



NCSET

*Creating Opportunities for
Youth With Disabilities to Achieve
Successful Futures*

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January 2011 E-News

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Announcements

The latest news and information from around the country.

Calls to Participate

Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs Seeks Comments on Federal Youth

<http://www.findyouthinfo.gov/provideinput.aspx>

The Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs seeks public comments to inform the development of a strategic plan for Federal youth policy. The Working Group is focusing on youth across several developmental stages, including (1) early adolescence (ages under 14), (2) middle adolescence (ages 15-17), and (3) late adolescence/early adulthood (ages 18-24); and on three outcomes for youth through this framework: (a) basic needs: health, safety, and wellness, (b) school, family, and community engagement and connections, and (c) education, training, employment, transitions, and readiness for careers and adulthood.

Midwest Alliance Spring Enrollment Opportunities

<http://goo.gl/P768Y>

The Midwest Alliance, a federal grant project that offers supportive programs designed to guide students with disabilities toward postsecondary education and careers in STEM (science/social science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), is accepting applications for mentors, mentees, and interns during the Spring Semester 2011. High school or college students with disabilities who are interested in meeting new people, gaining real life work experience, or impacting the lives of others can apply for paid internships in research labs or industry settings, mentorships and mentee-ships, and other educational and career related resources. Deadline for applications: January 20, 2011.

Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities Call for Proposals

www.pacrim.hawaii.edu

The Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities, sponsored by the University of Hawaii and others, has extended its call for proposals for the 2011 Conference (April 18-19, 2011, in Honolulu, HI). The conference theme is "Humanity: Advancing Inclusion, Equality, and Diversity." Deadline for proposals: January 20, 2011.

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The Resource Zone

Other National Resources

Making Resources Count (January 2011)

Toolkit

http://erstrategies.org/resources/details/the_teaching_job/

Education Resource Strategies has released a practical kit of tools designed to help districts identify and address resource decisions to improve student performance. "The Teaching Job: Restructuring for Effectiveness" is one of six publications to help district leaders allocate school resources. It includes a self-assessment to help leaders understand best practices for restructuring the job of teaching and matching resources with instructional needs.

NAEP Data Explorer (2010)

Database

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>

The updated NAEP Data Explorer for the High School Transcript Study database, from the National Center for Education Statistics, now provides more information on the course-taking patterns of high school graduates. Users can access the data and create statistical tables and charts on the types of courses students take, credits earned, grade point averages, the relationship between course-taking patterns and achievement on NAEP assessments, and performance on other assessments.

Out-of-School Time Update from Harvard Family Research Project (2010)

Research Update

http://erstrategies.org/resources/details/the_teaching_job/

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative provides funds for afterschool programs. "Research Update No. 4" focuses on evaluations and research studies of programs that are funded by the 21st CCLC initiative, with a bibliography of research studies and evaluations of 21st CCLC-funded programs in the Appendix. The series provides insight from the evaluations and profiles covered in Harvard Family Research Project's Out-of-School Time (OST) Program Research and Evaluation Database and Bibliography.

Parent-Teacher Conference Tip Sheets in English and Spanish (October 2010)

Tip Sheets

<http://tinyurl.com/46ul66n>

The Harvard Family Research Project has updated its tip sheets (in both English and Spanish) on getting the most out of parent-teacher conferences. Face-to-face interactions between parents and teachers are the cornerstone of school family engagement efforts. The tip sheets provide key strategies for parents and teachers to come to conferences informed and prepared, to ensure the most successful outcomes; and a tip sheet for school principals outlines how school administrators can support parents and teachers to that end.

Special Education Research: Where to Start? (November 2010)

Report

<http://nichcy.org/research/basics/start>

The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities has updated its report, "Special Education Research: Where to Start?" It is intended for stakeholders who are teachers, school administrators, students getting trained to work in schools, or others looking for research in special education to help guide their work or study or advocacy on behalf of children.

The Grantmaking Landscape: Benchmarking 2010 (2010)

Report

http://edfunders.org/downloads/GFEreports/GFE_Benchmarking2010.pdf

Grantmakers for Education's report on the grantmaking landscape, "Benchmarking 2010: Trends in Education Philanthropy," examines current priorities, practices, and concerns of education grantmakers. It discusses: the types and priorities of grantmakers who fund education, the geographic scope of work, amounts granted annually and at what point in the education system; which funding priorities and strategies figure most prominently; the range of collaborations in which grantmakers participate and motivations for and approaches to policy engagement; grantmakers' reflections on trends in the field (with a sidebar on topics funders feel are not sufficiently addressed by education philanthropy); and ways to increase the collective impact of work, and bring greater alignment to the field. Available in pdf (267 pages, 1.59 MB).

