

Youth Resource Connections

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Volume 10, Number 8

August 31, 2010

HEADLINES

U.S. Department of Labor Announces Notice of Proposed Rule Making Addressing Goals and Requirements of YouthBuild Program. The U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration announced a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) regarding the department's YouthBuild program. The YouthBuild Transfer Act was signed into law in September 2006, transferring the administration of the YouthBuild program from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Department of Labor. The NPRM seeks to clarify the requirements of the Transfer Act for YouthBuild program providers and participants. The proposed rule intends to better enable YouthBuild program providers to carry out the goals of the program, to assist at-risk youth in obtaining a high school diploma or GED and to help participants acquire occupational skills training that lead to employment. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on this proposed rule via the federal e-rulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. **Comments on the NPRM are due October 26.** To view the press release, visit: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20101199.htm>.

U.S. Labor Secretary Comments on Data on Labor Force Participation for Persons with Disabilities: 'We will make sure that people who want to work can work'. The Bureau of Labor Statistics released, for the first time, a detailed comprehensive overview on the employment of Persons with a Disability: Labor Force Characteristics, 2009. Armed with this new data, researchers, disability advocates, and policy makers can better project labor force participation for working-aged persons with disabilities. U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis stated, "I am pleased that the data released today will help better tailor policies and workforce development strategies, leveraging the talents and skills of this important segment of our population. According to recent data from the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, just one in five people with disabilities were in the labor force and the unemployment rate for those with disabilities remains much higher than the national average. We will use this new information to help increase service capacity and accessibility to workforce development systems including the one-stop-career centers and ensure that people with disabilities have access to employment support, transportation, housing, and other support services. We will make sure that people who want to work can work." To read the BLS report and the current CPS go to <http://www.bls.gov>. To view the press release, visit: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/ODEP20101204.htm>.

U.S. Labor Department Seeks Public Input to Strengthen Disability Regulations.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs is seeking input from the public on ways to strengthen its regulations requiring federal contractors to take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities. In an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to be published in the *Federal Register* July 23, the agency invites the public to help revise the regulations implementing Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. To view the press release, visit: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/ofccp/ofccp20101015.htm>.

U.S. Department of Labor extends deadline for career videos challenge. The U.S. Department of Labor has extended the deadline for its Career Videos for America's Job Seekers Challenge to allow submissions as late as Monday, Nov. 1. The challenge invites members of the public to produce and submit one- to three-minute videos focusing on the daily activities of 15 high-wage and in-demand occupations. This competition is intended to provide greater visibility for selected occupations and thereby increase the number of workers seeking training and placement in those areas. The creator(s) of the top video in each of the 15 categories will win a \$1,000 cash prize. To view the press release, visit: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20101149.htm>.

Ten Junior Achievement Operations Win International Awards for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. MetLife Foundation and Junior Achievement (JA) celebrated a decade of innovation through its 10th Annual Entrepreneurial Award presented at Junior Achievement USA's (JA's) National Leadership Conference on August 9th. Ten JA operations were each presented with a 2010 MetLife Foundation Entrepreneurial Award and a \$25,000 grant for demonstrating outstanding innovation and entrepreneurial spirit. To view the press release, visit: http://www.ja.org/about/releases/about_newsitem576.asp.

SRI International Announces Results of Study Examining After-School Learning Programs Funded Through Federal Program. SRI International announced the completion of an implementation study that looked at programming and the quality of instruction at 21st Century Community Learning Centers. The centers are part of a federal program originally developed to provide funding to school districts to support continuing education and lifelong learning opportunities. The report findings suggest that there are three key challenges faced by all 21st Century Community Learning Centers: retention of high-quality staff, lack of updated information about students' individual needs, and low attendance rates. Researchers also found that approximately one-third of all centers reported that coordination with staff from the children's school was a challenge to implementing high-quality programming. The percentage was highest among nonschool-based centers. To view the press release, visit: <http://sri.com/news/releases/081110.html>.

