

Welcome to CollabNews

February 2017
Volume 20, Issue 1



URBANCOLLABORATIVE

Leading Equitable & Inclusive Education

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR OUR SPRING 2017 MEMBER MEETING!



We are excited to announce that registration is now open for our Spring 2017 member meeting! [Click here to register.](#)

Tapping the Genius of the Collaborative to Improve Outcomes for Students with Disabilities

**May 10-12, 2017
The Brown Palace Hotel
Denver, Colorado**

Our call for presentations is now open! [Click here to go to our call for presentations application.](#)

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

The screenshot shows the Urban Collaborative website homepage. At the top left is the logo with the text "URBANCOLLABORATIVE" and "Leading Equitable & Inclusive Education". To the right are links for "LOGIN", "REGISTER", and "CONTACT". Below the header is a large image of a young boy holding a pink folder. Underneath the image is a navigation menu with the following items: "THE COLLABORATIVE", "VOICES FROM THE FIELD", "EVENTS", "RESOURCES", "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE", and "PARTNERS & SPONSORS". At the bottom, there is a section titled "OUR STATS" with a brief description: "The Urban Collaborative works with districts across the United States that are leading inclusive and equitable schools. Our member districts serve students with disabilities across the nation. Counter Last Updated: January 2016." To the right of the text are three statistics: "113 # OF DISTRICTS" (with a building icon), "30 # OF STATES" (with a map of the US icon), and "14% % OF STUDENTS" (with a person icon).

Log on to www.urbancollaborative.org and check out our newly-designed website launched this past December! The website includes a "Voices from the Field" section where you can learn about work happening in our member districts across the country. The new website also includes resources that those working in member districts can access by registering with their district emails. We encourage you to register as we will continue to upload the latest research, toolkits, videos and opportunities in special education!

JOIN US FOR A BOOK TALK ON DISPROPORTIONALITY WITH DR. EDWARD FERGUS ON MARCH 9TH

JOIN US FOR A BOOK TALK ON SOLVING DISPROPORTIONALITY AND ACHIEVING EQUITY: A LEADERS GUIDE TO USING DATA TO CHANGE HEARTS AND MINDS

Rescheduled!



Schools are facing a disproportionate rate of suspensions, gifted program enrollment, or special education referrals for students of color. Dr. Edward Fergus's new book *Solving Disproportionality and Achieving Equity* shows how to uncover the root causes and rally staff to face the challenge of disproportionality head on! Join us for a book talk with Dr. Fergus during the beginning of a year of unprecedented educational changes. Please RSVP by emailing info@urbancollaborative.org or call 617-969-7100 (ext.2447).



Education Development Center
43 Foundry Avenue
Waltham, MA



Rescheduled!: March 9th
6:00- 8:00 pm

Sponsored by:



WATCH THIS TEDX MID ATLANTIC TALK!

Judith Heumann: Our fight for disability rights and why we're not done yet



For more than 30 years, Judith Heumann has been involved on the international front working with organizations and governments around the world to advance the human rights of people with disabilities. Watch this powerful talk by one of our disability rights leaders!

[Click here to watch it.](#)

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBER DISTRICTS OF THE URBAN SPECIAL EDUCATION LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

Professional
Education

HARVARD



GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF EDUCATION

Deadline Reminder: Apply by March 14 for priority consideration

Professional Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE)

Race, Equity, and Leadership in Schools

March 21-24, 2017 | Cambridge, MA | Special program fee of \$2,500

This program, co-chaired by Deborah Jewell-Sherman and Mary Grassa O'Neill, is designed for participation by all K-12 educators interested in deepening their understanding of the intersections of race, identity, power, and privilege in our society and schools.

Please [click here](#) for additional information and the link to the online application. Questions? Contact us at ppe@gse.harvard.edu or 1.800.545.1849.

ADVOCATES IN DISABILITY AWARD

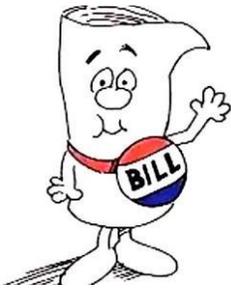


The Advocates in Disability Award program annually honors a young adult with a disability between the ages of 14 and 26 who is dedicated to positively affecting the lives of people with disabilities and their families in the United States. The program also supports an innovative project developed by the award recipient that benefits the U.S. disability community

The selected recipient is awarded \$3,000 in recognition of past disability advocacy and will receive up to \$7,000 in additional funding for a proposed project to benefit the disability community. Read more about our past recipients.

[Click here to view the award details](#)

STAY INFORMED! POLICY UPDATE: U.S. HOUSE HR 610 CHOICES IN EDUCATION ACT OF 2017



The proposed bill has no mention of students with disabilities.

- - This bill repeals the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and limits the authority of the Department of Education (ED) such that ED is authorized only to award block grants to qualified states.
 - The bill establishes an education voucher program, through which each state shall distribute block grant funds among local educational agencies (LEAs) based on the number of eligible children within each LEA's geographical area. From these amounts, each LEA shall:
 - (1) distribute a portion of funds to parents who elect to enroll their child in a private school or to home-school their child, and (2) do so in a manner that ensures that such payments will be used for appropriate educational expenses.
 - To be eligible to receive a block grant, a state must: (1) comply with education voucher program requirements, and (2) make it lawful for parents of an eligible child to elect to enroll their child in any public or private elementary or secondary school in the state or to home-school their child.

- No Hungry Kids Act-The bill repeals a specified rule that established certain nutrition standards for the national school lunch and breakfast programs. (In general, the rule requires schools to increase the availability of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat or fat free milk in school meals; reduce the levels of sodium, saturated fat, and trans fat in school meals; and meet children's nutritional needs within their caloric requirements.

CONTRIBUTE YOUR IDEAS!

In an effort to invite more collaboration and participation to bridge policy, research, and practice in urban special education, CollabNews will give member's the opportunity to submit articles, research, and news related to special education and/or your district to be published in CollabNews. If you would like to submit material for upcoming issues, please click the link below to fill out a short form and we will contact you!

CONTRIBUTE

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