



or



**NCSET**

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

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## Announcements

The latest news and information from around the country.

## Calls to Participate

### Education Week Calendar Seeking Listings

<http://www.edweek.org/info/about/calendar.html>

Education Week will publish its 2011 Fall Calendar of Events as a special supplement to the August 24, 2011, issue. The Calendar provides educators with the information on relevant conferences and workshops. Listings are free. The print edition of the Calendar of Events will list conferences, seminars, institutes, workshops, and professional-development events scheduled between September 1, 2011, and December 31, 2012, that are of significant interest to K-12 educators and others concerned about schools. Only events sponsored by nonprofit organizations qualify for inclusion. Deadline for inclusion in the print edition: June 30, 2011. All events submitted online that meet their guidelines will be listed in the online calendar, including those sponsored by for-profit organizations, and those submitted after June 30.

### Equity Alliance Seeking Presentation Proposals for Listings for 2012 Leadership for Excellence and Equity Forum

<http://www.equityallianceatasu.org/ea/conference/proposalpresentations>

The Equity Alliance at ASU, a Region IX Equity Assistance Center, will hold its Leadership for Excellence and Equity Forum during the last week of February 2012, and seeks presentation proposals from teachers, principals, education specialists, district leaders, facilitators of professional learning, graduate

students, college professors, dis/ability advocates, family involvement enthusiasts, and civil rights activists. They are especially interested in the voices of students and young adults. Sessions should be interactive and of interest to a wide range of educators, students and families, policy makers, and researchers.

### **Frederick Douglass Family Foundation Student Board of Advisors**

<http://www.fdff.org/student-advisory-application.html>

The Frederick Douglass Family Foundation (FDFF) is forming a Student Board of Advisors for their 2011-12 service-learning programs and seeks students to take part. Service learning projects offer opportunities for student engagement in summer and out-of-school time opportunities. Students entering grades 7-12 in fall 2011 are eligible to apply for a seat on the Board. Fifty students from across the country interested in helping address the issue of human trafficking (modern day slavery) will be selected. The FDFF exists to honor and preserve the legacy of Frederick Douglass and to create awareness about modern-day slavery to help eradicate it.

### **Internship Opportunities at the Smithsonian Institution**

<http://www.si.edu/ofg/intern.htm>

Youth 16 and older with at least two years of high school are eligible to apply to be an intern at one of the Smithsonian's 17 museums, research facilities or offices. Internships are from one month to one year. Applications are accepted year round and have summer, fall and spring deadlines. Other internships are available for undergraduate and graduate students. The Smithsonian's Access to Opportunities program also has paid internship opportunities specifically for college students with disabilities.

### **U.S. Department of State's 2012 Spring Student Internship Program**

<http://careers.state.gov/students/programs>

The U.S. Department of State is accepting applications for their 2012 Spring Student Internship Program. Internships are available at the high school, undergraduate, graduate, and working professionals levels. Deadline to submit applications: July 1, 2011.

### **Youth Voice Needed for a Survey to Inform Policy for Young People with Disabilities and Sexual and Reproductive Health**

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Oregonyouthsurvey>

Young people with disabilities have been under-represented, and sometimes left out, in developing policies and programs for sexual and reproductive health. In Oregon, a small work group, with support from the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, is developing program and policy recommendations to support young people with disabilities and wants to survey young people with disabilities to assess their opinions about these recommendations. The survey takes about 15 minutes to do. We're specifically interested in the opinions of young people in the U.S. who have a disability. A \$20 gift card from an on-line retail store is provided for the first 50 respondents.

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# The Resource Zone

## NCSET Resources

### **Self-Determination for Postsecondary Students** (2011)

*NCSET Web Topic*

<http://www.ncset.org/topics/sdpse/default.asp?topic=7>

This NCSET Web Topic explores how self-determination—the combined skills of self-awareness, self-advocacy, self-efficacy, decision-making, independent performance, self-evaluation, and adjustment—can contribute to an individual’s ability to establish and achieve his or her own goals during and after higher education experiences. Like all NCSET Web topics, it includes an introduction, frequently asked questions, related research, emerging practices, Web sites, and additional resources.

## Other National Resources

### **Baseline Analyses of SIG Applications and SIG-Eligible and SIG-Awarded Schools** (2011)

*Report*

[http://www.air.org/focus-area/education/index.cfm?fa=viewContent&content\\_id=1282&id=110](http://www.air.org/focus-area/education/index.cfm?fa=viewContent&content_id=1282&id=110)

A report from the American Institutes of Research gives baseline analyses of School Improvement Grant (SIG) applications and SIG-eligible and SIG-awarded schools, as well as an overview of state policies and practices for SIG implementation, and a description of the first round of SIG awards made to districts and schools.

