

Welcome to the August Issue of CollabNews

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About Us



The [Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative](#) is a network of special and general education leaders working together to improve outcomes for students with disabilities in the nation's urban schools.

FALL MEETING - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative
Fall Member Meeting
October 27-29, 2010

Dr. Alexa Posny

We are pleased to announce that Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, [Alexa Posny](#), will be our keynote speaker at our Fall Member Meeting in Charlotte, N.C. Dr. Posny is scheduled to speak on Thursday, October 28. Dr. Posny was previously the Education Commissioner for the State of Kansas and served as Director of the USDOE's Office of Special Education Programs from 2006 to 2007. She is committed to improving results and outcomes for people with disabilities of all ages and will undoubtedly offer much to set the tone for our conversations around our meeting topic in Charlotte - *Clearing the Path to Graduation for Students with Disabilities in Urban Schools*. Online registration will be available soon on the [Collaborative's website](#).

FALL MEETING PRESENTATIONS

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS DEADLINE IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING

The primary topical focus of the Fall Meeting is: "Clearing the Path to Graduation for Students with Disabilities". We know that graduation rates can be improved by addressing alterable factors such as school policies and school climate. In recent years there are indications of some improvement nationally in the graduation rates of students with disabilities. The focus of our Charlotte meeting will be on successful policies, programs and/or strategies that have been employed at the district, school and individual classroom levels that "hard data" indicate have led to an increase in graduation rates for students with disabilities. The meeting promises to be a very rich learning experience and will offer numerous opportunities for participants to share, as well as learn about how school districts have addressed this critical issue.

If your school district has adopted and implemented such policies and/or programs and have data that suggest they are working we look forward to hearing from you. You can obtain a submission form at this [link](#). Please return the form to us via email (rfelton@edc.org) or fax (815-301-8421) no later than September 10, 2010.

NEW MEMBER DISTRICTS

Hattiesburg Public Schools and The New York City Department of Education

The Collaborative is pleased to welcome our newest members, [Hattiesburg Public Schools](#) and the New York City Department of Education. Hattiesburg Public Schools is located in Hattiesburg, MS, and has a total district enrollment of 4,500 students. Our member contact for this district is Ms. Deborah Martin.

The [New York City Department of Education](#) is located in New York, NY, and has a total district enrollment of 1.1 million students. Our member contact for this district is Ms. Laura Rodriguez.

We welcome our new members and look forward to getting to know them at our Fall Member Meeting.

POSITION AVAILABLE

DEPUTY PRACTICE LEADER, SPECIAL EDUCATION

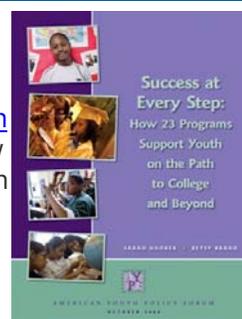
The American Institutes for Research (AIR), a not-for-profit, nonpartisan contract research and development organization with a diverse practice in the social and behavioral sciences, seeks a special education practice leader to join their Washington, D.C. office. AIR's research, technical assistance, and consultation have helped organizations at the local, state, and national levels become agents for change in meeting the promise of high-quality special education programs. In addition, they have supported states, districts, and schools to improve programs and outcomes for students with disabilities through the use of evidence-based practices.

A job description is available [at this link](#).

SUCCESS AT EVERY STEP

Success at Every Step: How 23 Programs Support Youth on the Path to College and Beyond

The [American Youth Policy Forum](#) has made available online their [publication](#) describing programs that have been proven to help young people successfully complete high school and be prepared for success in postsecondary education and careers. These programs represent a wide range of interventions, including school-wide reform initiatives, community-based afterschool services, work-based learning opportunities, and college access programs. From an analysis of the included programs, the report identifies common programmatic and structural elements that may contribute to their effectiveness and summarizes key outcomes.



INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS NETWORK



Awareness to Action: Celebrating 10 Years of Inclusive Schools Week

The 10th Annual Inclusive Schools Week will be celebrated December 6-10, 2010, in classrooms, schools, and communities throughout the world. Inclusive Schools Week (ISW) highlights and celebrates the progress schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to *all* students, including those who are marginalized due to disability, gender, ethnicity, geography and language. It also provides an important opportunity for educators, students, and families to discuss what else needs to be done to ensure that schools continue to improve their ability to successfully educate *all* children. ISW is sponsored by the Inclusive Schools Network and Education Development Center, Inc.

This year's theme, "Awareness to Action: Celebrating 10 Years of Inclusive Schools Week," focuses on how schools can move forward in their journey toward excellence by following a path of reflection, planning and action. The 10th Anniversary Celebration Kit contains the information, tools and resources needed to plan a successful Inclusive Schools Week celebration and includes a wealth of new resources aimed at supporting schools in the process of becoming more inclusive. The 2010 Celebration Kit will be available in a fresh and reorganized print format, as well as a CD Rom, and downloadable versions in early Fall at www.inclusiveschools.org.

To learn more about the 10th Annual Inclusive Schools Week and to order your ISW 2010 products, please visit www.inclusiveschools.org or contact Kristen Layton at nisw@edc.org

Physical Education and Athletics for Students with Disabilities

Schools provide students with and without disabilities similar opportunities to participate in PE but face challenges when serving students with disabilities. The U.S. Government Accountability Office released in June a [report](#) where they report on their examination of (1) what is known about the PE opportunities that schools provide, and how schools provide these; (2) what is known about the extracurricular athletic opportunities that schools provide, and how schools provide these; and (3) how the Department of Education (Education) assists states and schools in these areas.

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