The Job Seeker's Toolkit (2010)

Toolkit

<http://www.afb.org/learn/course.asp?eid=4796>

The Job Seeker's Toolkit, from the American Foundation for the Blind, is an online course that helps users develop skills and tools for seeking jobs. The free course covers self awareness, career exploration tools, finding employment, the interview, and maintaining employment.

Voices in Urban Education: Student-Based Budgeting (November 2010)

Theme Issue

<http://www.annenberginstitute.org/VUE/>

The Fall issue of Voices in Urban Education, produced in partnership with Education Resource Strategies, grew from the ERS-convened Fair Student Funding Summit last March, which brought together more than 60 urban education leaders from 14 school districts that use student-based budgeting. School finance reform is a critical component for improving U.S. public schools. A growing number of districts are turning to student-based budgeting, allocating budgets to schools based on a school's particular mix of students, rather than staff positions. This approach allows more equitable allocation of funds among schools with differing needs and better alignment of school budgets with instructional goals.

What Works? Can We Say? (November 2010)

Report

<http://nichcy.org/research/ee>

The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities has updated its report, "What Works? Can We Say?" It is intended for people teaching children with disabilities in schools or caring for pre-schoolers, and examines what research in special education has found about effective practices in teaching or caring for children with disabilities.

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What's Happening

Other National Events

The Art of Wraparound in the Child Welfare Environment

Web-based Event

January 25, 2011

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (Pacific)

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/948840776>

This webinar will discuss how to balance wraparound systems of care and traditional child welfare practice. Topics will include: understanding cultures that affect the system, some key factors/strategies for communicating and collaborating with stakeholders, and ways to develop clear roles, definitions and expectations for wraparound team members and community partners.

Supporting Self-Determination and Enhancing Career Development for Young Adults with Mental Health Diagnoses

Web-based Event

January 25, 2011

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (Pacific)

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/494738577>

Young adults with mental health diagnoses, like all young adults, have hopes and dreams for jobs and careers. This webinar will address how self-determination processes in career development can help make their career development activities more effective.

Journey Toward Special Education Improvement

Web-based Event

January 26, 2011

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (Pacific)

<http://www.schoolsmovingup.net/webinars/sangersped>

This webinar will discuss the instructional and cultural changes that took place in the Sanger Unified School District from 2004-2010, resulting in the establishment of a full inclusion model and improved student achievement of special education students. It is presented by the American Institutes for Research and WestEd as partners in the California Comprehensive Center to recognize high performing districts and schools making a difference in student achievement.

Share What You Know: Collaboration and Networking in Youth Mentoring

Conference

January 27, 2011 - January 28, 2011

San Mateo, CA

<http://tinyurl.com/4a2o9js>

In a recession economy, many non-profit organizations' programs are struggling. Sponsored by Friends for Youth, the "Share What You Know: Collaboration and Networking in Youth Mentoring" addresses ways for programs to sustain their viability by working with each other and within other systems. The conference offers courses and workshops facilitated by youth mentoring experts and trainers from across the country, in such subject areas as Mentoring 101, Mentor Screening, Mentor Training, and Volunteer Recruitment.

Conference on Inclusive Education: Expand Your Toolbox and Construct New Possibilities

Conference

February 10, 2011 - February 12, 2011

Denver, CO

<http://www.peakparent.org/conferences.asp>

Sponsored by PEAK Parent Center, "Expand Your Toolbox and Construct New Possibilities" is a conference on inclusive education for family members, general and special education teachers, other school professionals, and school administrators to learn about ways to support family-school collaboration and enhance learning for all students.

AMCHP and Family Voices National Conferences

Conference

February 13, 2011 - February 15, 2011

Washington, DC

<http://www.amchp.org/Events/amchp-conference/Pages/default.aspx>

Sponsored by Family Voices and the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP), the conference is an opportunity for participants to learn about health care reform programs and initiatives that impact state health agencies, and funding for public health agencies.

Disability Policy Seminar

February 14, 2011 - February 16, 2011

Seminar

Washington, DC

<http://www.disabilitypolicyseminar.org/>

Sponsored by many organizations, Disability Policy Seminar will gather disability advocates from around the country to discuss public policy issues affecting people with disabilities and their families. Featured topics will include employment, health care reform, budget & appropriations, fiscal commission recommendations, housing, and autism.

Engaging and Involving Youth in Wraparound

Web-based Event

February 22, 2011

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (Pacific)

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/812294817>

The webinar will discuss strategies to increase the extent to which young people participate meaningfully on their own wraparound teams, providing coaching/training to people who carry out these strategies, and evaluating the quality and impact of these efforts to increase youth participation.