### **Children’s Mental Health: What Every Policymaker Should Know** (April 2010)

*Policy Brief Report*

[http://nccp.org/publications/pub\\_929.html](http://nccp.org/publications/pub_929.html)

The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) published “Children’s Mental Health: What Every Policymaker Should Know,” a policy brief presenting statistics about the extent of child and adolescent mental health challenges in the United States, the difficulties these children confront in school and in child welfare and juvenile justice systems, the barriers that can prevent access to services, and weaknesses in the service-delivery system. The brief recommends policy strategies to enhance mental health for children, adolescents, and families.

### **Education Week’s “Diplomas Count 2011: Beyond High School, Before Baccalaureate”** (June 2011)

*Research Report*

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2011/06/09/index.html?intc=EW-DC11-EM>

Education Week’s “Diplomas Count 2011: Beyond High School, Before Baccalaureate: Meaningful Alternatives to a Four Year-Degree,” reconsiders the “college for all” movement and examines postsecondary options for students other than a bachelor’s degree. This annual benchmarking research

report provides nationwide data on graduation rates, and concludes that rates are finally moving up significantly.

### **Evidence-Based Practices in Secondary Transition** (2011)

*List of Practices*

<http://www.nsttac.org/content/evidence-based-practices-secondary-transition>

The National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center of has updated and reorganized its Practice Descriptions of evidence-based practices in secondary transition. There are now 64 evidence-based practices identified.

### **IDEA Partnership's Thought Leader Forum: In the Pipeline**

(September 2009)

*Reports*

<http://tinyurl.com/3r538ze>

The IDEA Partnership is an affiliation of 55 national organizations working across groups and within their own networks on common issues and persistent problems. Often, worthy work being done within groups was not known or recognized outside the group. The Partners found it necessary to translate the concepts and terminology used by one group to another, even though many of the ideas were same and so began to cross-walk initiatives and ground specific issues in the larger reform agenda, P-16/P-20: Cradle to College and Career. The three "In the Pipeline" report briefs now posted on their website are "In the Pipeline: P-16 and Breaking Ranks," "In the Pipeline: Response to Intervention," and "In the Pipeline: Intentionality at Transition Points."

### **Plugged In: Positive Development Strategies for Disconnected Latino Youth** (April 2011)

*Report*

<http://tinyurl.com/6dfzrw>

"Plugged In," from the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), gives information on NCLR's Escalera Program, a Latino-serving, community-based youth workforce development program. NCLR is developing a set of best practices for community-based organizations, educators, policymakers, funders, and others working to improve income and career mobility for disconnected Latino youth. The report discusses: the value of effective, culturally relevant programs that re-engage high-needs populations in decreasing the high unemployment and dropout rates of Latino youth; how the Escalera Program improves academic and employment outcomes for disconnected youth; and recommendations for policy and programmatic improvements highlighting collaboration, case management services, longer periods of service, and the power of family support. (In addition to the direct link to "Plugged In," the report can be accessed from LaRaza's publications page: <http://www.nclr.org/index.php/publications/>.)

### **SAMHSA Releases School Toolkit for Suicide Prevention** (2011)

*Toolkit*

<http://www.sprc.org/library/AfteraSuicideToolkitforSchools.pdf>

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Suicide Prevention Research Center has released, "After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools." The toolkit describes common warning signs and causes of suicide, best practices on suicide prevention in schools, and how a school should respond when a suicide has occurred. Topics include crisis response, helping

students cope, working with the community, social media, bringing in outside help. Available in pdf (401 KB, 49 pp).

### **Service Leader.Org Articles on Voluntarism Online** (December 2003)

*Reports*

<http://www.serviceleader.org/instructors/studentpaper9>

Service Leader.Org has made available online "Including the Developmentally Disabled in Traditional Volunteer Programs," and other articles on volunteer programs. Including individuals with disabilities in volunteer opportunities is important for its benefits to the programs and those they serve, as well as to the volunteers. The report includes information on disabling conditions and accommodations.

### **Shifting Trends in Special Education** (May 2011)

*Report*

<http://www.edexcellence.net/publications-issues/publications/shifting-trends-in-special.html>

Fordham Institute has released this analysis of public data finding that the national proportion of students with disabilities peaked in 2004-05 and has been declining since. However, although proportions of students with specific learning disabilities, mental retardation, and emotional disturbances have declined, the proportions of students with autism, developmental delays, and other health impairments have increased notably.

