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March 2012 E-News

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Announcements

The latest news and information from around the country.

Legislative Announcements

Department of Education Announces New Effort to Strengthen Achievement Gap for Students with Disabilities

<http://tinyurl.com/7ptdnv2>

The Department of Education has announced new steps to help close the achievement gap for students with disabilities by moving away from a one-size-fits-all, compliance-focused approach to a more balanced system that looks at how well students are being educated in addition to continued efforts to protect their rights.

Calls to Participate

National Education Startup Challenge Invites Youth to Propose Education Solutions

<http://nesc.challenge.gov/>

The U.S. Department of Education has launched a National Education Startup Challenge, inviting students in middle school, high school, and college and out-of-school youth to develop innovative solutions to improve education. Youth from across the country are encouraged to submit a business plan and a video pitch for a for-profit or non-profit startup that includes an innovative strategy, product, or service designed to address one of these four topics:

Middle Grades Matter; Skills, Skills, Skills; Education Pays; and Finishing Faster. Deadline for submissions: May 1, 2012.

National Transition Conference Seeks Proposals

<http://www.transition2012.org/>

The 2012 National Transition Conference: College and Careers for Youth with Disabilities seeks proposals for the May 30-June 1 conference in Washington, DC. Deadline for proposals: March 27, 2012.

The 4th Annual HCTRC Research Symposium Seeks Abstracts

https://uncodum.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_77A6vbYjaM6KMpS

The Health Care Transition Research Consortium (HCTRC) and GotTransition – the National Health Care Transition Center, in collaboration with the Chronic Illness & Disease Conference, Transition from Pediatric to Adult Care, seek abstracts for presentation at the 4th Annual HCTRC Research Symposium, October 17, 2012, in Houston Texas. This research symposium invites researchers, clinicians, consumers and families to share their health care transition expertise and experience; foster the development of this emerging and growing field of science and specialty practice; and facilitate networking among colleagues and consumers. They are interested in receiving abstracts addressing: Young Adult/Parent Experience, Quality Improvement/Program Design, Education, Research/Outcomes, Service Models, and Other (i.e. abstract category not listed; thematic presentation involving several presenters) Submission deadline: May 31, 2012.

Virginia Commonwealth University Rehabilitation Research & Training Center (VCU RRTC) Online Course: Customized Employment

<http://www.worksupport.com/training/webcourses/ce.cfm>

The Virginia Commonwealth University Rehabilitation Research & Training Center (VCU RRTC) offers an online course in "Customized Employment," March 26-April 23, 2012 Customized employment uses a flexible blend of strategies, services, supports, and funds to facilitate employment outcomes for job seekers with complex needs through negotiated employment relationships. Topics Covered: Overview of customized employment, Ways to get to know the job seeker, Strategies to find jobs & Blending supports and funds. Course Credit: Individuals who complete the course may earn 1.6 CEUs, 16 CRCs and a Certificate of Course Completion.

Virginia Commonwealth University Rehabilitation Research & Training Center (VCU RRTC) Online Course: Personalized Job Development

http://www.worksupport.com/training/webcourses/job_development.cfm

The Virginia Commonwealth University Rehabilitation Research & Training Center (VCU RRTC) offers an online course in "Personalized Job Development," March 19-April 16, 2012. Job development is the process of locating and creating work opportunities for individuals with disabilities. This is achieved by earning an opportunity to engage an employer and then earning a commitment to meet, interview, and hire a specific job seeker. Topics Covered: Core Values, Strategies for Personal Improvement, Contact & Presentation Strategies. Individuals who complete the course may earn 1.6 CEUs, 16 CRCs and a Certificate of Course Completion.

The Resource Zone

Other National Resources

Achieve and Education First Release Common Core State Standards Tool to Assist States in Implementing the CCSS (March 2012)

Self-Assessment Tool

<http://www.parcconline.org/CommonCoreImplementationRubricTool>

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) provide states for the first time a common platform on which they can collaborate and compare achievement, and students from coast to coast will be held to standards designed to prepare them for college and careers. But success in each state will hinge on implementation: strategies used to improve instruction in every classroom, tiered supports provided to all students, policy changes to promote coherence and alignment, and commitment to building and maintaining widespread understanding of and support for the new standards. To assist states in gauging the strength of their implementation plans and to illustrate how to improve them, Education First and Achieve have partnered on the development of a "Common Core State Standards Implementation Rubric and Self-Assessment Tool." This tool sets a standard for a strong state role, provides examples to help state leaders, and profiles some promising state approaches.