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

U.S. Labor Department's Office of Disability Employment Policy Announces nearly \$1 million in Continued Funding for Youth Center. The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy announced that it will exercise the second option year of its cooperative agreement with the Institute for Educational Leadership and award an additional \$999,926 to continue funding to the Youth Technical Assistance Center through the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability (NCWD) for Youth. NCWD/Youth focuses its technical assistance efforts on state and local workforce development systems and assists them in better serving youth with disabilities. NCWD/Youth and its partners, including experts in disability, education, employment, and workforce development, strive to ensure that policy makers, youth service professionals,

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educators, families and youth receive cutting edge information on the connection between education, employment and independent living. To find out more about the NCWD Youth National Technical Assistance Center visit their website at <http://www.ncwd-youth.info>. To view the press release visit: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/ODEP20101165.htm>.

U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$22 Million in Grant Funds for Disability Employment Initiative. The U.S. Department of Labor announced a solicitation for grant applications for approximately \$22 million to fund programs that will improve educational, training and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

The new Disability Employment initiative is a joint project of the Labor Department's Employment and Training Administration and its Office of Disability Employment Policy. Programs will serve eligible individuals who are unemployed or underemployed, including those receiving Social Security disability benefits. Funds will be awarded to state workforce agencies, which will collaborate with workforce investment boards and local areas. Grant awards will range from \$1.5 to \$6 million each to be spent over a three-year period. Cooperative agreements will be used to foster service delivery through the public workforce investment system for job seekers with disabilities. Programs will build upon the Labor Department's Disability Program Navigator initiative and other model service delivery strategies. The complete solicitation for grant applications is available at <http://www.doleta.gov/grants>. Visit the Employment and Training Administration's <http://www.doleta.gov> home page to learn more about the range of Labor Department employment and training programs. To view the press release, visit: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20101096.htm>.

Staples Foundation for Learning Announces Grants to Non-Profits Serving At-Risk Youth. Staples Foundation for Learning (SFFL) has awarded 31 grants totaling \$640,000 to non-profit organizations serving at-risk youth throughout the country. These organizations were selected for their commitment to providing educational programs that provide youth with the skills and resources needed to become responsible and caring citizens. To view the press release, visit: <http://finance.boston.com/boston/news/read?GUID=14493606>.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS, AND TEACHERS

Kids in Need Foundation Invites Applications for its Teacher Grants Program. Kids In Need Foundation is accepting applications for its Kids In Need Teacher Grants program. The program is designed to provide K-12 educators with funding to provide innovative

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learning opportunities for their students. To obtain additional information and an application, visit: <http://www.kinf.org/grants/>. **Deadline: September 30.**

Office Depot Foundation Announces Grants Opportunities Under the 5 X 5 Program. Office Depot Foundation is accepting application for several programs which focus on the following:

Making a Difference in Children's Lives - to support activities that serve, teach and inspire children, youth and families; **Building Communities** - to support civic organizations and activities that serve the needs of our community; and **Disaster Relief** - to support disaster relief efforts of recognized national, regional and local agencies, and to provide disaster relief to Office Depot associates who have experienced catastrophic loss.

Grant amounts will be a minimum of \$50 and a maximum of \$3,000 (very limited). To obtain additional information and application guidelines, visit:

<http://www.officedepotfoundation.com/funding.asp>. **Deadline: November 15.**

Nestle USA, Inc. Accepts Applications for Education Program. The Nestle Very Best In Youth Program was created to recognize young people across America who not only excelled academically, but are working hard to make their communities a better place. Students (ages 13 to 18) are eligible to apply and must be legal residents of the United States or its territories. Twenty five winners will: be profiled in a special publication; awarded a trip to Los Angeles, California plus \$500 spending money, and receive a \$1,000 donation in their name that will be given to a charity of choice. To obtain an application and additional information, visit: <http://verybestinyouth.nestleusa.com/About/Default.aspx>
Deadline: November 1.

SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment is Announces its 2011 SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Awards. SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment is accepting applications for its 2011 SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Awards. The Awards are designed to provide school and community groups with a monetary award, national recognition and some well-deserved fun at one of the SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment parks. Eight winning groups will be selected to receive \$10,000. One environmental educator/leader will receive \$5,000. To obtain additional information and an application, visit: <http://www.seaworld.org/conservation-matters/eea/faq.htm>.
Deadline: December 1.

The White House Invites Applications for its 2011 Internship Program. The White House is accepting applications for its 2011 Internship Program. This hands-on program is designed to mentor and cultivate today's young leaders, strengthen their understanding of the Executive Office, and prepare them for future public service opportunities. To qualify, applicants must be: a U.S. citizen; at least 18 years of age before the first day of the internship; enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at a college or university, or graduated the previous semester; or a Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces and has served on active duty at any time over the past two years. To obtain additional information and an application, visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/internships>. **Deadline: February 26, 2011.**

PUBLICATIONS

Building a Learning Agenda Around Disconnected Youth. This report developed by Dan Bloom, Saskia Levy Thompson, and Rob Ivry, provides a good summary of findings from evaluations done on second-chance programs. It also discusses best practices and

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recommendations for filling the “gaps or unmet needs” of the very broadly termed disconnected youth population that are worth looking at. To view the report, visit: <http://www.mdrc.org/publications/545/abstract.html>.

Challenges, Assets, and Innovations: Considerations for Secondary Education in Rural Communities. This brief developed by American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF), summarizes the lessons learned during a February 2010 AYPF study mission to North Carolina that examined how rural education systems are providing high quality instruction and improving the readiness of young people for life beyond high school. Participants learned about how federal and state policies and funding streams affect rural school districts; the unique challenges of providing high quality instruction in rural settings; and innovative approaches to providing comprehensive education in rural communities. The brief outlines several key issues affecting rural education nationwide and discusses how current federal policy priorities affect rural education. To view the report, visit: <http://www.aypf.org/tripreports/2010/documents/AYPF%20Rural%20Education%20Brief.pdf>.

Building Capacity to Promote College and Career Readiness for Secondary-Level English Language Learners. This brief developed by the American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF), explores opportunities for educational systems to develop strategic policies and programs to enhance the success of adolescent English language learners (ELLs). The brief is based on lessons learned from a May, 2010 AYPF fact-finding trip to Austin, Texas for state-level policy leaders. Highlighted policy issues include building human capital to provide rigorous instruction for ELLs; developing partnerships to support both rural and urban districts; creating policies and programs that are responsive to the diversity within the ELL population; and increasing college access for ELL students. The brief concludes with policy guidelines for enhancing system-wide support for this rapidly-growing group of students. To view the brief, visit: http://www.aypf.org/tripreports/2010/documents/Austin%20Building%20Capacity%20for%20ELLs%20Issue%20Brief%20_FINAL.pdf.

Global Employment Trends for Youth, August 2010. This report developed by the International Labor Office, is the fourth in the series, with previous editions produced in 2004, 2006 and 2008. It presents the latest global and regional labor market trends for youth and specifically explores how the global economic crisis has exposed the vulnerabilities of young people around the world. In developed economies, the crisis has led to the highest youth unemployment rates on record, while in developing economies – where 90 per cent of the world’s youth live – the crisis threatens to exacerbate the challenges of rampant decent work deficits, adding to the number of young people who find

themselves stuck in working at the poverty level and thus prolonging the cycle of the working poor through at least another generation. To view the report, visit: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_elm/---trends/documents/publication/wcms_143349.pdf.