### **Shouldn't School Be Safe?** (May 2011)

*Guide*

<http://tinyurl.com/3lmh85z>

The disability advocacy group TASH has issued "Shouldn't School Be Safe?," a guide for parents concerned that their child is experiencing restraint or seclusion at school, with practical advice for dealing with the issue. It identifies steps they can take to prevent the use of restraint and seclusion, information on how to identify if it is occurring and how to react, recommendations on the type of language that should and should not be included in a student's individualized education program (IEP), and advice on spotting signs of restraint and seclusion even if a child is unable to talk about it.

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## **What's Happening**

### **Other National Events**

#### **Models of Blended Learning: What Works for Your District**

*Web-based Event*

*June 9, 2011*

*2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (Eastern)*

<http://tinyurl.com/3zstgnp>

Districts, being held accountable to do more and to do so with less funding,

are looking for ways to engage students and boost academic achievement. Blended learning, a teaching practice that combines face-to-face and online learning, offers models of instruction to engage students in and out of the classroom. The webinar is available "on demand" any time 24 hours after the event.

### **Equity and Ethnicity in Special Education: Addressing Legal Issues of Disability and Race Discrimination**

*Web-based Event*

*June 21, 2011*

*2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (Eastern)*

<http://tinyurl.com/3l5eywz>

Sponsored by the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA), "Addressing Legal Issues of Disability and Race Discrimination" is the second in a series of four webinars on "Equity and Ethnicity in Special Education." (The first was "The Challenges of Cultural Congruence," June 16.) It will be followed by "Representing Parents Whose Dominant Language Is Other Than English," June 29, and "Disproportionality: what Are We Doing About It?" July 14, also from 2:00-3:30 pm Eastern time.

### **Effective Vocational Rehabilitation Programs for People with Autism Spectrum Disorders**

*Web-based Event*

*June 21, 2011*

*11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (Central)*

<http://autism.sedl.org/index.php/webcasts/93-webcast-3>

SEDL and partners on the National Advisory Panel of the Vocational Rehabilitation Service Models for Individuals with the Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) project have implemented a process for identifying and validating vocational rehabilitation effective practices. This initiative is important because rates of ASD are increasing, while employment rates for people with disabilities are declining. People with ASD tend to experience lower employment rates than other persons with disabilities. Three programs have been identified as effective for competitive employment strategies for people with ASD. This webinar is the first in a three-part series highlighting each of these programs, and it will focus on Job Path, a vocational rehabilitation vendor demonstrating effective practices for people with ASD, and how its program design and practices that have helped place consumers in competitive employment.

### **Successful Transitions to High School: Promoting High School Success and Facilitating College Readiness**

*Web-based Event*

*June 23, 2011*

*2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (Eastern)*

<http://tinyurl.com/3lcznvz>

The U.S. Department of Education, in partnership with United Way Worldwide, National PTA, SEDL, and Harvard Family Research Project, will hold the seventh webinar in their Achieving Excellence and Innovation in Family, School, and Community Engagement series on June 23, 2011. The webinar will highlight innovative practices that facilitate the transition to high school, information about how schools can help families stay engaged in their children's education during the high school years, and services that offer essential information and assistance for students and their families throughout the college application process.

### **Higher Education 4th Annual Conference of the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD)**

*Conference*

*July 11, 2011 - July 17, 2011*

*Seattle, WA*

<http://www.ahead.org/conferences/2011>

The annual international AHEAD conference brings together professionals in

the fields of higher education and disability for a week of information-sharing, networking, theoretical and practical training. AHEAD provides opportunities for professional development to those who work to assure usable, sustainable and inclusive higher education environments for students, faculty, and staff with disabilities, and believe society is enriched by difference.

### **NCLR Annual Conference/National Latino Family Expo**

*Conference*

*July 23, 2011 - July 26, 2011*

*Washington, DC*

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

National Council of La Raza is hosting the 2011 NCLR Annual Conference and the National Latino Family Expo, July 23-26, 2011. The conference brings together individuals, organizations, institutions, and companies working with the Hispanic community, to learn about ongoing and emerging issues in the Hispanic community, connect with key community leaders, and generate partnerships with Latino-serving community-based organizations.

### **National Urban Service-Learning Institute**

*Institute*

*August 6, 2011 - August 7, 2011*

*St. Paul, MN*

<http://www.nylc.org/events/eighth-annual-national-service-learning-institute>

The Eighth Annual National Urban Service-Learning Institute, will be held in St. Paul, Minnesota, August 6-7, 2011. The Institute, sponsored by the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC), is designed to deepen educators' understanding of ways to engage urban students in academically challenging and meaningful learning experiences.