An Invitation to the Big Picture: Implementing a Local Collaboration for Youth in Your Community (June 2011)

Guide

<http://sparkaction.org/resources/58821>

The National Collaboration for Youth and the Forum for Youth Investment's "Invitation to the Big Picture" is a guide to forming and sustaining Local Collaborations for Youth, which allow local child- and youth-serving agencies to pool their collective expertise, resources and voice in "whole-community" efforts to improve outcomes for children and youth by identifying gaps, aligning efforts, and improving impact.

Breaking Point (March 2012)

Survey Report

<http://tinyurl.com/yeygrcw>

The 28th Annual MetLife Survey of the American Teacher reports that in the past two years teachers' satisfaction with their profession has declined significantly, down by 15 points since last measured, the lowest level in the survey for over two decades, among other findings.

Education Week Spotlights (March 2012)

Briefs

http://www.edweek.org/ew/marketplace/products/edweek_spotlights.html?cmp=EB-SPT-020912

"Education Week Spotlights" contain essential news and commentary on talked-about topics in education. Topics in the latest Spotlights include bullying, school improvement, personalized learning, professional

development, and data-driven decision making.

High School Knowledge Database (October 2011)

Database

<http://www.betterhighschools.org/KnowledgeDataBase/>

The National High School Center's High School Knowledge Database houses resources on a variety of high school improvement topics, with three search options: (1) Keyword text search; (2) High School Topic Area(s) search; and (3) Search by the Eight Elements of High School Improvement, which allows users to select one or more of the Center's Eight Elements of High School Improvement and see resources for each Element, a useful option for those using one or more of our Elements and interested in resources that align with those specific Elements.

High School Toolkit (July 2009)

Toolkit

<http://tinyurl.com/7qn9k3a>

The Center for Public Education offers answers for such questions as "What keeps kids in school?," "What makes graduates college- or career-ready?," and "Has it gotten harder to get into college?" in their High School Toolkit, an interactive resource that allows users to browse through their resources on high school by specific question or by type of resource.

How Data Can Forecast Future Struggles or Success For Students

(February 2012)

Report

<http://tinyurl.com/7o95cv4>

"Education Week" has published "How Data Can Forecast Future Struggles or Success For Students." School districts collect information on their students, and many districts build data systems to organize that information, but some have systems mature enough to use complex analytics to predict which indicators mean students may go off track down the line, either not graduating or not being ready for college graduation. North Carolina's Charlotte-Mecklenburg school district, for instance, records habits and grades of elementary school students, making a "risk-factor scorecard" to help spot children at risk of dropping out in a decade, then deploying resources to help them change course. Without organization, data can be overwhelming; but with organization, that knowledge can be used to better help students.

Is Credit Due? (January 2012)

Report

<http://tinyurl.com/8a8rwzr>

"Credit Recovery Programs: Full Report," from the Center for Public Education, examines credit recovery programs, which give students who have fallen behind the chance to "recover" credits. There is no federal definition of credit recovery, although credit-recovery classes are supported by several government funds. The report asks introductory questions: Who is taking credit recovery programs? How far behind are the students taking them? Do they catch up, or continue to fall behind? When had they started falling behind? What is the failure rate for credit recovery classes as compared to traditional classes? How do students who re-earn missed credit fare on statewide exams, compared to students who pass the first time? How do students who earn diplomas after credit recovery fare in postsecondary education or employment? And how does this compare to available data on GED recipients, traditional graduates, and dropouts?

Maximizing the College Choice Process to Increase Fit and Match for Underserved Students (January 2012)

Brief

<http://tinyurl.com/7pyv9ct>

Gaps in college enrollment and completion rates for underserved students are partly due to attending postsecondary institutions that are not a “good match” for their social, academic, and financial needs. Thus, these students are less likely to perform well and earn a degree. Gauging this match is part of the complex and often confusing college choice process, requiring that students and parents be knowledgeable about selecting an institution that is well-suited to their needs. In a new brief, “Maximizing the College Choice Process to Increase Fit & Match for Underserved Students,” the Pathways to College Network, along with the National College Access Network (NCAN), synthesizes research on the college choice process for low-income, first-generation, and minority students. Available in pdf (367 KB, 11 pp).

