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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.

SPRING MEMBER MEETING REGISTRATION

Spring Member Meeting Registration

The primary topical focus of our 2013 Spring Member Meeting is *Covering the Spectrum: Current Trends in the Delivery of Services to Students with Autism*. The deadline for early registration is Monday, April 22nd. All member districts receive one free registration, with each additional registration at the cost of \$150 per participant. Beginning April 22nd, all additional member registrations will increase to \$250 per participant.

As with all of our meetings, our Spring Meeting will provide lots of opportunities for participants to network with one another and share emerging best practices. We encourage our Members to invite their colleagues as well, given the importance of general education and special education leaders modeling collaboration. Currently, we have 29 districts from 19 states represented. Don't miss out; register today at www.urbancollaborative.org !



CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

DEADLINE APPROACHING

This is a reminder that the deadline for Member school districts to submit a proposal to present a concurrent session at our Spring Member Meeting is rapidly approaching. If you are interested in presenting, please send your proposal to rfelton@edc.org as soon as possible.



A copy of the *Call for Presentations* and the submission form are available [here](#).

NEW MEMBER DISTRICT

Iredell-Statesville Schools

The Collaborative is pleased to introduce our newest member, Iredell-Statesville Schools. Iredell-Statesville Schools is located in Statesville, NC, and has a total district enrollment of 22,000 students. Our member contact for this district is Dr. Alicia S. Tate, Executive Director of Exceptional Children Programs. For more information about this district, please visit their website [here](#).

We welcome Iredell-Statesville Schools to the Urban Collaborative and look forward to getting to know them at our Spring Member Meeting!

NEW PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MODULE

Diversity: An Introduction to Student Differences

The [IRIS Center for Training Enhancements](#) has posted a new training module, entitled [Diversity: An Introduction to Student Differences](#). This module offers a broad overview of how diversity (i.e., culture, language, exceptionality, and socioeconomic status) affects learning and how teachers can better meet the needs of all the students in their classes. In this module, a middle school history instructor is attempting to solve the mystery of why her lessons, so popular at her old school, seem to be falling flat at her new school. One of her fellow teachers gently suggests that maybe she has not been planning those lessons with her new school's diverse student population in mind.

This module contains:

- Information and thoughts on the role that teacher perceptions play in their classroom instruction
- Details on various kinds of student diversity that teachers will encounter, including cultural, linguistic, socioeconomic, and those having to do with exceptionalities
- Audio interviews with experts like Janette Klingner, University of Colorado, Boulder; Diane Torres-Velasquez, University of New Mexico; and H. Richard Milner IV, Vanderbilt University

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

National Center for Learning Disabilities



The National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) has a highly informative website that is replete with excellent resources on learning disabilities. This month we highlight a [video](#) featuring Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative Member Dr. Markay Winston. Dr. Winston, Chief Officer of Instructional Learning Supports for the Chicago Public Schools, shares solutions for parents who have a child that is not eligible for special education but is struggling in school. This informative video for parents was identified as one of the top 10 videos of 2012 produced by NCLD.

AUTISM RESOURCES

Each month, as we prepare for our Spring Member Meeting in San Diego, we will be featuring links to information on autism.

This month we spotlight the [AIM project](#). AIM began in 2007 as a way to provide parents and professionals with the up-to-date information they need to help individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) achieve their highest potential.

Developed by the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI), in partnership with the Autism Society of America (ASA), the Nebraska Autism Spectrum Disorders Network, the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders, and Toronto's Geneva Centre for Autism, this series of online learning modules includes information on assessment and identification of ASDs, recognizing and understanding behaviors and characteristics, transition to adulthood, employment, and numerous evidence-based practices and interventions.

All module content has been written by ASD experts from across the U.S., including the Arizona Department of Education, the Indiana Resource Center for Autism, and the University of Miami Center for Autism and Related Disorders. In addition, OCALI staff members have designed each module to be consistent with research on how adults learn; information is presented at a universal reading level, and interactive activities both reinforce knowledge and teach learners how to make the latest research applicable to real life.



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