### **Families and Schools Connecting**

*Web-based Event*

*August 11, 2011 - September 23, 2011*

*1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (Central)*

[https://idra.ilinc.com/perl/ilinc/lms/register.pl?activity\\_id=wwbfkzt&user\\_id=](https://idra.ilinc.com/perl/ilinc/lms/register.pl?activity_id=wwbfkzt&user_id=)

The Texas IDRA (Intercultural Development Research Association) Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC) is holding a series of bilingual (English/Spanish) monthly webinars on parent engagement in education, covering topics designed for families, parent educators, teachers and administrators, particularly in Title I schools and schools not meeting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). At each session, there also will be information updates on current issues in public education and on early childhood home visitation services. These sessions can be part of meeting professional development and parent involvement requisites. The first webinar was in May, on critical questions to ask in the family engagement process. The upcoming topics are Reconnecting / Reconectando, August 11, 2011; Math, What? / Y Matemática ¿Que?, September 8, 2011; and PTA Comunitario Family Leadership / Liderazgo de familias, September 22, 2011. Each is 1:00-2:00 PM, Central Time.

### **DCDT 2011: "Taking the Future By the Horns"**

*Conference*

*October 12, 2011 - October 15, 2011*

*Kansas City, MO*

<http://www.dcdt.org/dcdtkansascity.cfm>

"Taking the Future By the Horns," the 16th International Conference, sponsored by the Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT), will be held in Kansas City, Missouri. The conference will run October 13-15, with a day of pre-conference workshops October 12, 2011.

### **National Symposium for Juvenile Services To Highlight System Reform**

*Conference*

*October 16, 2011 - October 19, 2011*



*Indianapolis, IN*

<http://www.npjs.org/symposium.php>

The National Partnership for Juvenile Services will host a national symposium/conference October 16-19, 2011, on "Representing America's Youth: System Reformation and Professional Renewal." Focus groups and policy discussions will highlight topics including juvenile corrections and detention, educating youth in confinement, community-based care, residential care, and mental health care issues in juvenile justice.

### **Showcasing Exemplary Practices: The Fifth National Symposium on Dispute Resolution in Special Education**

*October 26, 2011 - October 28, 2011*

*Symposium*

*Eugene, OR*

<http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/symposium2011index.cfm>

CADRE, the National Center on Dispute Resolution in Special Education, will hold "Showcasing Exemplary Practices: The Fifth National Symposium on Dispute Resolution in Special Education," October 26-28, 2011, in Eugene, Oregon.

### **State of the Art Conference on Postsecondary Education and Students with Intellectual Disabilities**

*Conference*

*November 3, 2011 - November 4, 2011*

*Fairfax, VA*

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

Sponsored by SSCSID, George Mason University, and others, the 2011 State of the Art Conference on Postsecondary Education for Students with Intellectual Disabilities will provide an opportunity for colleges and universities, researchers, program staff, parents and self-advocates to discuss the current state of policies, research, and practice in the field.

### **State of the Art Conference on Postsecondary Education and Individuals with Disabilities**

*Conference*

*November 3, 2011 - November 4, 2011*

*Fairfax, VA*

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

The State of the Art Conference on Postsecondary Education and Individuals with Disabilities, sponsored by George Mason University and others, will feature strands on fiscal resources for postsecondary students with intellectual disabilities, leadership and sustainability, promoting systemic change, program development and evaluation, transition to college, and research on academic, social, independent living, and employment issues. [^](#)

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## **Get Wired!**

### **Web Sites**

#### **Department of Labor Launches My Next Move**

<http://www.mynextmove.org>

The U.S. Department of Labor has launched My Next Move, a web-based tool to provide job seekers with information on more than 900 occupations, as well as local job openings and training opportunities. Users can search for



jobs in three categories: jobs with a “bright outlook” in growing industries, jobs that are part of the “green” economy, and jobs with Registered Apprenticeship programs. Each listing has a one-page profile with information about what knowledge, skills, and abilities are needed; the occupation's outlook; level of education required; technologies used in the job; other similar jobs; and links to local salary information, training opportunities, and relevant job openings.

### **Department of Labor Launches Online Tool for Job Seekers**

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

The Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration has launched an online tool, “My Skills My Future,” to help job seekers match their current skills to new careers and find out what training is needed to transition to another job. It includes information about occupational skills that can be transferred from one job to another, a side-by-side comparison chart of likely skill gaps from one occupation to another, and links to training programs that could help address skills needs. Job listings will also be available from the site.