LDA 48TH Annual Conference

Conference

February 23, 2011 - February 26, 2011

Jacksonville, FL

<http://www.ldanatl.org/conference/index.asp>

Sponsored by the Learning disabilities Association of America (LDAA), the conference will address problems in both children and adults with learning disabilities, discussing recent research on learning disabilities, with workshops on medical, mental health, teacher preparation, public policy, adults, assessment, research and other topics.

CEC 2011 Convention and Expo

Conference

April 25, 2011 - April 28, 2011

National Harbor, MD

<http://tinyurl.com/2fksaz>

Sponsored by the Council for Exceptional children (CEC), the conference is dedicated to special and gifted education and intended for special educators and early interventionists, general educators working closely with special educators, administrators and supervisors, teacher educators, researchers, related service professionals, psychologists and diagnosticians, curriculum specialists and facilitators, university students, parents, paraprofessionals, and others with an interest in special, early, and gifted education. More than 800 sessions will examine developments in evidence-based practices, and innovative technologies, products, and services; and offer opportunities to network with other professionals. [^ Top of Page ^](#)

Get Wired!

Web Sites

Grantmakers for Education

<http://www.edfunders.org/>

The Grantmakers for Education website, for those interested in U.S. education philanthropy,

gives access to tools, programs and services from its 260 member organizations on best practices, new developments, and advancing alignment and collaboration among funders.

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Funding Forecast

Federal Grant Opportunities

Forecast of Funding Opportunities under the Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs for Fiscal Year 2011

<http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html>

This document lists virtually all programs and competitions under which the U.S. Department of Education has invited or expects to invite applications for new awards for fiscal year 2011 and provides actual or estimated deadlines for the transmittal of applications under these programs. The lists are in the form of charts organized according to the Department's principal program offices and include programs and competitions previously announced as well as those to be announced at a later date.

FY 2010 - 2011 Discretionary Grant Application Packages

<http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/grantapps/index.html>

This site, from the Department of Education, provides information on grant competitions that are currently open.

Additional Funding and Award Opportunities

AASL: Collaborative School Library Award

http://www.goeshow.com/aasl/awards/2010/collaborative_school_library_media_award.cfm

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Collaborative School Library Award recognizes and encourages collaboration and partnerships between school librarians and teachers in meeting goals outlined in Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Programs through joint planning of a program, unit, or event in support of the curriculum, using school library resources. Maximum award: \$2,500 to the recipient's school library. Eligibility: school librarians who are personal members of the AASL. Deadline: February 7, 2011.

AASL: Innovative Reading Grant

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslwards/innovativereadinggrant/aaslreading.cfm>

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Innovative Reading Grant supports the planning and implementation of innovative programs for children that motivate and encourage reading, especially for struggling readers. Selection criteria include the potential to measure and evaluate a literacy project that promotes the importance of reading and facilitates the learners' literacy development by supporting current reading research, practice, and policy. Maximum award: \$2,500. Eligibility: reading programs specifically designed for children (grades K-9) in the school library setting. Applicant must be a member of AASL. Deadline: February 7, 2011.

Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence to Honor K-12 Teachers

<http://www.amgen.com/citizenship/aaste.html>

Amgen encourages excellence in science education by recognizing and honoring extraordinary K-12 science teachers. The 34 winners will receive an unrestricted cash award of \$5,000 each, with each recipient's school receiving an additional \$5,000 in the form of a restricted grant to be used for the expansion or enhancement of science programs, science resources, or professional development of science teachers. Applicants must be full-time K-12 classroom teachers in a public or private school setting whose major responsibilities include teaching science. Applicants must serve one single school facility and must have at least three years of experience teaching science in grades K-12. Applicants must work in communities, states, and countries in which Amgen has key operating sites: California, Colorado, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Washington, and Canada. Teachers who are past winners of the award are not eligible. Schools that are past recipients of the award are not eligible in consecutive years. Deadline: February 11, 2011.

Bezos Scholars Program @ the Aspen Institute Seeks Applications from High School Juniors and Educators

<http://www.bezosfamilyfoundation.org/>

The Bezos Family Foundation's Bezos Scholars Program @ the Aspen Institute seeks 12 public high school juniors and 12 educators to receive seven-day, all-expenses-paid scholarships to attend the Aspen Ideas Festival, June 26-July 2, 2011, in Aspen, Colorado. After the Festival, the student and educator teams will return home and create Local Ideas Festivals in their schools. To be eligible, the student and educator team must be from a public high school (including charter and magnet schools) where at least 25% of students are eligible for the free/reduced lunch program. The school must offer Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or the opportunity to take college/community college courses. Student applicants must be public high school juniors during the 2010-11 academic year who demonstrate leadership in school and community, have a GPA of 3.5 or higher, and have scored exceptionally well on PSAT/SAT/or ACT, are enrolled in Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/college classes, and are legal U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. Deadline: February 11, 2011.

