

Youth Resource Connections

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HEADLINES

U.S. Department of Labor Makes Available Web-based Toolkit for Federal Agencies to Increase Employment of People with Disabilities. The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) posted an online toolkit comprised of resources to assist federal agencies in recruiting, employing and retaining individuals with disabilities. ODEP, in collaboration with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, designed a five-step process that agencies can readily follow to ensure an inclusive workplace for employees with disabilities. The five steps are: employer training, creating a welcoming environment, recruitment, hiring and retention. The kit is available at <http://www.dol.gov/odep/federal-hire>. To view the press release, visit: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/ODEP20110309.htm>.

Vice President Biden Issues Call to Action to Boost College Graduation Rates Nationwide. Vice President Joe Biden issued a call to action to boost college graduation rates across the country. The action's call focused on helping the nation meet President Obama's goal for the United States to have the best-educated workforce and the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020. Speaking at the first annual Building a Grad Nation Summit, Vice President Biden called on each Governor to host a state college completion summit, released a new college completion tool kit for states and Governors to draw ideas from, and announced a new grant competition focused on helping institutions of higher education boost completion rates. To view the press release, visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/03/22/vice-president-biden-issues-call-action-boost-college-graduation-rates-n>.

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

U.S. Department of Labor Awards Grants to YouthBuild Programs to Continue Preparation of Young People for Good Jobs. The U.S. Department of Labor announced an award of \$30,696,643 for its YouthBuild programs. Funds will be distributed among 31 programs that prepare out-of-school youth across the United States for careers through hands-on construction training, and high school completion and General Educational Development programs. To view the press release, visit: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/ETA20110246.htm>.

U.S. Housing and Urban Development Awards nearly \$54 Million to help Low-Income Families receive Job Training and Employment. U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan announced an award of \$54 million for its Housing Choice Voucher Family Self-Sufficiency (HCV/FSS) Program. The funds will be distributed to public housing agencies across the United States to link low-income families with the necessary education and job training to put them on the path to self-sufficiency. The grants will allow public housing agencies to work with welfare agencies, schools, businesses, and other local partners to develop a comprehensive program to help individuals already participating in HUD's Housing Choice Voucher Program increase their education or gain marketable skills that will enable them to obtain jobs that pay a living wage. To view the press release, visit:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2011/HUDNo.11-035.

Community Colleges Expand Commitment to Building a Green Workforce with Funding from the Kresge Foundation. A new \$1.3 million dollar grant awarded to the Sustainability, Education and Economic Development (SEED) initiative at the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) by the Kresge Foundation will expand green job training opportunities and innovations at community colleges. A host of innovative SEED activities such as workshops and an awards program will be launched under the two-year grant. The colleges will also benefit from the SEED Center, a free resource center and online sharing environment designed specifically for community college leaders, faculty, and staff. To obtain additional information and an application, visit:

<http://www.aacc.nche.edu/newsevents/pressreleases/Pages/pr031620111.aspx>.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. Labor Department to Fund Transitional Jobs Programs for Low-Income Non-Custodial Parents and Ex-offenders. The U.S. Department of Labor announced the availability of approximately \$40 million for Enhanced Transitional Jobs Demonstration grants to help individuals with significant barriers to employment obtain the skills they need through work opportunities. The grants will enable nonprofit community and faith-based organizations, along with a number of local workforce investment boards, to implement transitional job programs for low-income non-custodial parents and ex-offenders. The Labor Department will award six to 12 grants between \$3 million and \$6 million each. The programs will offer participants temporary, paid work experiences intended to improve their employability, earnings and opportunities for advancement, as well as promote their self-sufficiency and long-term success in the workforce. To obtain additional information and a copy of grant announcement SGA/DFA PY 10-11, visit:

http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm. To view the press release, visit:

<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/ETA20110293.htm>. **Deadline: April 15.**

U.S. Department of Labor Announces Availability of Grants to Provide Training and Supportive Services for Young Parents. The U.S. Department of Labor announced the availability of approximately \$5.5 million under the Young Parents Demonstration Program. In the third round of this program, the department will competitively award four to six grantees between \$500,000 and \$1.5 million each. Grantees are encouraged to serve young parents who are victims of child abuse, are homeless or have run away from home, are Native American/Indian, are migrants, have incarcerated parents, are involved with or at risk of involvement with court systems, have disabilities, and are in or aging out of foster care. This program will provide educational and occupational skills training services that will lead to family economic self-sufficiency for young mothers and fathers as well as expectant parents ages 16-24. To obtain additional information and a copy of grant announcement SGA/DFA PY 10-12, visit: http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm. To view the press release, visit: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/ETA20110444.htm>. **Deadline: April 29.**