### **JobTIPS**

<http://www.do2learn.com/JobTIPS/index.html>

JobTIPS is a new government-funded Web site to help individuals with disabilities such as autism spectrum disorder explore career interests, seek and obtain employment, and successfully maintain employment. JobTIPS addresses the social and behavioral differences that might make identifying, obtaining, and keeping a job more difficult for individuals with disabilities. Through text and video-based features, JobTIPS offers tools for job seekers with disabilities to identify compatible employment opportunities, advice on how to act in an interview or at work, and tips on when and how to talk about a diagnosis. The website also includes resources for educators, clinicians and transition specialists.

### **MDRC Web site on Programs for Disconnected Youth**

[http://www.mdrc.org/area\\_issue\\_44.html](http://www.mdrc.org/area_issue_44.html)

The Web site of MDRC (Manpower Development Research Corporation) discusses programs to assist disconnected youth and provides links to the programs’ sites. Disconnected youth, including high school dropouts, homeless and runaway youth, incarcerated youth, and youth who have aged out of the foster care system, need help to improve their literacy, work, and technical skills to qualify for high-quality jobs. MDRC’s focus is identifying and testing the most promising approaches to helping these youth reconnect to education and work.

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## **Funding Forecast**

## **Funding Resources**

## **Professional Grant Writing Web site**

<http://www.grantwriters.net/>

Resource Associates offers affordable (and sometimes free) grant writing services to agencies across the country.

## **Federal Grant Opportunities**

### **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.

### **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**

### **Best Buy Children's Foundation Offers Funding for Nonprofits Serving Young Teens**

[http://www.bestbuy-communityrelations.com/community\\_grants\\_rfp.htm](http://www.bestbuy-communityrelations.com/community_grants_rfp.htm)

The Best Buy Children's Foundation Community Grants program allows teams of Best Buy employees across the U.S. to select nonprofit organizations working to help teens excel in school and develop life and leadership skills. Best Buy seeks applications from organizations that have current 501(c)(3) tax status and serve a diverse population of young teens in the areas of learning, life skills, and leadership. Special consideration will be given to programs that provide youth with access to opportunity through technology. To be eligible, nonprofit organizations must be located within fifty miles of a Best Buy store or regional distribution center. Applicants should serve a diverse population in local or regional communities; aim to build social, academic, leadership, and/or life skills in early adolescents (primarily ages 13 to 17); and reach at-risk children in working families. Grant amounts will average between \$4,000 and \$6,000 and will not exceed \$10,000. The online grant application submission process opens July 1, 2011, and closes August 1, 2011.

### **Broad Center: Superintendents Academy**

<http://broadacademy.org/join/leaders.html>

The Broad Center for the Management of School Systems Superintendents Academy seeks leaders from business, the military, government, education, and nonprofit organizations to make an immediate impact as CEOs and senior executives in urban school districts. Maximum award: participation in the Broad Superintendents Academy. Eligibility: those with significant leadership and management experience at the central office level or the equivalent in

another field. Deadline for resume submission, June 30, 2011; for application, July 15, 2011.

### **Mockingbird Foundation Invites Applications for Children's Music Education Program Grants**

<http://mbird.org/funding/guidelines/>

The Mockingbird Foundation, a nonprofit organization created by fans of the rock band Phish, annually provides competitive grants of between \$100 and up to \$5,000, to U.S. nonprofit organizations and public schools for children's music education programs. The foundation is particularly interested in projects that foster creative expression in any musical form (including composition, instrumentation, vocalization, or improvisation), but also recognizes broader and more basic needs within conventional instruction. Applications associated with diverse or unusual musical styles, genres, forms, and philosophies are encouraged. The foundation is interested in programs for children 18 years of age or younger, but will consider projects that benefit college students, teachers, instructors, and adult students. Programs that benefit disenfranchised groups are encouraged, including groups with low skill levels, income, or education; with disabilities or terminal illnesses; and in foster homes, shelters, hospitals, prisons, or other remote or isolated situations. Deadline: August 1, 2011

### **United Methodist Women: A Brighter Future Grants**

<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/give/grants/brighterfuture/>

The Women's Division of the United Methodist General Board of Ministries offers grants of up to \$4,000 for projects and programs addressing the needs of children and young people ages 5-18 in the areas of violence prevention, anti-abuse, and relationship abuse. Maximum award: \$4,000. Eligibility: small-scale, community and church-based programs and projects; groups affiliated with national organizations, hospitals, and organizations with budgets totaling more than \$3,000,000 will not be reviewed. Deadline: July 1, 2011.

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## **End of Issue**

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### **Contributing to E-News**

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](mailto: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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(include your phone number and the city and state where you live) at:**

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