Do Something Awards

<http://www.dosomething.org/programs/awards>

The Do Something Awards (formerly the BR!CK Awards) identify exceptional young (age 25 and under) social entrepreneurs, activists, and community leaders who have a significant social impact. For 2011, five nominees will be selected and rewarded with a \$10,000 community grant, participation in the Do Something Awards TV show on VH1, media coverage, and continued support from DoSomething.org. One of the five will be selected to win the Grand Prize, a \$100,000 grant, which will be announced during the live broadcast. Deadline for applications: March 1, 2011.

ING Unsung Heroes Program Opens Grant Program for K-12 Educational Projects

<http://ing.us/about-ing/citizenship/childrens-education/ing-unsung-heroes>

The ING Unsung Heroes program annually provides grants of \$2,000 to U.S. K-12 education professionals using new teaching methods and techniques to improve learning. Educators may submit grant applications describing projects they have initiated or would like to pursue. Each project is judged on its innovative method, creativity, and ability to positively influence students. Each year, one hundred educators are selected to receive \$2,000 each to help fund their innovative class projects. Three recipients are then selected to receive additional top awards of \$5,000, \$10,000, and \$25,000. All K-12 education professionals are eligible to apply. Applicants must be employed by an accredited K-12 public or private school located in the United States and must be full-time educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, or classified staff with projects that improve student learning. Deadline: April 30, 2011

Kessler Foundation Offers Grants to Increase Employment Outcomes for People with Disabilities

<http://www.kesslerfoundation.org/grants.php>

The Kessler Foundation's Signature Employment Grant Program awards grants of up to \$500,000 to nonprofits, schools, public institutions, and state government agencies working on non-traditional approaches designed to increase employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. Projects must be collaborative, serve a large geographic area, include multiple funding partners and stakeholders, and must have the potential for growth, scalability, or replication. Any U.S.-based nonprofit organization or other tax-exempt group such as a public/private school, public institution, or government from any state is encouraged to apply. Applicants may seek a funding amount between \$100,000 and \$250,000 per year, for maximum project funding of \$500,000 over two years. Deadline: February 15, 2011.

National Summer Learning Association: Excellence in Summer Learning Award

http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=excellence_apply

The Excellence in Summer Learning Award recognizes an outstanding summer program that demonstrates excellence in accelerating academic achievement and positive development for young people K-12. Maximum award: national recognition, press opportunities, conference presentations and complimentary registrations, professional development opportunities for staff, and increased publishing opportunities. Eligibility: public or private organizations or agencies (schools, community-based organizations, libraries, universities, faith-based organizations, etc.) serving young people K-12 over the summer months. Deadline: February 11, 2011.

Pathways Within Roads to Reading Initiative

http://www.pwirtr.org/annual_donation_prog.html

The Pathways Within Roads to Reading Initiative donates books to literacy programs in small and rural low-income communities. Maximum award: 200 books appropriate for readers age 0 to young adult; English only. Eligibility: 501(c)3 organizations that run school, after-school, summer, community, day-care, and library reading and literacy programs; organizations must have an annual operating budget of less than \$95,000 (schools and libraries are exempt from this budget requirement) and be located in an underserved community with a population of less than 50,000. Deadline: March 30, 2011.

Special Olympics/YSA: Get Into It Grants

<http://www.ysa.org/getintoit>

Special Olympics is partnering with Youth Service America to offer Get Into It grants, bringing together students of all abilities to fight childhood obesity in their schools and communities. The Get Into It curriculum helps to develop a service-learning program that gives youth the opportunity to create and implement local, hands-on programs to fight childhood obesity. Get Into It grant projects launch on Spread the Word to End the Word Day (March 2, 2011) and culminate on Global Youth Service Day (April 15-17, 2011). Maximum award: \$1,000. Eligibility: teams from all 50 states and the District of Columbia are eligible to apply; each team must comprise a teacher and a unified pair of students (one with and one without an intellectual disability). Deadline: January 26, 2011.

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Excerpting E-News

You are welcome to copy and paste portions of this E-News issue into your own e-mail newsletter;

however, please credit the National Center on Secondary Education and Transition E-News and link to <http://www.ncset.org/enews> as follows: "Excerpted from NCSET E-News, an electronic newsletter of the National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET), available online at <http://www.ncset.org/enews>. NCSET is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs."

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If you have information on new products, resources, funding opportunities, and conferences or training events and want to contribute these to a future E-News issue, please e-mail the information to ncset@umn.edu or see [Suggest an Item for E-News](#) for more information.

Purpose of the Listserv

E-News features resources, activities, products, and funding information from around the country. E-News is dedicated to assisting youth, parents, educators, service providers, and administrators to stay connected and informed about secondary education and transition issues.

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