



CollabNews

Volume 11, Number 5

May 2008

Welcome to the May 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 2008 Meeting Follow-up, Save the Dates!
- **Members in the News:** Dr. Judy Elliott Appointed LAUSD Chief Academic Officer
- **Resources:** Substance Use Among Young Adults with Disabilities
- **Website of the Month:** The National Collaboration on Workforce and Disability for Youth
- **Events:** Inclusive Schools Network Summer Institute, Harvard Institute: Critical Issues in Urban Special Education, National RtI Innovations Conference
- **Collaborative Help Desk**

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO OTHERS

1. MEMBER UPDATE

Spring Meeting Follow-Up

The Collaborative would like to thank all those attendees who participated in this month's Spring Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. The meeting proved to be a great success with many interesting presentations and networking among members.

PowerPoint presentations and handouts from our two superb keynote speakers – Drs. Robert Anda and Carl Bell - as well as from our concurrent session presenters are now available in the Member Exchange section of the Collaborative website. Please log in at: www.urbancollaborative.org.

For those of you who attended, please take a moment to fill out our Meeting Evaluation by clicking on the following link: www.surveymonkey.com

Save the Dates!

We are already in preparation for our Fall Meeting in Denver, Colorado October 29th – November 1st! Please mark your calendars as we prepare to discuss this meeting's topic: *Identifying and Meeting the Needs of English Language Learners*. Remember to keep checking back on the Collaborative website for updates as we move forward at: www.urbancollaborative.org.

2. MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Dr. Judy Elliott Appointed as L.A.'s Chief Academic Officer

We are excited to announce that Dr. Judy Elliott has been appointed to the position of Chief Academic Officer for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). LAUSD is the second largest school district in the U.S. with well over 700,000 students. Most recently Judy was the Chief of Teaching and Learning in the Portland Public Schools. Judy has been involved in the Collaborative since March, 2000 when she held the position of Assistant Superintendent in the Long Beach Unified School District in California. She continues to network with her colleagues through our organization. We wish her well in this new and challenging position.

3. RESOURCES

Substance Use Among Young Adults With Disabilities

The National Center for Special Education Research has released a new report entitled, ***Facts From NLTS2: Substance Use Among Young Adults With Disabilities***. Using data from the National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (NLTS2), the report provides a national picture of the prevalence rates of smoking, alcohol, and illegal drug use in young adults, ages 18 through 21, with disabilities. This fact sheet also considers demographic characteristics of young adults with disabilities and the associations between such characteristics and tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drug use. Further, analyses of other nationally representative datasets provide comparisons of substance use between young adults with disabilities and those in the general U.S. population. The report can be obtained at: ies.ed.gov.

4. WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

The National Collaboration on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth)

The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth) assists state and local workforce development systems to better serve youth with disabilities.

The NCWD/Youth, created in late 2001, is composed of partners with expertise in disability, education, employment, and workforce development issues. Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), the NCWD/Youth is housed at the Institute for Educational Leadership. To find out more, please visit: www.ncwd-youth.info.

5. EVENTS

Inclusive Schools Network Presents:

High Performing, Inclusive Secondary Schools: A Leadership Institute

Two Day Institute

July 9-10 or July 24-25, 2008

University of Central Florida

Orlando, Florida

Specifically designed for teams of general and special educators involved with inclusive education in grades 6-12, the program commences with a two-day summer institute and concludes with follow-up opportunities in the fall. During the summer seminars, participants will engage in lectures, learning activities, and facilitated action planning sessions. Content will build on knowledge and skills in effective strategies for inclusion at the secondary level and leadership development.

Participants will complete action steps between the summer and the follow-up sessions and have the opportunity to share successes and problem-solve with faculty and peers. The customized menu of follow-up sessions in the fall will include on-site institutes at the UCF campus in Orlando and/or webinar discussions through the Inclusive Schools Network. For more information, and to register for this summer's institute, please visit:

www.inclusiveschools.org.

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>

Collaborative Members attending the Institute are invited to a Collaborative dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club on Tuesday, July 15th. For more information, or if you plan to attend, please contact Mai Chen at mchen@edc.org.

National RtI Innovations Conference '08 Registration Announcement

September 11-13, 2008

Little America Hotel

Salt Lake City, Utah

Registration is now open for the National RtI Innovations Conference being held in Salt Lake City, Utah. The purpose of this conference is to teach participants critical RtI implementation skills that focus primarily on RtI implementation at the building level. Participants will be given tools, knowledge, and skills that will enable them to walk out the door doing things they could not do when they walked in. To learn more about presentations, registration, and overall meeting information, please click on the following link, or refer to the document attached to this newsletter.

<http://158.91.165.5/innovations/index.html>.

6. 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.