

# Welcome to CollabNews

March 2013

Volume 16, Issue 3

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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

### Deadline for Discounted Registration is Approaching!



Beginning Monday, April 8th, the price of registration will increase to \$250 per participant. All member registrations before this date are \$150 per participant. Remember, each member district receives one free registration. Currently, we have 42 districts from 25 states represented. Don't miss out; register today at [www.urbancollaborative.org](http://www.urbancollaborative.org)!

## SPRING MEETING - CONSULTANCY SESSION TOPICS

### Spring Meeting Consultancy Session May 8, 2013

A Consultancy is a structured process for helping an individual or team think more expansively about a particular, concrete dilemma. At our Member Meetings we offer the host district the opportunity to present dilemmas during the Consultancy Session that they would like our Collaborative members to consider and to share their expertise and experience.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, May 8, San Diego Unified School District will kick-off our meeting with two consultancies. These dilemmas that we will explore with our colleagues from San Diego will focus on: providing appropriate and effective mental health services to students who are cognitively/ intellectually impaired and students with disabilities who are incarcerated; and appropriate paraprofessional supports during a district-wide transition toward more inclusive special education practices/classes.

We hope you will join us on Wednesday, May 8th, for this interesting and informative session.

## THE COLLABORATIVE IN THE NEWS

### Reviews of Two Urban Districts Featured in the News

The Collaborative offers technical assistance that provides in-depth evaluations designed to improve specific programs and service areas, or to look more broadly at the school district's overall service delivery options and collaborative structures. Recently, the work that the Collaborative has completed in two urban school districts was featured in the news.

#### Tacoma Public Schools

*Education Week* featured an [article](#) on the review the Collaborative conducted for the Tacoma Public Schools. The [Tacoma News Tribune](#) highlighted some of the changes that the school district is planning as a result of the review. A copy of the Collaborative's report is also available [online](#).

#### Community Unit School District 300

Two years ago, the Collaborative conducted a review of programs and services to students with disabilities in the Community Unit School District 300 in Carpentersville, Illinois. Recently, administrators provided an update on the district's progress toward implementing recommendations from the Collaborative's report. That update was featured in an [article](#) in the *Courier-News*.

For more information about the Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative's customized Technical Assistance and Professional Development services, [click here](#).

## AUTISM RESOURCES

### IDEA Partnership



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 work of the IDEA Partnership. The Partnership features [tools for educators regarding autism](#), developed in part by a variety of stakeholders and vetted by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

## WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

### UDL Implementation: A Tale of Four Districts

The [National Center on Universal Design for Learning](#) has released [UDL Implementation: A Tale of Four Districts](#). This online resource is the story of four school districts taking the journey into the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) implementation process, Baltimore County Public Schools in Maryland, Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation in Indiana, Cecil County Public Schools in Maryland, and Chelmsford Public Schools in Massachusetts. These four districts participated in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded project to explore and pilot processes and tools developed to support UDL Implementation within their own unique districts. The story is told primarily through the voices of the dedicated educator leaders from these districts and the UDL

facilitators who supported them. During the one-year grant, the districts worked with CAST, Inc. to develop and implement an effective and sustainable district plan to support the integration of Universal Design for Learning.



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