

Youth Resource Connections

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HEADLINES

The Employment and Training Administration Announces the Release of a Joint Letter from the U.S. Departments of Interior, Agriculture and Labor Supporting Youth Work Experience on Public Land. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) released Training and Employment Notice No. 24-10, which announces the release of a Joint Letter in Support of Youth Work Experiences on Public Lands. The TEN was developed to encourage the public workforce investment system to partner with public land management agencies within the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture in an effort to increase work experience opportunities for youth and young adults on public lands. To view the TEN, visit:

http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2988.

U.S. Department of Labor launches New Online Tool. The Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis today unveiled a new online tool called My Next Move. The tool is aimed at providing jobseekers with information on more than 900 occupations, as well as local job openings and training opportunities in a simple, user-friendly format. To view the tool, visit:

<http://mynextmove.dol.gov>. To view the press release, visit:

<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20101786.htm>.

Youth Leaders Join Secretary Duncan, Administration Officials, Policymakers for U.S. Education Department's First-Ever National Youth Summit. Students from high schools and middle schools across the country traveled to Washington to join administration officials and education policy leaders for the U.S. Department of Education's "Voices in Action: National Youth Summit," which took place at Howard University on Saturday, Feb. 26. The summit convened nearly 400 students, administration officials and education policy leaders in workshops and breakout sessions to identify what schools and communities need to best prepare students for college and careers. To view the press release, visit:

<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/youth-leaders-join-secretary-duncan-administration-officials-policymakers-us-edu>.

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Walmart Awards \$600,000 to Association of People with Disabilities for Internship Program. The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) announced the investment of \$600,000 from the Walmart Foundation to support a significant expansion of AAPD's internship opportunities in public service for students with disabilities. Working together over the next two years, AAPD and Walmart will build the new AAPD Summer Internship Program providing opportunities for undergraduate, graduate and law students with all types of disabilities to intern with members of Congress, and federal agencies in the District of Columbia. AAPD and Walmart firmly believe that a key to professional, personal, and academic success for students with disabilities can be the life-changing experience of a Washington, D.C. summer internship. To view the press release, visit: [HTTP://WWW.AAPD.COM/SITE/APPS/NLNET/CONTENT.ASPX?C=PV111KNWJOE&B=6567387&CT=9126807&NOTOC=1](http://www.aapd.com/site/apps/nlnet/content.aspx?c=pv111knwjoe&b=6567387&ct=9126807¬oc=1).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. Department of Labor Announces Competition for Civic Justice Corps Grants. The U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announced a solicitation for grant applications for the Civic Justice Corps Grants. Approximately \$20 million is available under the authority of the Workforce Investment Act. The grants are designed to serve juvenile offenders ages 18 to 24 who have been involved with the juvenile justice system within 12 months before entry into the program. Civic Justice Corps projects funded through this grant announcement will provide young offenders the opportunity to give something back to their communities through community service to make up for past transgressions. Such projects hold promise for reducing the recidivism rate of juvenile offenders by improving their vocational and educational skills and long-term prospects in the labor market and by increasing their attachment to their community and their sense of community responsibility. These grants will be awarded through a competitive process. ETA intends to fund a minimum of 13 grants at various amounts. To obtain additional information and a copy of grant announcement SGA/DFA PY 10-04, visit: <http://www.doleta.gov/grants/pdf/SGA-DFA-PY-10-04.pdf>. To view the press release, visit: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20110150.htm>. **Deadline: March 15.**

U.S. Department of Labor Announces Competition for Reintegration of Ex-Offenders - Adult Program Grants. The U.S. Department of Labor's (the "Department") Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announced a solicitation for grant application for the Reintegration of Ex-Offenders - Adult Program. Approximately \$11.7 million in grant funds will be available to provide pre-release and post-release services to ex-offenders returning to high poverty, high-crime communities. These services will include job training and employment preparation, mentoring, and assistance connecting to supportive services such as housing, substance abuse programs and mental health treatment. Specifically, the employment component of the grant will focus on the development of employment opportunities in in-demand occupations, including emerging "green" jobs. These grants will be awarded through a competitive process. The Department expects to award approximately 10 grants of approximately \$1,170,000 each for a 27-month period of performance. To obtain additional information and a copy of grant announcement SGA/DFA PY 10-10, visit: <http://www.doleta.gov/grants/pdf/SGA-DFA-PY-10-10-2011.pdf>. To view the press release, visit: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20110150.htm>. **Deadline: March 17.**