U.S. Department of Justice Invites Applications for its Second Chance Act Adult Mentoring Grant Program. The U.S. Department of Justice's, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance is accepting applications for its Second Chance Act Grant Programs. The programs are designed to help communities develop and implement comprehensive and collaborative strategies that address the challenges posed by offender reentry and recidivism reduction. Nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Indian tribes (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior) are eligible to apply. To obtain additional information, visit: <http://www.grantsalert.com/grants/Federal/5>. **Deadline: April 21.**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is Accepting Applications for Environmental Education Grant. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting grant applications for \$1.9 million in funding for environmental education projects and programs. The purpose of the grants is to promote environmental stewardship and help develop knowledgeable and responsible students, teachers and citizens. Projects should involve environmental education activities that go beyond disseminating information. Any local education agency, college or university, state education or environmental agency, 501(C)(3) nonprofit organizations, or a noncommercial educational broadcasting entity as defined and licensed by Federal Communications Commission is eligible to apply. EPA expects to award at least 20 grants nationwide ranging from \$15,000 to \$100,000. To obtain additional information and an application, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html>. **Deadline: May 2.**

The International Economic Development Council Announces Opening of Competition for its "Excellence in Economic Development Awards." The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is accepting applications for its "Excellence in Economic Development Awards (EEDA)." The EEDA awards are designed to recognize the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and the year's most influential leaders. The 30 awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities. Winners are recognized at IEDC's Annual Conference. To obtain additional information and an application, visit: http://www.iedconline.org/AnnualConference/Awards_Categories.html#19. **Deadline: April 15.**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS, AND TEACHERS

Ann Bancroft Foundation Offers Dare to Dream Grants to Underserved Minnesota Girls. The Ann Bancroft Foundation is accepting applications for its 2011 Dare to Dream micro grants for Minnesota girls age 10 through grade 10. The Dare to Dream grant is designed to help girls gain a new perspective of their own abilities and goals. Grants may be used for classes, camps, or lessons to improve a skill; outdoor adventures or camps; honors programs; travel with approved schools or groups; choir trips or school activities; and more. The foundation will not approve grants for activities already in progress or completed prior to application approval. Girls must have an adult mentor to guide them through the application process. The mentor must be someone other than an immediate family member and cannot be the activity provider. Grant awards will range from \$100 to \$500. To obtain additional information and an application, visit: <http://www.annbancroftfoundation.org/microgrants/about.php>. **Deadline: April 15.**

Alcoa Foundation and Institute for Civic Leadership Invites Applications for their Alcoa Global Service Leaders Scholarship Program. The Alcoa Foundation and the Institute for Civic Leadership (ICL) is accepting applications for their Alcoa Global Service Leaders Scholarship Program. The program invites students between the ages of 15 and 18 anywhere in the world to apply for full scholarships of up to \$5,000 to attend ICL's 2011 Summer Academy. The Summer Academy is a comprehensive, two-week hands-on summer leadership program for students who have passion for leadership and service. To obtain additional information and an application, visit: http://www.alcoa.com/global/en/community/foundation/info_page/partnerships_leadership.asp. **Deadline: April 22.**

T.A. Barron Invites Nominations for its 2011 Young Heroes Award. T.A. Barron is accepting nominations for its 2011 Young Heroes Award. The award is designed to honor young people between the ages of 8 and 18 who have made a significant positive difference to people and the planet. Nominees must: be legal, current, and residents of the United States or Canada at the time of nomination; and have participated in the work for which they are being nominated within the 12 months prior to the nomination deadline. Winners will receive \$2,500 to support their service work or higher education. To obtain additional information and an applications, visit: <http://www.barronprize.org/>. **Deadline: April 30.**

National Council for the Social Studies Invites Applications for Christa McAuliffe Reach for the Stars Award Grant. The National Council for the Social Studies is accepting applications for its Christa McAuliffe Reach for the Stars Award Grant. The \$2,500 Grant Is designed to support research and classroom application projects which improve social studies education, foster enlightened citizenship, and promote civic competence. Eligible applicants must have: NCSS membership; be a full-time social studies teacher or social studies teacher currently engaged with K-12 students; and "Reach for the Stars" projects that represent excellence and innovation in social studies education and should have the potential of serving as a model for other teachers. To obtain additional information and an application, visit: <http://www.socialstudies.org/awards/grants/mcauliffe>. **Deadline: May 1.**

