

# Welcome to the March Issue of CollabNews

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*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.*

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## Stimulus Plan Update

The US Department of Education has posted fact sheets and guidance on the American Recovery and Investment Act pertaining to Special Education - Parts B and C. You can find them on the the [Department Website](#).



## Spring 2009 Meeting

Phoenix, AZ - May 6 - 9

*Improving the Achievement of Students with Disabilities through Data-Based Decision Making*

### [Keynote Speaker](#)

We are pleased to announce that our keynote speaker on Thursday, May 7th will be Dr. Elizabeth A. City. Dr. City is Director of Instructional Strategy at the Executive Leadership Program for Educators at Harvard University. Through her work she helps educators improve learning and teaching through leadership development and the strategic use of data and resources. She is a co-author of the book *Data Wise: A Step-by-Step Guide to Using Assessment Results to Improve Teaching and Learning*. Her most recent book, *Resourceful Leadership: Tradeoffs and Tough Decisions on the Road to School Improvement* looks at how school leaders use their resources and cultivate vision, hope, trust, ideas, and energy to transform what adults and children see as both possible and necessary.



### [Stimulus Funds](#)

Our Thursday morning and Friday afternoon Size-Alike sessions will focus on the latest information regarding the use of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Find out how urban districts across the country are responding to this infusion of funds and share your questions and concerns about how these dollars are to be allocated, used and accounted for.

## New Member District

The Collaborative is pleased to welcome our newest member, Colorado Springs School District #11.

Colorado Springs School District #11 is located in Colorado Springs, CO and has a total enrollment of 28,000 students. Our Member contact is Dr. Barbara Day, Executive Director of Special Education. Please visit the Colorado Springs School District [Website](#) for further information.

## Eco Awareness



The Collaborative is excited to announce our new green initiative for the Spring 2009 meeting and beyond. We are doing our part to help protect the environment by using paper from sustainable forests, investing in lanyards and tote bags made from recycled materials and using recycled meeting binders. These steps, as well as working alongside our host cities and hotels, will help the Collaborative in our mission to leave a smaller carbon footprint. When you are at the meeting this Spring, look for the "Meet Green" image and know that you are doing your part to assist the Collaborative in becoming more eco-friendly.

## Resource

The [Center on Instruction](#) supports education leaders in the work of helping schools and districts meet the goals of No Child Left Behind, to close the achievement gap and improve teaching and learning for all students. Their website offers resources on NCLB and best practices in reading, math, science, Special Education, and ELL instruction; syntheses of recent scientific research on instruction; and opportunities for professional development.



## ISN Update: New Resources!

The [Resources](#) section of the ISN website has been updated, and is now organized by topic:



- [Inclusive Education: General Information, Articles & School Profiles](#)
- [Differentiated Instruction & Universal Design for Learning \(UDL\)](#)
- [Student Supports: Behavior, Organization & Time Management](#)
- [Technology in Schools](#)
- [Transition](#)
- [Family Involvement & Advocacy](#)
- [Student Empowerment & Self-Determination](#)

- [Diversity & School Culture](#)
- [School Leadership & Professional Practice](#)
- [Inclusive Education Around the World](#)

Please share these ISN Resources with your staff and colleagues. If you have any suggestions for a topic or a particular resource you would like to see featured on the ISN website, email your suggestions to: [inclusiveschools@edc.org](mailto:inclusiveschools@edc.org).

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