U.S. Department of Labor Announces Competition for Green Jobs Innovation Fund. The Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announces the availability of approximately \$40 million in grant funds authorized by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The Green Jobs Innovation Fund (GJIF) is designed to increase the number of individuals completing training programs who receive industry-recognized credentials and to increase the number of individuals completing training programs for employment in green jobs. ETA plans to fund approximately five to eight grants to national and statewide organizations with local affiliates with existing career training programs. Award recipients are expected to provide technical and basic skills training that lead to green job opportunities in at least six communities per grant with this SGA. With these grants, the Department is emphasizing critical steps along green career pathways by: 1) forging linkages between Registered Apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, and/or 2) integrating the delivery of technical and basic skills training through community-based partnerships. To obtain additional information and a copy of grant announcement SGA/DFA PY-10-07, visit: <http://www.doleta.gov/grants/pdf/SGA-DFA-PY-10-07.pdf>. To view the press release, visit: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/ETA20110212.htm>. **Deadline: March 29.**

U.S. Department of Labor Announces Availability of Funds for Serving Juvenile Offender in High-Poverty, High-Crime Communities. The Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announced the availability of approximately \$17 million in grant funds authorized by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to serve juvenile offenders, ages 16 to 24, in high-poverty, high-crime communities. The grants are designed to improve the long-term labor market prospects of these youth. The Department expects to award two grants of \$8.5 million each to organizations with the capacity to implement multi-site, multi-state projects. Grantees will be required to competitively select local sub-grantees to operate the program in a minimum of five high-poverty, high-crime communities in at least two states. To obtain additional information and a copy of grant announcement SGA/DFA PY 10-09, visit: <http://www.doleta.gov/grants/pdf/SGA-DFA-PY-10-09.pdf>. **Deadline: April 12.**

The Tech Museum of Innovation Invites Nominations for 2011 Tech Awards. The Tech Museum of Innovation is accepting nominations for its 2011 Tech Awards. The Tech Awards are designed to inspire global engagement in applying technology to humanity's most pressing problems. The awards recognize individuals, organizations, and companies from around the world that are utilizing innovative technology solutions to address five categories in the areas of education, equality, environment, health, and economic development. Individuals, for-profit companies, and not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply. Self-nominations are also accepted. Three laureates in each category will be honored and one laureate per category will receive \$50,000. Laureates will be honored at an annual gala event and inducted into the Tech Awards Network. The goal of the awards network is to create opportunities for learning, networking, and exposure to assist the laureates in furthering their work. To obtain additional information and an application, visit: <http://www.thetech.org/>. **Deadline: March 31.**

U.S. Department of Education Announces the Availability of Funds to Support its Predominantly Black Institutions Program. The U.S. Department of Education is accepting applications for its Predominantly Black Institutions (PBI) Program. The PBI program is designed to strengthen PBIs ability to carry out programs in the following areas: science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM); health education; internationalization or globalization; teacher preparation; or improving educational outcomes of African-American males. To obtain additional information and an application, visit: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2011-4021.pdf>. **Deadline: April 25.**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS, AND TEACHERS

The Siemens Foundation, Discovery Education, and the National Science Teachers Association Invites Applications for their Third Annual Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge. The Siemens Foundation, Discovery Education, and the National Science Teachers Association is accepting applications for its third annual Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge program. The program is designed to educate, empower, and engage students (grades K-12) and teachers across the United States to become "Agents of Change" in identifying and solving environmental problems. To obtain additional information and an application, visit: <http://www.wecanchange.com/>. **Deadline: March 15.**

McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation Invites Applications for Grants and Scholarships. The McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation is accepting applications for its 2011-12 academic year in the categories of Academic Enrichment Grants, Teacher Development Grants, and Student Teaching Scholarships. The grants are designed to provide funding for programs that nurture the intellectual, artistic, and creative abilities of children from low-income households. The foundation awards grants to individuals in amounts of up to \$10,000 a year for a maximum of three years. Student Teaching Scholarships provide \$6,000 as well as one-on-one mentoring by foundation staffers to student teachers in their final year of school at New Mexico State University, the University of California, Santa Cruz, the University of Texas at Austin, and West Virginia University. To obtain additional information and an application, visit: <http://www.mccarthydressman.org/>. **Deadline: April 15.**

American Psychological Foundation Seeks Proposals for Pre-College Grant Program.

The American Psychological Foundation is accepting proposals for its 2011 Pre-College Grant Program, which awards grants to individuals or institutions to advance psychological science education in U.S. high schools. The program provides a total of up to \$20,000 annually for efforts aimed at improving the quality of education in psychological science and its application in secondary schools. Proposals must focus on supplying education for talented high school students. Educational institutions, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, or individuals affiliated with a qualifying institution is eligible to apply. To obtain additional information and an application, visit: <http://www.apa.org/apf/funding/pre-college.aspx>. **Deadline: May 1.**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation Invites Applications for its Angel Award Program.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation is accepting applications for its Angel Award program. The program is designed to recognize eight outstanding Louisiana volunteers with a \$20,000 grant to each honoree's nonprofit charity. The grants are presented at special events in honorees' local communities, and the honorees are celebrated at a special ceremony in the fall. For complete nomination requirements and information on previous awardees, visit: <http://www.bcbsla.com/ABOUTBLUE/COMPANY/BCBSLAFUNDATION/Pages/TheAngelAward.aspx>. **Deadline: May 13.**

PUBLICATIONS

Turning the Tide. This interim report developed by Elizabeth Zachry Rutschow, Lashawn Richburg-Hayes, Thomas Brock, Genevieve Orr, Oscar Cerna, Dan Cullinan, Monica Reid Kerrigan, Davis Jenkins, Susan Gooden, and Kasey Martin, examines the experiences of the first 26 colleges to join the ambitious Achieving the Dream initiative. Launched by Lumina Foundation for Education in 2004, Achieving the Dream helps community colleges collect and analyze student performance data in order to build a "culture of evidence," enabling the colleges to use that knowledge to develop programs to increase students' academic success. To view the report, visit: <http://www.mdrc.org/publications/578/overview.html>.

Building Roads to Success: Key Considerations for Communities and States

Reconnecting Youth to Education. This publication developed by Christina Weeter and Nancy Martin, includes a series of briefs designed to assist community and state leaders, youth advocates, educators, and other stakeholders interested in improving and expanding education options for struggling students and out-of-school youth. It is relevant to the work of municipal government, community-based organizations, school districts, postsecondary institutions, workforce development organizations, apprenticeship programs, and other youth-serving organizations. It is equally geared toward the work of governors' offices and state policymakers, departments of education, youth advocates, and workforce boards. To view the publication, visit: <http://nyec.org/content/documents/Building%20Roads%20cover-FINAL.pdf>.

Assessment and Screening Tools for Measuring Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Independent Living Skills in Adolescents. The screening and assessment tools developed by the National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth (NCFY), are designed specifically for youth ages 14 to 21, and measures one (or more) of three categories relevant to runaway and homeless youth programs: mental health, substance abuse, and independent living skills. To view the tools, visit:
<http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/publications/assessment-screening>.