Entertainment Software Association (ESA) Foundation Offers Support for Youth-Focused Education Technology Programs. The ESA Foundation is accepting applications from nonprofit organizations that provide programs and services utilizing technology and/or computer and video games to educate America's youth and young adults (ages 7 to 18). Applicants must be nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations or governmental units exempt under Section 115 and described in Section 170(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code. First-time awardees will be considered for grants of up to \$50,000 each. To obtain additional information and an application, visit: <http://www.theesa.com/foundation/index.asp>.

Deadline: May 15.

ING Unsung Heroes Program Offers Grants for K-12 Educational Projects. The ING Unsung Heroes program annually provides grants to K-12 educators utilizing new teaching methods and techniques that improve learning. Each project will be judged on their innovative method, creativity, and ability to positively influence students. One hundred finalists will be selected to receive a grant of \$2,000 each to help fund their innovative class projects. Three finalists will be selected for additional financial awards of \$5,000, \$10,000, and \$25,000. To obtain additional information and an application, visit:

<http://ing.us/about-ing/citizenship/childrens-education/ing-unsung-heroes>. **Deadline: April 30.**

National Science Foundation Invites Nominations for its Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Recognition Program. The National Science Foundation (NSF) is accepting applications for its Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching recognition program. The program is designed to recognize outstanding K-12 teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession. Awardees will receive a citation signed by the President of the United States, a \$10,000 award from NSF, and gifts from a broad range of donors. Awardees and their guests will also be honored during events that will take place in Washington, DC. Events will include an awards ceremony, celebratory receptions, professional development programs, and discussions with policy-makers on how to improve mathematics and science education. To obtain additional information and an application, visit: <http://www.paemst.org/controllers/home.cfc?method=view>. **Nomination Deadline: April 1. Teacher Application Deadline: May 2.**

PUBLICATIONS

The 2010 Brown Center Report on American Education. This edition of the Brown Center Report, developed by Tom Loveless, marks the tenth issue of the series and the final issue of Volume II. Part I presents the latest results from state, national, or international assessments and alerts readers to important trends in the data. Part II explores an education issue in depth, sometimes by investigating different sources of empirical evidence than previous research, sometimes by posing a conventional question in an unconventional way. Part III analyzes a current or impending question regarding education policy. In all three sections, the studies strive to ask clear questions, gather the best available evidence, and present findings in a nonpartisan, jargon-free manner. To view the report, visit: http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2011/0207_education_loveless.aspx.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

On February 24, Education Week hosted a Webinar entitled: **Connecting Math Instruction to the Real World**. This webinar is part of their [series of Professional Development webinars on 21st Century Teaching](#). In the webinar, math teacher and ed-tech expert Dan Meyer demonstrated how educators can do away with "pseudocontext" and "pseudo-problem solving" by implementing a multimedia-based math curriculum. Mr. Meyer showed participants how to use pictures, videos, and websites to bring classroom math problems to life. To view and listen to the archived Webinar, visit: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/marketplace/webinars/webinars.html?intc=thed>.

National Center for School Engagement Offers Online Course on Preventing Truancy and Dropout. The National Center for School Engagement is offering a new online course called "[Truancy and Dropout: Mending Cracks in the Graduation Pipeline](#)." The course helps schools and communities prevent students from becoming truant or dropping out and discusses best practices schools can use to increase attendance and help students graduate. Additionally, the course provides tips for researching state laws and guidelines and for conducting an evaluation. To obtain additional information and register for the course, visit: <http://www.schoolengagement.org/>.

WEB SITES

The Employment and Training Administration Provides Feature Updates on mySkills myFuture and ReEmployment Web Tools. The Employment and Training Administration announced the release of updates made to the CareerOneStop suite of tools, including the [mySkills myFuture](#) transferability of skills job seeker assistance tool and the Worker [ReEmployment portal](#). To view a summary of the new features see [Training and Employment Notice 29-10](#). A recorded Webinar covering mySkills myFuture and the new features is available at: <http://www.workforce3one.org/view/3001103836617055113>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 15-17. Youth Service America sponsors Global Youth Service Day. To obtain addition information, visit: <http://www.gysd.org/>.

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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