Opportunity Road: The Promise and Challenge of America's Forgotten Youth (January 2012)

Report

<http://www.civicenterprises.net/reports%20-%20social%20mobility.html>

“Opportunity Road: The Promise and Challenge of America's Forgotten Youth” is a report based on a national survey and additional research. It focuses on understanding how young people between ages 16 and 24 become disconnected from school and work and what challenges they face in trying to reconnect. The report was produced by Civic Enterprises & America's Promise Alliance in association with Peter D. Hart Research Associates for the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and James Irvine Foundation, and informed by a Practitioner Advisory Committee from the Forum for Youth Investment, Jobs for the Future, and YouthBuild USA.

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What's Happening

Other National Events

Creating Effective Classroom Assessments

Web-based Event

March 7, 2012

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

<http://tinyurl.com/79glnac>

Education Week will host Measured Progress’s webinar on “Creating Effective Classroom Assessments.” Successfully using data-driven decision making to inform instruction starts with creating effective assessments, especially as states and districts begin to use the Common Core State Standards. Whether teachers are practicing formative assessment, creating quizzes or end-of-unit tests, or selecting vendor-based items and tests, assessments should: define the purpose of the assessment, starting with the end in mind; align the assessment to the standards and, ideally, to curriculum and instruction; and ensure item/test quality. Avoiding common mistakes, easy ways to improve classroom assessments, and how professional development and coaching can

help educators build this skill will also be discussed.

Building a Continuum of Services for Youth in Custody: Effective Programs, Risk and Needs Assessment, and Engaging the Community

Web-based Event

March 7, 2012

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (Eastern)

<http://nc4yc.org/component/eventlist/details/2-continuum-of-services-webinar.html>

On March 7, 2012, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) National Center for Youth in Custody will present a webinar, "Building a Continuum of Services for Youth in Custody: Effective Programs, Risk and Needs Assessment, and Engaging the Community." Panelists will discuss core elements of effective programs for youth in custody, how to strategically align programs into an effective array of services, and how to engage the community in the services that youth in custody are receiving.

Turnaround Schools in California: The Story of General Grant Middle School

Web-based Event

March 21, 2012

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (Pacific)

<http://www.schoolsmovingup.net/webinars/turnaround2>

WestEd's Schools Moving Up initiative presents its second webinar on school turnaround, drawing from a recent report on the methodology and strategies used by nine successful California turnaround schools, for educators from both inside and outside California.

Federal Education Policy: A Spring Update

Web-based Event

March 21, 2012

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (Eastern)

<http://media.all4ed.org/registration-mar-21-2012>

The Alliance for Excellent Education will host a webinar on "Federal Education Policy: A Spring Update." The beginning of 2012 has been marked by developments that could have important ramifications for federal and state education policy. Members of the Alliance's federal advocacy team will discuss these developments and their implications for high school reform.

Connections that Work: Pathways to Employment for Young People with Serious Mental Health Conditions

Web-based Event

March 22, 2012

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

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/848608448>

"Connections that Work: Pathways to Employment for Young People with Serious Mental Health Conditions" will share ideas about promoting access to employment opportunities for young people. Rise, Inc. and Career Visions will be featured as two examples of interventions supporting young people to access employment, and a young adult will share his experience seeking and maintaining employment.

Data Collection and Analysis

Web-based Event

March 22, 2012

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (Pacific)

<https://ojjdppta.webex.com/mw0306ld/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=ojjdppta>

March 22, 2012, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) will host the final Webinar, "Data Collection and Analysis," in the series "Assessing Project Performance: Building Blocks of Evaluation and Performance Measurement." The presentation will explain processes associated with data collection and analysis, including techniques to ensure that data collection is both uniform and systematic. Panelists will also discuss

strategies for presenting the results of program data analysis and the internal and external usefulness of program data for improvement and sustainability.

The Senior Project: Developing Deeper Learning at Scale

Web-based Event

March 23, 2012

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

<http://media.all4ed.org/registration-mar-23-2012>

The Alliance for Excellent Education will host a webinar on "The Senior Project: Developing Deeper Learning at Scale." Colleges and businesses expect young people to apply their knowledge to real-world situations. Some high schools are preparing students for these expectations by requiring them to complete a senior project. This webinar will explore the concept of senior projects and highlight a school and a school network that have implemented the project requirement for several years.

Got Transition Radio Show Episode 7, Health Care Transition and School Part 2: What Does it Look Like, Who Do You Involve?

Web-based Event

March 28, 2012

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

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/343615513>

Got Transition recognizes that although health care transition often begins at home with preparation and planning, young people also spend most of their time in school. In the second part of this series about health care transition and education, they will discuss including steps for health care transition within the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process, the people to involve, and exploring education system resources.

