

Welcome to the June Issue of CollabNews

Volume 12, Issue 6

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.

Fall 2009 Member Meeting



Providence, RI - October 21-24, 2009

Keynote Speaker

We are pleased to announce that our keynote speaker for our Fall Member Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island will be [Dr. Mitchell Yell](#). Dr. Yell is the Fred and Francis Lester Palmetto Chair in Teacher Education and a Professor of Special Education in the College of Education at the University of South Carolina (USC) in Columbia, South Carolina. He is the author of the textbook *The Law and Special Education* and has published two other textbooks and numerous journal articles. For the past 16 years Dr. Yell has conducted extensive research on legal issues in special education. His primary goal has been to extrapolate principles from legislation and litigation, communicate them to parents, teachers and administrators in a clear, nonlegal manner, and to assist school districts in the formation of legally sound, research-based, policies.

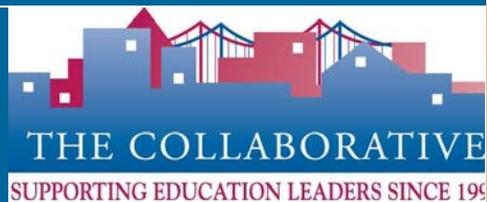
In his keynote, Dr. Yell will address our topic, ***The Emerging Redefinition of FAPE: Preparing Students with Disabilities for Post-Secondary Success***. The meeting will be held October 21 -24, 2009. More information about the Fall 2009 Meeting will be posted on our [website](#) in the upcoming weeks.

Data Project Update



Update on Project with University of Maryland

We received many emails from member districts expressing interest in our project with the University of Maryland - ***Unlock the Power of Your Data!*** Applications for participation will be sent out very soon to those districts.



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Once the applications are received we will be selecting 10 school districts to become engaged in a community of practice focused on exploring innovative ways to examine and use the extensive data that districts collect and report. Member districts not selected for direct participation will have multiple opportunities to learn and benefit from the project via CollabNews and other Collaborative publications, presentations at future Collaborative meetings, and online discussions. If you wish to participate there is still time to express an interest. Please contact Ron Felton, Associate Director at rfelton@edc.org.

[SharedWork.org](#)

[ISN Products Page](#)

New Member District

The Collaborative is pleased to welcome our newest member, Michigan City Area Schools.

Michigan City Area Schools is located in Michigan City, IN and has a total enrollment of 6,927 students. Our Member contact is Joan McCormick, Director of Special Education. Please visit www.mcas.ki12.in.us for more information.

Leadership Placement Service

The Collaborative is cognizant of the critical role Special Education leaders play in seeing that students with special needs are afforded the opportunity to succeed in school and how important it is that qualified, knowledgeable and dedicated professionals fill these roles. Thus, the Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative, together with our partners at [Columbus Educational Services](#), has created the Special Education Leadership Project. This project is designed to match urban school districts seeking to fill special education leadership positions with qualified and experienced professionals. The project will develop a database of educators interested in seeking leadership positions and will offer urban school districts the opportunity to be provided a number of select candidates for vacant special education leadership positions. Members and Associates who are interested in placing their name into the database may do so by following [this link](#) to the website. Your name and information will not be publicly available for viewing and will be shared with districts seeking to fill leadership positions only with your approval.

Resources

New Q&A Documents from the US Department of Education

The U.S. Department of Education has posted four new or revised documents [on their website](#) addressing the topics of Discipline, Disproportionality, Monitoring and Secondary Transition.

Shared Work.Org

The [IDEA Partnership Communities of Practice](#) are focused on advancing policy and practice in four key areas: (a) the intersections of the No Child Left Behind Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA); (b) school behavioral health services; (c) interagency transition, and (d) teacher quality. The [SharedWork.org](#) website is designed to support and facilitate the shared work of these Communities of Practice at the local, district, state, and national levels.

Inclusive Schools Network

Products Available for Inclusive Schools Week 2009



ISN products are available for purchase online! Use these items, including Celebration Kits, posters, pencils and much more, to promote your 2009 Inclusive Schools Week celebration and to raise awareness about inclusive educational practices throughout the year. This year, ISN is delighted to be collaborating with the Federation for Children with Special Needs, who will host the official online store for ISN products. To view these products, order online, or download a PDF order form, please visit our Products Page and Secure Online Order Form: <https://fcsn.org/inclusiveschools/orderform.html>

[Collaborative Help Desk](#)

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