

Welcome to the June 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



Clearing the Path to Graduation for Students with Disabilities in Urban Schools

Plans have already begun with our host member district - Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools - for an exciting Fall Member Meeting at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte, N.C. on October 27-30, 2010. The topic for the meeting is *Clearing the Path to Graduation for Students with Disabilities*. The focus will be on successful policies, programs and/or strategies that have been employed at the district, school and individual classroom levels and have led to an increase in graduation rates for students with disabilities. We will soon be calling upon our member districts for proposals for concurrent sessions. If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please contact Ron Felton at rfelton@edc.org.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBER

Stephanie Stroman

We hope you will join us in wishing our former Senior Administrative Assistant for the Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative and the Inclusive Schools Network, Sheri Brick, well as she heads to George Washington University to pursue her graduate studies.



We are pleased to introduce Stephanie Stroman as the new Senior Administrative Assistant. Prior to her involvement with the Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative, Stephanie worked as a Congressional Intern in Washington, D.C., and as an Administrative Assistant to the City of Hewitt, Texas, where she performed research for human resources, drafted replies to constituent inquiries, and assisted with the reorganization of various departments. She moved to Boston earlier this year from Texas and became involved with Boston Cares and LVM, two organizations in which she currently volunteers. Stephanie graduated from Texas Tech University in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a double Minor in English and Communications.

Stephanie's e-mail is [sstroman@edc.org](mailto:ssstroman@edc.org).

NEW REPORT FROM NCEE

Patterns in the Identification of and Outcomes for Children and Youth With Disabilities

The National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance (NCEE) has released a study that utilizes existing data collected by the U.S. Department of Education and other federal agencies to provide a national description of identification patterns across time and comparisons of the outcomes for children and youth with disabilities with outcomes of samples including their nondisabled peers. The study found that, across age groups, there was an increase from 1997 to 2005 in the percentages of children either newly identified or continuing to receive early intervention and special education services. Children identified for services under IDEA, while demonstrating growth in their performance, had lower skill levels than their same-age peers not identified for IDEA services or in the general population across outcomes, including developmental skills appropriate for young children, NAEP reading and math scores, and school completion for older school-age youth.

An Executive Summary and a copy of the full report are available at the [NCEE Website](#).

INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS NETWORK

High Performing, Inclusive Secondary Schools: A Leadership Institute: Online Registration is still open!

A two-day institute with Dr. Lisa Dieker will be held July 14-15, 2010, in Boston, Massachusetts. During the summer institute, participants will engage in lectures, learning activities, and 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 fall follow-up session and have the opportunity to share successes and problem solve with faculty and peers.

The two-day program will be held in downtown Boston at the Hilton Back Bay. A small amount of rooms have been set aside for program participants at a rate of \$159.00/night. Please be sure to book early and reference "Education Development Center" to receive this reduced rate. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-HILTONS.

Be sure to check the [Inclusive Schools Website](#) in May for more information on the Institute.

WEBINAR

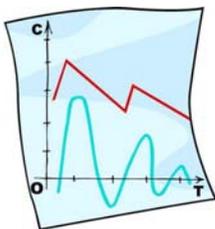
Fidelity of Implementation: Selecting and Implementing Evidence-Based Practices and Programs



Fidelity of implementation is a vital component of any school improvement process. [SchoolsMovingUp is offering an interactive webinar](#) on Wednesday, July 7 that will outline the "nuts and bolts" of fidelity implementation by highlighting the IRIS Center's newly developed, free, online professional development [instructional module about fidelity](#). This module discusses the importance of selecting evidence-based practices and programs and examines actions that school personnel can take to increase the likelihood that the practice or program is implemented as it was designed.

DATA PROJECT UPDATE

Unlocking the Power of District Data to Improve Outcomes for Students with Disabilities



The deadline for applications for participating in *Unlocking the Power of District Data to Improve Outcomes for Students with Disabilities* has passed. We will be working with our partners at the University of Maryland to review the submissions and select the ten school districts who will make up our second cohort in this project. We will be notifying all of the applicants in July regarding their status. Our thanks to all who applied to participate.

Collaborative Help Desk

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