Creating Effective Classroom Assessments

Web-based Event

March 29, 2012

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (Eastern)

<http://tinyurl.com/6vcwr8u>

The National Education Association (NEA) will host a webinar to explore its new study, Family-School-Community Partnerships 2.0. The study profiles 16 programs in 14 states in which NEA members play an active role and explores 10 strategies for effective partnerships that were identified. The NEA believes every student in America, regardless of family income or place of residence, deserves a quality education, and focuses the energy and resources of its 3.2 million members on improving the quality of teaching, increasing student achievement, and making schools better places to learn.

Pursuing Justice for Children and the Poor with Urgency and Persistence: A Community and Youth Empowerment Conference

Conference

July 22, 2012 - July 25, 2012

Cincinnati, OH

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/national-conference/index.html>

On July 22-25, 2012, the Children's Defense Fund will sponsor, "Pursuing Justice for Children and the Poor with Urgency and Persistence: A Community and Youth Empowerment Conference," in Cincinnati, OH. The conference will present the information on research findings, best practices, community-building models, and empowerment strategies to meet the needs of children and the poor, including a focus on diminishing child and youth involvement in the juvenile justice system.

2012 Reinventing Quality Conference

Conference

August 5, 2012 - August 7, 2012

Baltimore, MD

<http://www.reinventingquality.org/upcoming/>

The Reinventing Quality Conference is for people with

intellectual/developmental disabilities, family members, direct support professionals, administrators of community support agencies, advocates, managers, and government leaders, all committed to a vision of a better future for people with intellectual/ developmental disabilities. This year's conference focuses on realizing a vision of a better future for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities. [^ Top of Page ^](#)

Get Wired!

Web Sites

Creating Quality: Tools for Improving Arts Education

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

The Creating Quality Web site shares ideas and resources for improving the quality of education. It is a venue for teachers, community educators, artists, principals, researchers, nonprofit and civic leaders, policymakers, and others to learn about, collaborate on, and share strategies for ensuring that children receive the best possible education.

National Health Care Transition Center

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

The National Health Care Transition Center's "Got Transition?" is a Web site for health care professionals, families, youth, and state policy makers focusing on a young adult's transition from pediatric to adult health care. This site offers an information exchange about health care transition, particularly as pertaining to youth with special health care needs. Transition tools and tips and other resources are available under each of the main categories of Youth, Family, Providers, and States.

Resources for Parents from the Office of Adolescent Health: Conversation Generation

<http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/resources-and-publications/info/parents/>

"Conversation Generation," from the Resources for Parents from the Office of Adolescent Health (OAH), is an online resource providing parents (and foster parents, guardians, and other parenting and caring adults) with knowledge and skills on beginning and maintaining two-way communication with adolescents about sex, sexuality, and relationships, with tips for getting the conversation started. OAH was established through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010 to coordinate adolescent health promotion and disease prevention programs and initiatives across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

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Funding Forecast

Federal Grant Opportunities

Forecast of Funding Opportunities under the Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs for Fiscal Year 2012

<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 2013 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.

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FY 2012 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 2012 Discretionary Grant Application Packages

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

Additional Funding and Award Opportunities

American Honda Foundation: Grants for Education

<http://corporate.honda.com/america/philanthropy.aspx?id=ahf>

The American Honda Foundation makes grants to K-12 schools, colleges, universities, trade schools, and other youth-focused nonprofit organizations for programs that benefit youth and scientific education. Maximum award: \$60,000. Eligibility: schools and youth-focused nonprofit organizations. Deadline: May 1, 2012.

Ashoka Changemakers: Activating Empathy Competition

<http://tinyurl.com/723xdkf>

Changemakers is looking for innovative ideas, programs, and learning models from around the world that equip students with the skill of empathy by encouraging social and emotional development; unlocking new ways of viewing problems, opening the door to a new world of potential solutions; addressing bullying or aggression in ways that advance understanding of others' perspectives; promoting community diversity and a respect for differences; and championing children as real-world problem solvers rather than simply bystanders. Maximum award: cash and in-kind prizes from Ashoka's Changemakers, Mattel, 1440 Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Donor's Choose, and Townsend Press. Eligibility: teachers, principals, parents, students, or other innovators with a project, program, or new learning experience that can advance empathy in education. Deadline: March 30, 2012.

