



CollabNews

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April 2008

Welcome to the April 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:** See You in New Orleans!
- **Employment Opportunity:** Director of Special Education – Portland
- **Resources:** IRIS Center Offers Spanish Materials, New Module Available Online, NCCRESt Presentations Now Available Online
- **Website of the Month:** RtI Action Update
- **Event:** Harvard Institute – Critical Issues in Urban Special Education
- **Survey:** NSTTAC Survey Results
- **Collaborative Help Desk**

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO OTHERS

1. MEMBER UPDATE

See You in New Orleans!

We look forward to seeing those of you who have registered for our upcoming meeting in New Orleans May 14-17. Should you have any questions regarding registration, booking flights and/or hotel rooms, please don't hesitate to email Mai Chen at mchen@edc.org or call 617-618-2189. See you there!

For more information on our Spring 2008 Member meeting, please log into the Collaborative Website at: <http://www.urbancollaborative.org>.

2. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Portland Public Schools: Special Education Director

Portland Public Schools has announced a vacancy for Director of Special Education. The director is responsible for providing leadership and management for the Department of Special Education. To read more and to apply, please visit <http://www.hr.pps.k12.or.us/.docs/pg/11121> and complete the District online application. No additional application materials required until hire. Refer to "Next Steps" located under the Management/Non-Represented application process for more information.

3. RESOURCES

IRIS Center Offers Materials in Spanish

The IRIS (IDEA '04 and Research for Inclusive Settings) Center is now offering materials in Spanish. These modules and activities can be accessed by clicking the "En español" button on the IRIS homepage or by going to: <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu>.

The latest addition to the expanding catalogue of Spanish-language materials is *Ve a Leer a Jane: Enseñándoles a Leer a Criaturas con Variadas Discapacidades (See Jane Read: Teaching Reading to Young Children of Varying Disabilities)*. To view the module, please go to: <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu>.

IRIS Modules and activities in Spanish--including *¿Qué Es lo que Ve Usted? Percepciones de Discapacidades (What Do You See? Perceptions of Disability)*, *Visión en la Sociedad (Vision in Society)*, and *Habilidades de la Vida Diaria (Abilities of Daily Life)*--can also be accessed through the IRIS Resource Locator at <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu>, where they are indicated by an "En español" link in the "Link to Resources" field.

New Module Available Online: Collaborating with Families

The IRIS Center, in collaboration with the PACER Center, has recently launched an addition to its growing family of online interactive modules: Collaborating with Families.

Claire Morgan, principal of M. T. Watkins Middle School, and her staff have noticed that, although they enjoy good parental involvement from some families, they usually see the same core group at every volunteer opportunity or school event. They wonder why this is the case and how they might go about increasing involvement, especially among the families of students with disabilities. Join Principal Morgan and her staff as they work through the process of learning more about such families and develop ideas to engage all of the families in their school.

To view Collaborating with Families, please go to <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/fam/chalcycle.htm>.

NCCRESt Presentations Now Available On-line!

NCCRESt has been creating tools and products, providing technical assistance to states, and engaging in a national conversation to address disproportionality in special education, especially with students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, for six years.

NCCRESt also spends much of the year presenting at state and national conferences. This is one more way to continue to build and support capacity at the state, district and school level to create and sustain educational environments that serve all students. You may now visit <http://www.nccrest.org/publications/presentations.html> to access all of their presentations.

4. WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

RtI Action Update

On April 7th, the RtI (Response to Intervention) Action Network Website debuted with informational resources as well as opportunities to interact with top researchers, experienced implementers, and colleagues. The site features content on implementing RtI from preschool to secondary, with information for administrators, teachers, specialists, and families. The RtI Action Network is dedicated to the effective implementation of Response to Intervention in school districts nationwide. The RtI Action Network is a program of the National Center for Learning Disabilities, funded by the Cisco Foundation and in partnership with the nation's leading education associations and top RtI experts. For more information, please visit: <http://www.rtinetwork.org>

5. EVENT

Harvard Graduate School of Education Institute Critical Issues in Urban Special Education: Improving Outcomes for High School Students with Disabilities

July 14-18, 2008
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA

This year's Institute on Critical Issues in Urban Special Education focuses on identifying and exploring systemic approaches to improving academic, behavioral, and post-school outcomes for students with disabilities in urban middle and high schools. Participants will have opportunities to analyze significant factors that contribute to success, investigate critical features of effective approaches, interact with colleagues from school districts and universities, and much more. The institute will explore five topics critical to this effort, including: school reform, systems change, dropout prevention, student engagement, and closing the achievement gap. A program fee of \$1,795 includes tuition, resource binder, daily refreshment breaks, opening reception, certificate of participation, and a letter confirming 30 clock hours of instruction. Additionally, members of the Collaborative receive a **10% discount** off the institute's tuition. To learn more about the institute and to download a copy of the brochure, please visit the Collaborative's Website at: <http://www.urbancollaborative.org>

6. SURVEY

NSTTAC Survey Results

The National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC) is assisting states with reporting and using Indicator 13 (IEPs that include coordinated, measurable, annual IEP goals and transition services that will reasonably enable the student to meet the post-secondary goals) data to improve transition services. Last month we requested that our members respond to a survey from NSTTAC asking about how they could best support districts as they work to meet the requirements of Indicator 13. Fourteen (14) of our member districts responded and NSTTAC has provided a summary of the results. NSTTAC also responded to comments made by our members. Attached to this month's CollabNews is a copy of the results. A copy is also posted on the Member Exchange section of our Website. Log in to the Member Exchange to find this and other materials that may be of interest to you at www.urbancollaborative.org

7. COLLABORATIVE HELP DESK

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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.