Charting the Course: Supporting the Career Development of Youth with Learning Disabilities. This guide developed by The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth), is intended to help practitioners, administrators, and policymakers in secondary and postsecondary education programs, transition programs, One-Stop Career Centers, youth employment programs, and community rehabilitation programs to improve services and outcomes for youth, ages 14 to 25, with diagnosed and undiagnosed learning disabilities. This Guide includes numerous quick reference charts, tables, and tools for counselors, career advisors, and other professionals who work directly with youth. In-depth information is provided on a variety of topics, including the types and impact of learning disabilities, needed supports, and research-based interventions. This Guide is intended to increase awareness of the fact that the workforce development system serves many youth who have learning disabilities that may never have been identified and many others who may know they have a learning disability but choose not to disclose. Although focusing primarily on youth with learning disabilities, many of the strategies and approaches advocated in this Guide, which are premised on universal design, may be of practical use for other youth. To view the guide, visit: <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/ld-guide>.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

On August 25, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a Webinar entitled: **WIRED TAT Webinar Series: “it Takes a Network”: The Power of Cross-System Collaboratives for Youth.** The Webinar highlighted successful cross-system networks that have organized to better meet the needs of disadvantaged and disconnected youth. The Webinar featured discussions from seasoned intermediary organizational leaders at local, regional, and state levels who discussed what catalyzed their collaboration, what they have accomplished, and how they continue to sustain their efforts. You must be a registered user of Workforce3One to listen to and view Webinars. To register to view the archived Webinar, visit: <http://www.workforce3one.org/>.

On July 12, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a Webinar entitled: **AHA! Allied Health Access: How to Develop Programs for Youth in Allied Health Careers.** This webinar introduced the soon to be released Allied Health Access Guidebook to youth program planners and service providers. The Guidebook provides practical information

about allied health occupations in order to create or expand programs and services leading to allied health opportunities. The Webinar also introduced some promising practices from the field and resources to assist in local area program development. You must be a registered user of Workforce3One to listen to and view Webinars. To register to view the archived Webinar, visit: <http://www.workforce3one.org/>.

On June 22, the American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) hosted a webinar entitled: **Preparing College- and Career-Ready Students: Elements of Successful Programs**. The webinar discussion examined the elements of program models that have demonstrated effectiveness in preparing students for postsecondary access and success, based on the results of rigorous evaluations. The webinar was anchored by the findings of the new AYPF publication, *Success at Every Step: How 23 Programs Support Youth on the Path to College and Beyond*, and featured two of the included program models. First Things First is a comprehensive school reform model that aims to transform struggling schools by transforming relationships and improving instructional quality, and Early College High Schools are small schools that directly connect underrepresented students with a college experience and allow them to earn significant college credits while still in high school. The webinar also addressed the role of policy in supporting local, state, and national goals for college and career readiness. To view and listen to the archived webinar, visit: <http://www.aypf.org/Webinars/Wb062210.htm>.

WEB SITES

U.S. Department of Education Announces New Website – Data Express. The U.S. Department of Education is launching a new interactive Web site aimed at making accurate and timely education data available in a single place. A key element of the Department's open government plan, ED Data Express consolidates relevant data collected by the Department from several different sources and provides search tools that allow users to create individualized reports. To view the Web site, visit:

<http://www.eddataexpress.ed.gov/>.

To view the press release, visit: <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/new-website-makes-education-data-easier-find-and-use>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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September 7-10. National Harbor, MD. Daniel Memorial Institute. 23rd Annual National Independent Living Conference. To obtain additional information, contact: (904) 296-1055, via e-mail: Conferences@danielkids.org, or visit: <http://www.danielkids.org/sites/web/content.cfm?id=257>.

September 12-15. Mobile, AL. Southeastern Employment and Training Association Fall Conference 2010. To obtain additional information, visit: <http://www.seta.org/>.

September 21-24. Madison, WI. The National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) and the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to host 2010 Annual Conference: Putting America Back to Work. To obtain additional information, visit: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/lmi/NASWA/index.html>

NOTICE:

The Employment and Training Administration is interested in hearing about new and innovative approaches which bring employers, educators and workforce systems professionals together to serve our communities' youth. If you would like to share projects or programs in your area please e-mail your information to the Division of Youth Services at youth.services@dol.gov.

Thank you.

Youth Resource Connections (YRC). The Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA) does not take responsibility for non endorsed DOL/ETA resources included in the YRC.

We welcome your input. Please let us know how these updates might be improved to better serve your needs. If you have comments contact the: Division of Youth Services at (202) 693-3030 or e-mail youth.services@dol.gov .

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