



CollabNews

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March 2008

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:** Spring Meeting Update
- **Member Exchange:** Fall Meeting Keynote Address Now Available!
- **Resources:** Grant Opportunity, Eyes on Bullying, PALMS Outreach Network Invitation
- **Website of the Month:** National Child Traumatic Stress Network
- **Event:** Harvard Institute - Critical Issues in Urban Education
- **Survey:** Survey of Urban School Administrators on Transition
- **Collaborative Help Desk**

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO OTHERS

1. MEMBER UPDATE

Spring 2008 Meeting - Responding to Childhood Trauma: Lessons Learned Register Online!

Registration for our upcoming meeting in New Orleans is open. Please don't forget to log in and register online at: www.urbancollaborative.org. Registrations are due by April 22 if you plan to attend the meeting. 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 in New Orleans!

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

2. MEMBER EXCHANGE

Fall Meeting Keynote Address Now Available!

The keynote address at our fall Membership Meeting in Atlanta, GA was delivered by Dr. Festus E. Obiakor from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His topic was **Common Sense Approaches to Increasing School Completion**. Many had the pleasure of hearing this keynote at the October 2007 meeting in which Dr. Obiakor prescribed the Comprehensive Support Model (CSM) in the effort to improve school completion rates. This model utilizes the collaborative energies of students, families, schools, communities, and government agencies. The text is now available in our Member Exchange section of the Collaborative website under the section entitled **Fall 2007 Collaborative Meeting - Atlanta, GA**.

To see Dr. Obiakor's presentation materials, log into the Collaborative website at www.urbancollaborative.org and then click on Member Exchange in the left column.

3. RESOURCES

Grant Opportunity – Deadline Extended!

Jordan Fundamentals is inviting grant applications for its 2008 grant program. The \$1 million program provides \$2500 Innovation Grant awards to individual teachers for projects that impact classroom innovation and improve instruction; and, \$10,000 to teams of teachers in support of scaling up implementation of approaches developed with Innovation Grants. Last year, **more than \$600,000 in grants was awarded to teachers and schools in Collaborative Member Districts!!** Please forward the following link to teachers and schools you think would be interested. Application deadline is April 15, 2008. http://www.nike.com/jumpman23/email/fund_email/index.html

Eyes on Bullying Toolkit and Teleseminar

Each year millions of children and youth experience the humiliation and devastating effects of bullying. Bullying damages the physical, social, and emotional well-being of its victims. It also hurts the children who bully, as well as those who watch it happen. In fact, bullying creates a climate of fear, callousness, and disrespect for everyone involved. Education Development Center (EDC) has developed a multimedia project aimed at helping adults understand how they can prevent bullying from occurring and intervene when it does occur. They have produced the *Eyes on Bullying Toolkit*, which provides specific insights, strategies, activities, and resources to address bullying. The toolkit is available at: <http://www.eyesonbullying.org/toolkit.html>

There is also a series of free educational teleseminars with experts that will begin on April 15, 2008. Using your telephone you can listen to experts and get your questions answered during three, one-hour special presentations. Information about and registration for the teleseminars can be found at: <http://www.eyesonbullying.org/teleseminars.html>

Space is limited.

PALMS Outreach Network Leaders Network Invitation!

The PALMS (Postsecondary Access for Latino Middle-Grades Students) Project would like to extend a nationwide invitation to middle and high schools to join the PALMS Outreach Leaders Network during the 2008-2009 academic year. The Outreach Leaders Network is a community of practitioners dedicated to helping Latino students pursue education beyond high school. Members of the network use the PALMS *Tools for Latino Family Outreach* to

develop school-based programs focused on this mission. The tools provide a framework to organize existing and future efforts to reach Latino families and students. Adaptable to any local setting, they have been used in communities as diverse as Northwest Arkansas; Chicago; Reno; and Westchester County, New York.

For a modest fee, Outreach Leaders receive a six-week online course, a summer training workshop, five telephone coaching sessions, a Starter Kit of materials, and access to a members-only Online Resource Center. To learn more and download application materials, please visit <http://www.palmsproject.net/tools/network.htm>. Schools applying from the same district may be eligible for a 10 percent discount. Applications are due April 25, 2008.

4. WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

National Child Traumatic Stress Network

In anticipation of the Spring 2008 Member Meeting, which will focus on the topic of childhood trauma, we are highlighting the work of The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). This network serves as a national resource for developing and disseminating evidence-based interventions, trauma-informed services, and public and professional education. NCTSN is a collaboration of academic and community-based service centers whose mission is to raise the standard of care and increase access to services for traumatized children and their families across the United States. The NCTSN website provides a number of resources for educators regarding traumatic stress, including a *Child Trauma Toolkit for Educators*, a guide for parents, and a handout regarding self care for educators to cope with the reactions that adults who work with traumatized children may have. The NCTSN website can be found at: <http://www.nctsnet.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/harvardinstitute2008.asp>

6. SURVEY

Survey of Urban School Administrators on Transition

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. They are seeking help from urban school administrators to better understand how best to provide services relative to Indicator 13 and evidence-based practices in transition. Please take a few minutes to complete this very short survey:

<http://survey.rcoe.appstate.edu/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=7ILH4o3>

7. COLLABORATIVE HELP DESK

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