learn & Serve  
The Florida Lottery  
Illinois Association of Regional  
Superintendents of Schools  
Illinois Association of School Administrators

Illinois Association of School Boards  
Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth  
Illinois Principals Association  
Illinois State Board of Education  
Jostens, Inc.  
K12 Inc.  
Kent State University  
Lake County Regional  
Office of Education, Illinois  
Magic Johnson Edison Learning Assist  
McGraw-Hill Companies  
McHenry County Mental Health Board, Illinois  
MENTOR National Mentoring Partnership  
MGRM Pinnacle  
Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center  
National Indian Education Association  
National Johnson-O'Malley Association  
National Research for Career and Technical  
Education  
National School Climate Center  
National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC)  
Old Dominion University  
Pearson  
Penn Foster  
PITSCO Star Academy  
SC At-Risk Student Committee  
SC Department of Education  
Southwestern Institute for the Education of  
Native Americans  
State Farm Insurance  
Student Support Services Project/USF  
U.S. Department of Education,  
Office of Special Education Programs  
UNCW Watson School of Education  
Dropout Prevention Coalition  
University of Florida  
The University of Minnesota  
The Urban Initiative at University of  
Massachusetts Dartmouth



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