

Welcome to the March issue of CollabNews!

CollabNews is a monthly electronic newsletter for members and associates of the Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative, a network of special and general education leaders from the nation's urban school districts.

FEATURES THIS MONTH

- ⇒ Member Update: Register for the Spring Meeting, Welcome new members! Member referral opportunity
- ⇒ Web Site of the Month: Institute for Education and Social Policy
- ⇒ Event: Strategies and More Strategies! Inclusive Practices at the Secondary Level (July 26-27)
- ⇒ Partner Update: NDPC-SD seminar materials available
- ⇒ Faculty Position: Chair, Department of Special Education and Child Development University of North Carolina
- ⇒ Collaborative Help Desk

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO OTHERS

MEMBER UPDATE

Register today!

Spring Meeting 2007

General & Special Education: Partnering for the Benefit of ALL Students

May 16-19 • Dallas, Texas

The primary topic for our Spring Meeting is “General & Special Education: Partnering for the Benefit of ALL Students.” As you are more than aware, IDEA and NCLB have promoted and forged a new partnership between special education and general education through the requirements that students with disabilities 1) have access to the general education curriculum and 2) are a part of states’ and school districts’ performance accountability systems. More recently, federal Department of Education requirements for State Performance Plans focus the attention of state education agencies on 20 performance indicators, most of which cannot be achieved without significant collaboration between general and special education.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Jack Fletcher, Professor of Psychology at the University of Houston, will serve as our keynote speaker. Dr. Fletcher, a child neuropsychologist, has completed research on many aspects of the development of reading, language, and other cognitive skills in children. He has worked extensively on issues related to learning and attention problems, including definition and classification, neurobiological correlates, and most recently, interventions. Dr. Fletcher directs a Learning Disability Research Center grant, a study of math disabilities in children, and a long-term study of neurobiological factors and learning in spina

bifida, all funded by the National Institute of Child health and Human Development. He served on the NICHD National Advisory Council, the Rand Reading Study Group, the National Research Council Committee on Scientific Principles in Education Research, and the President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education. Through all of these experiences, Dr. Fletcher has gained considerable insights into the "why's" and "where's" that general and special education professionals must collaborate for the benefit of all students.

For further details about the meeting, including registration and travel information, please visit the member section of our Web site: <http://www.urbancollaborative.org>.

New Members

The Collaborative is pleased to welcome two new member districts, Cleveland Heights-University Heights City Schools, and Lakewood School District.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights City Schools is located in University Heights, Ohio, and has a total enrollment of over 6,000 students. Our Member contact is Susan Schraff, Director of Student Services. Please visit <http://www.chuh.org> for more information.

Lakewood School District is located in Lakewood, New Jersey, and has a total enrollment of over 5,000 students. Our Member contact is Yvette Cucuro, Supervisor of Special Education, and our Associate contact is Michael Inzelbuch, Board of Law. Please visit <http://www.lakewood.k12.nj.us> for more information.

Complete contact information for all member districts is available on the Collaborative Web site: <http://www.urbancollaborative.org> (log into the members only section to access this online database).

Member referral opportunity

Many of our member districts joined the Collaborative based on a referral from a current member. Please help us expand the impact of the Collaborative by recommending one or more school districts that would benefit from membership. If a district you refer enrolls in the Collaborative, we will waive registration fees for one additional participant from your district at the next national meeting.

Download a member referral form from <http://www.urbancollaborative.org/login.asp>

WEB SITE OF THE MONTH

Institute for Education and Social Policy

<http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/iesp/>

The Institute for Education and Social Policy (IESP) of the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development and Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at New York University conducts scientific research about U.S. education and related social issues. Its

research, policy studies, evaluations, seminar series, and technical assistance inform and support educators, policymakers, parents, and others in their efforts to improve public schooling. Many publications and resources available on IESP's Web site are dedicated to the areas of race, immigration, poverty, school organization and size, increasing academic achievement in general and special education students, and education finance. Written by prominent national scholars, some recent titles include:

- Does Title I Funding Improve School and Student Achievement? An Analysis Using New York City Data
- Disentangling the Racial Test Score Gap: Probing the Evidence in a Large Urban School District
- Is There a Nativity Gap? New Evidence on the Academic Performance of Immigrant Students
- Small Schools Effectiveness and Stability in Teachers and Students
- The Political Economy of Inequity in America's Public Schools