Braitmayer Foundation: Grants for Innovation in Education

<http://www.braitmayerfoundation.org/guid.cfm>

The Braitmayer Foundation seeks in proposals using innovative practices in K-12 education throughout the United States. Of particular interest are curricular and school reform initiatives, as well as preparation of and professional development opportunities for teachers, particularly those that encourage people of high ability and diverse backgrounds to enter and remain in K-12 teaching. In addition, the Braitmayer Foundation provides modest support of activities in Marion, Massachusetts and surrounding communities that will improve the quality of life for residents in the area. Maximum award: \$35,000. Eligibility: Grants may be used anywhere in the United States as seed money, challenge grants, or to match other grants to the recipient organizations. Deadline: March 15, 2012.

Gateway to College National Network Offers Funding for College/K-12 Partnerships to Serve Out-of-School Youth

<http://www.gatewaytocollege.org/start.asp>

The Gateway to College National Network (GtCNN) has funds available for partnerships between colleges and K-12 school districts to implement the Gateway to College dropout recovery program. Gateway to College (GtC) is a dual credit program that serves youth who have dropped out of school or are significantly behind in credits and unlikely to graduate. GtC classes are taught on the college campus. Students begin with the Foundation Experience, a learning community where students take developmental reading, writing, and math, then transition to regular college classes where they continue working toward their high school diploma and, simultaneously, an associate's degree. In the fall of 2012, GtCNN will select up to ten college/K-12 partnerships for multi-year contracts worth between \$325,000 and \$440,000. In addition to start-up funds, successful applicants will receive training, technical assistance, professional development opportunities, and program evaluation. Deadline: April 30, 2012.

ING: Unsung Heroes

<http://www.ing.com/us/unsungheroes>

The ING Unsung Heroes awards program recognizes innovative and progressive thinking in education through monetary awards. Maximum award: \$25,000. Eligibility: full-time educators, teachers, principals,

paraprofessionals, or classified staff members with effective projects that improve student learning at an accredited K-12 public or private school. Deadline: April 30, 2012.

Kohl's Corporation: Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program

<http://www.kohlscorporation.com/CommunityRelations/scholarship/index.asp>

Every year, Kohl's recognizes and rewards young volunteers across the country for their amazing contributions to their communities. Maximum award: \$10,000. Eligibility: legal U.S. residents of a state in which a Kohl's store is located, between the ages of 6 and 18 and not yet a high school graduate as of March 15, 2012. Deadline: March 15, 2012.

Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams

<http://web.mit.edu/inventeams/about.html>

The Lemelson-MIT Program is dedicated to supporting and encouraging invention, and seeks to inspire students and rising inventors. InvenTeams are teams of high school students, teachers, and mentors that receive grants to invent technological solutions to real-world problems. Each InvenTeam chooses its own problem to solve. Maximum award: \$10,000. Eligibility: high school science, mathematics, and technology teachers at public, private, and vocational schools and their students. Deadline: April 6, 2012.

Libri Foundation: Books for Children Grants

<http://www.librifoundation.org/apps.html>

The Libri Foundation Books for Children Grants donate new, quality, hardcover children's books for small, rural, public libraries across the country. Maximum award: varies. Eligibility: Libraries should be in a rural area, have a limited operating budget, and an active children's department. The average total operating budget of a Books for Children grant recipient must be less than \$40,000. Deadline: May 15, 2012.

McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation: Teacher Development Grants

<http://www.mccartheydressman.org/teacher.html>

McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation Teacher Development Grants provide funding to individuals or small teams of teachers in the formation and implementation of groundbreaking K-12 classroom instruction. The grants provide opportunities for teachers to integrate fresh strategies that encourage critical inquiry and to observe their effects on students. Teachers have the opportunity to reflect and write about their projects, as well as to share their results with other teachers. Maximum award: \$10,000 for three years. Eligibility: licensed K-12 teachers employed in public or private schools. Deadline: April 15, 2012.

McGraw-Hill Companies: Harold McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education

<http://www.mcgraw-hill.com/site/about-us/mcgraw-prize>

The Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education annually recognizes outstanding individuals who have dedicated themselves to improving education in this

country and whose accomplishments are making a difference. Honorees are chosen by a distinguished panel of judges made up of thoughtful and influential members of the education community. Maximum award: \$50,000. Eligibility: policymakers, leaders in higher education, and school-based personnel. Deadline: March 16, 2012.

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Excerpting E-News

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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.

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E-News was supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, (Cooperative Agreement No. H326J000005). However, the opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, or any of the [six partners](#) of the National Center on Secondary Education and Transition, and no official endorsement should be inferred.

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This page was last updated on October 6, 2011.