Lend a Hand: A Guide to Volunteering for Youth. This publication developed by the National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth, lists the many ways community members can volunteer to help young people throughout the year. To view the publication, visit:
<http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/publications/lend-a-hand>.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

On January 26, The Employment and Training Administration hosted a Webinar entitled: **Mentoring, Educational, and Employment Strategies to Improve Academic, Social, and Career Pathways (MEES) – Generation 1.** The Webinar was held to provide information about the MEES initiative that provided funding to nine schools that were designated as “persistently dangerous,” under the No Child Left Behind Act. The Webinar also provided examples of challenges and findings identified for each of the strategies; described evidence of school changes; and identified key accomplishments, in addition to implications of the findings. To view and listen to the archived Webinar, visit:
<https://www.workforce3one.org/view/3001102637744962322/info>.

On February 3, The Employment and Training Administration hosted a Webinar entitled: **Introducing My Next Move.** The Webinar was held to provide a live demonstration of the features and uses of My Next Move, the new user-friendly electronic career exploration tool launched by the U.S. Department of Labor on February 3, 2011. One can learn about the site’s features, including simplified language and navigation, an online interest assessment, as well as links to other information resources on training, job opportunities and related information. To view and listen to the archived Webinar, visit:
<https://www.workforce3one.org/view/3001105453753400182/info>.

On February 7, The Employment and Training Administration hosted a Webinar entitled: **mySkills myFuture.** The Webinar was held to highlight mySkills myFuture, an online skills transferability tool that allows job seekers and staff intermediaries to match a worker’s occupational skills and experiences with the skills needed in other occupations, in order to facilitate upward mobility. This self-service tool integrates data from O*NET (including skills and work activities information) with the tools from CareerOneStop.org and other Employment and Training Administration’s Web sites. The presentation also introduced users to two new features on the site, the “Employer Locator” and the “Worker Preference”. To view and listen to the archived Webinar, visit:
<https://www.workforce3one.org/view/3001103836617055113/info>.

On February 9, The Employment and Training Administration hosted a Webinar entitled: **The Apprenticeship Guide for YouthBuild Programs – A New Resource from the Office of Apprenticeship and the Division of Youth Services**. This Webinar was held to provide an overview, including background information on the Department of Labor's National Registered Apprenticeship System; guidance for YouthBuild programs on establishing and managing relationships with Registered Apprenticeship programs; and suggestions to YouthBuild and Registered Apprenticeship programs on strengthening relationships. To view and listen to the archived Webinar, visit: <https://www.workforce3one.org/view/3001104638196231506/info>.

WEB SITES

New Website Helps Federal Staff Support Comprehensive Community Initiatives.

The Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has established a new website, cciToolsforFeds.org. This Web site offers a wealth of tools and resources to help Federal staff plan, support, and help sustain Comprehensive Community Initiatives (CCIs), local community interventions that seek to improve outcomes for youth and families through systems change.

The Financial Literacy and Education Commission (FLEC)'s financial literacy education website, MyMoney.gov has enhanced interactive features and utility to provide more resources to Americans seeking information that can inform their personal financial decisions. Young people will be able to find a great deal of information related to planning for their financial future. The many resources on the website offer guidance on important decisions including budgeting, setting up a savings account, and paying for college. Money management tools include a financial savings calculator, worksheets for establishing a weekly budget and a college preparation checklist, among others. In addition to resources related to financial planning, the website also provides young adults with the opportunity to improve basic financial competency and understanding. Items including interactive lessons on treasury securities and access to the National Financial Capability Challenge will help young people in achieving this goal of financial literacy. Furthermore, the site is available in Spanish, and efforts to make the website as helpful and useful to youth will be ongoing, with improvements expected to continue. To view the Web site, visit: <http://www.mymoney.gov/>.

FindYouthInfo.gov is the U.S. government website that helps organizations create, maintain, and strengthen effective youth programs. Included on the Web site are youth facts; funding information; tools to help: assess community assets, generate maps of local and federal resources, and search for evidence-based youth programs; and up-to-date information on the latest youth-related news. To view the Web site, visit: <http://www.findyouthinfo.org>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 3 –5. Washington, D.C. Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness Spring Research Conference. To obtain addition information, visit:
<http://www.abtassociates.com/Page.cfm?PageID=41123&FamilyID=600>.

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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