EVENT

Strategies and More Strategies! Inclusive Practices at the Secondary Level

July 26-27, 2007 • College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

Whether you are well on the road to building a more inclusive environment at the secondary level or you are just embarking on the journey—this institute will provide the ideas, strategies, and tools you will need to improve learning outcomes for all students. During the two-day institute participants will engage in lectures, learning activities, and facilitated action planning sessions. All participants will walk away with ideas, tools, and the motivation to implement innovative strategies in their school and/or classroom. Institute participants will gain knowledge and skill in the following areas:

- Relevant and practical co-teaching strategies for middle and high school classrooms, incorporating strategies for students with and without disabilities
- Strategies to promote social success among middle and high school students
- Progress monitoring strategies based on current trends in assessing and grading secondary students with disabilities
- Quick and easy strategies across the content areas to impact the learning of all students
- Curricular adaptations in a high stakes environment
- Culturally responsive educational practices
- Techniques for building stronger partnerships between general and special educators, as well as with students and their families
- Effective use of common planning time

Please visit <http://www.urbancollaborative.org> for more information.

PARTNER UPDATE

NDPC-SD Seminar Materials Available

The National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities (NDPC-SD), in

conjunction with the Collaborative, has made available complimentary media files from their recent Web and telephone seminars. NDPC-SD supports states in assisting local education agencies to increase school completion rates and decrease dropout rates among students with disabilities through emphases on dropout prevention for enrolled students and reentry into education by students who have dropped out of school. These free downloadable presentations include PowerPoint slides and materials, audio recordings (MP4s), PDF transcripts, and contact information for each of the presenters.

- **Partnering with Parents in Dropout Prevention: The Need and the How**
Aurelio M. Montemayor, Director, Parent Information and Resource Center, IDRA;
Dixie Jordan, Co-Director, Family and Advocates Partnership for Education (FAPE),
PACER; Deborah Leuchovius, Director, Technical Assistance on Transition and the
Rehabilitation Act (TATRA) Project, PACER
- **Dropout Prevention and Youth with Disabilities: What the Research Says Really Works!**
Dr. Brian Cobb, Colorado State University
- **Translating National Data into State and Local Practice**
Dr. Jose Blackorby, Program Manager for Disability Policy, SRI International
- **Increasing School Holding Power for All Students**
Dr. Maria "Cuca" Robledo Montecel, Executive Director, The Intercultural Development
Research Association
- **Effective Approaches to Increasing Graduation Rates for All Students**
Dr. Camilla A. Lehr, Institute on Community Integration, University of Minnesota
- **Dropout Prevention: The (Ex)Students' Perspective**
Dr. Larry Kortering, Professor of Special Education, Appalachian State University

Access the materials at <http://www.ndpc-sd.org/econnections/archives.htm>

FACULTY POSITION

Chair, Department of Special Education and Child Development University of North Carolina

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte seeks a chair for the Department of Special Education and Child Development. Qualifications include a doctoral degree from an accredited institution with expertise in special education or child and family development; B-12 teaching and/or administrative experience; a strong record of teaching and advising; evidence of scholarly contributions to the field; and a continued record of effective professional service. Consideration will also be given to having a demonstrated commitment to diversity, experience in grant management with a deep understanding of federal funding, leadership in tenure and promotion review, outreach to schools and communities, visionary organizational leadership, and national contributions to the field. The successful applicant for the position will begin on July 1, 2007. To

view the complete job posting, visit <http://education.uncc.edu/searches>, or contact Dr. Diane Browder, Chair of the Search Committee at Dbrowder@email.uncc.edu or 704-687-8836.

COLLABORATIVE HELP DESK

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Past CollabNews issues can be found online at:
<http://www.urbancollaborative.org/members/collab.html>.

FYI: CollabNews is not a listserv or discussion list. Members cannot send mail to this list. If you have questions or concerns about CollabNews, or would like to contact staff members, please send all correspondence to: collaborative@edc.org.

Visit us on the Web at: <http://www.urbancollaborative.org>.