

# CollabNews

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## Welcome to the November 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:** Welcome New Member District, Your Input is Needed!
- **Events:** National Dropout Prevention Center Web Seminar, Inclusive Schools Week
- **Resources:** Organizing Instruction and Study to Improve Student Learning, *Education Week* Offers New Resource Guide
- **Website of the Month:** CAST Website
- **Collaborative Help Desk**

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WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO OTHERS

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## 1. MEMBER UPDATE

### Welcome New Member District

The Collaborative is pleased to welcome our newest member, Saint Paul Public Schools.

Saint Paul Public School District is located in Saint Paul, MN, and has a total enrollment of over 50,000 students. Our Member contact is Cecilia Dodge, Director of Special Education. Please visit [www.spps.org](http://www.spps.org) 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).

### **Your Input is Needed!**

The Collaborative is surveying its Members and Associates on issues related to contemporary special education leadership issues. The survey is being conducted in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Central Florida and will contribute to a deeper understanding of the essential competencies and skills needed for future special education leaders. The survey questions will ask about your experiences and perceptions as a special education leader with regard to leadership preparation, training, and knowledge. Responses will be compiled into a Collaborative Research Brief and an article in the next issue of our Urban Perspectives newsletter. Please take a few minutes to participate by clicking on the link below:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Vn51eelPEzwfHoDvWgvkcA\\_3d\\_3d](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Vn51eelPEzwfHoDvWgvkcA_3d_3d)

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## **2. EVENTS**

### ***Web Seminar: Engaging Students with School: The Essential Dimension of Dropout Prevention Programs***

Tuesday, December 11, 2007. 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. EST

The National Center for Dropout Prevention for Students with Disabilities has announced its Web Seminar Event on *Engaging Students with School: The Essential Dimension of Dropout Prevention Programs*. Sandra L. Christenson, Ph.D. of the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities will be presenting. Dr Christenson has conducted research focused on interventions that enhance student engagement with school and learning, and identification of family and school contextual factors that facilitate student engagement and increase the probability for student success in school. This seminar will focus on universal and individualized interventions for students with and without disabilities. Dr. Christenson will discuss effective interventions for students at risk of educational failure with a focus on more than attendance and academic skills, but also on indicators of students' commitment to learning, perceptions of academic and social competence, and the sense of belonging by educators and parents. This web seminar is designed for representatives of state education agencies, school based leadership teams, classroom and special education teachers, central office and building level leadership, parent leaders, and policymakers.

Free to the first 100 participants to register. Please limit registration to one per organization/school district. To register please visit: <http://www.ndpc-sd.org/>.

## **Inclusive Schools Week**

*7th Annual Inclusive Schools Week* to focus on inclusive schooling around the globe.

The 7th Annual Inclusive Schools Week will be held December 3-7, 2007, to highlight the accomplishments of families, schools, and communities that have dedicated time, labor, and resources to promoting inclusive education for all of the world's children. This year's theme, "Lessons from the World: Including All Children," provides an opportunity to focus on both international accomplishments and ongoing challenges associated with changing global attitudes, practices, and policies toward better educational outcomes for students around the globe. Participants will read stories, learn facts, discover resources, and make connections with families and professionals around the world who are on a similar journey toward building more inclusive schools and communities for all children and youth. Please help us support the week by ordering materials to highlight your involvement in this year's event. Check out our new "Awareness Bracelets" available at:

[www.inclusiveschools.org/order.cfm](http://www.inclusiveschools.org/order.cfm). Keep checking back to the website for more ideas and information about this year's Inclusive Schools Week. [www.inclusiveschools.org](http://www.inclusiveschools.org).

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## **3. RESOURCES**

### **Organizing Instruction and Study to Improve Student Learning**

The "What Works Clearinghouse" was established in 2002 by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES) to provide educators, policymakers, researchers, and the public with a central and trusted source of scientific evidence of what works in education. IES practice guides are written by panels of nationally recognized experts and are subjected to rigorous external peer review.

*Organizing Instruction and Study to Improve Student Learning* is a guide that provides practitioners with the expert panel's consensus on some of the most important principles to emerge from research on learning and memory. The guide draws on the best available evidence and expertise to provide teachers with specific strategies for organizing instruction and students' studying of material to facilitate learning and remembering, and for helping students use what they have learned in new situations. The guide includes a set of concrete actions relating to the use of instructional and study time that are applicable to subjects that demand a great deal of content learning, including social studies, science, and mathematics. Along with seven recommendations for teachers, the panel also indicates the quality of evidence that supports each recommendation.

A copy of this publication can be downloaded by clicking on this link:

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/pdf/20072004.pdf>

### **Education Week/Teacher Magazine Offers New Resource Guide**

The publisher of *Education Week* has launched an exclusive new resource guide on teacher professional development to help you maintain your commitment to excellence in education. The inaugural issue of the *Teacher Professional Development Sourcebook*, focusing on the expanding role of teacher collaborative work, is available online now at no charge and may be a valuable tool in guiding staff development and your own professional growth. The exclusive, interactive directory is fully searchable, with links to more than 200 products, services, and organizations you may be interested in. Some of the most popular categories of professional development being searched are English/Reading, Mathematics, Special Education and Assessment/Testing and many more are available. You may find this free

(requires registration) guide to ideas and resources to be helpful in planning your approach to professional development. It is available at: <http://www.teachermagazine.org/>

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#### **4. WEB SITE OF THE MONTH**

##### **Highlighting the CAST Website**

The Center for Applied Special Technology, CAST has earned international recognition for its development of innovative, technology-based educational resources and strategies based on the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). The web site has many resources related to UDL in the areas of research, professional development, policy and publications. The site also has products to assist teachers in developing lessons and materials. One such product is the Book Builder, which allows teachers to create engaging digital books. Check it all out at: <http://www.cast.org/>

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#### **5. COLLABORATIVE HELP DESK**

Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative  
Education Development Center, Inc.  
55 Chapel Street  
Newton, MA 02158  
Phone: 617-969-7100 x2447  
TTY: 617-964-5448  
FAX: 617-969-3440  
Email: [collaborative@edc.org](mailto:collaborative@edc.org)  
Web site: [www.urbancollaborative.org](http://www.urbancollaborative.org)

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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](mailto:collaborative@edc.org).

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