

## **Youth Resource Connections**

Published monthly by the  
U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Youth Services  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210 (202) 693-3030,  
[http://www.doleta.gov/youth\\_services/](http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services/)

**Volume 5, Number 11**

**November 30, 2005**

### **Headlines**

**U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) hosts “The Connection Point: Preparing Disconnected Youth for the Labor Market” Webinar.** The Office of Youth Services and Workforce<sup>3</sup>One coordinators hosted an engaging discussion focused on the significant challenges programs face regarding outreach, recruitment, engagement and retaining youth who are not attending school and/or are not in the workforce. For more information please visit:  
<http://www.workforce3one.org/>.

**U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Awards Grants to Two Southeastern States to Assist Hurricane Katrina Evacuees.** USDOL awarded National Emergency Grants (NEG) to the states of Kentucky and Tennessee in the amounts of \$1.1 million and \$500,000, respectively, to provide employment assistance and training to evacuees of Hurricane Katrina. The funds, awarded to the Kentucky Cabinet for Workforce Development and the Tennessee Department of Labor, will assist approximately 447 evacuees and 700 evacuees, respectively, statewide. To view the press releases, visit: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/ETA20052225.htm> or <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/opa/opa20052227.htm>.

**U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Awards Nearly \$20 Million in Grants for President’s Prisoner Re-entry Initiative.** U.S. Department of Labor awarded 30 grants totaling \$19.8 million to faith-and community-based organizations nationwide to assist non-violent ex-offenders returning to their local communities. These grants are designed to serve urban centers and areas of greatest need. To view the press release, visit:  
<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20052123.htm>.

### **Funding Opportunities**

**Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) Announces New Grant Competition.** CIRCLE promotes research on the civic and political engagement of young people ages 15 to 25. The center is interested in research projects that will help educators and policy makers improve civic outcomes for U.S. high-school age students. CIRCLE has announced Request for Proposals (RFP) totaling \$500,000. Students (especially Ph.D. candidates at the dissertation stage), independent scholars, practitioners, and nonprofit research organizations and firms are encouraged to apply. Additionally, high-school-age youth working in partnership with adults may submit proposals. Visit the CIRCLE Web site for the Request for Proposals and details on submitting a Letter of Inquiry:  
<http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/5001739/civicyouth>. **Deadline: December 15, 2005.**

**Youth Service America (YSA) and Youth Ventures are Teaming Up for National & Global Youth Service Day (N-GYSD).** YSA and Youth Ventures will grant 25 awards of up to \$1,000 in start-up funds to young people (ages 12-20) who want to create new, sustainable and civic-minded organizations, clubs or businesses ("Ventures"). The activities must be youth-led and designed to be a lasting asset to the community. YSA/Youth Ventures are required to host an event on N&GYSD, April 21-23, 2006. For further information or to download an application, visit: [www.youthventure.org/ysa](http://www.youthventure.org/ysa) or email [amutima@youthventure.org](mailto:amutima@youthventure.org). **Deadline: December 19th, 2005.**

**Youth Service America and Disney offers the Disney Minnie Grants for Youth.** Disney Minnie Grants provide funds to support school and organizations that encourage youth to implement service projects on National & Global Youth Service Day, April 21-23, 2006. These grants are available for youth and teachers. To learn more, download an application at [www.ysa.org/awards](http://www.ysa.org/awards). If you would like further information, please email: [MinnieGrant@ysa.org](mailto:MinnieGrant@ysa.org). **Deadline: January 13, 2006.**

### *Opportunities for Youth, Young Adults, and Teachers*

**The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars (TWC) offers Work and Training Opportunities for Youth.** TWC is an educational nonprofit organization serving hundreds of colleges and universities in the U.S. and other countries. The organization provides select students challenging opportunities to work and learn in Washington, D.C. Students receive academic credit while enrolled in the program. TWC has over 33,000 alumni, many of whom are leaders in numerous professions and nations around the world. For more information, visit: [www.twc.edu](http://www.twc.edu).

**W.E.B. DuBois Fellowship Program (2006) Available for Researchers and Graduate Students.** The National Institute of Justice at the U.S. Department of Justice is accepting proposals for the W.E.B. DuBois Fellowship program. This program seeks to advance the field knowledge regarding the confluence of crime, justice, and culture in various social contexts. The Fellowship places particular emphasis on crime, violence, and the administration of justice in diverse cultural contexts. Researchers and graduate students are encouraged to apply. For more information, visit: <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/sl000706.pdf>. **Deadline: February 1, 2006.**

### *Publications*

**Involving Youth in Policymaking and Coordinating Youth Policy: State-Level Structures in California and Other States.** This report examines what California is doing to increase youth participation in the policy making process and improve services by involving youth and encouraging collaboration between state agencies. The report also describes the actions that other states are taking to improve state-level youth participation and agency coordination. For a copy of the report, visit: <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/05/05/05-005.pdf>.

**Toward Universal Access in the Workforce Development System** published by the National Center for Workforce and Disability (NCWD) endorses the implementation of a common definition of universal access across the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs. To learn more about elements of universal access such as architectural and programmatic features, visit NCWD's website at: [http://www.ncwd-youth.info/assets/background/Toward\\_Universal\\_Action.pdf](http://www.ncwd-youth.info/assets/background/Toward_Universal_Action.pdf).

**National Governors' Association (NGA) develops Reading to Achieve: A Governor's Guide to Adolescent Literacy.** NGA "lays out the literacy crisis facing America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Additionally, it highlights several successful state-based programs that have helped governors in their efforts to improve reading achievement, raise high school graduation rates, increase the value of the high school diploma, and close the ever-widening achievement gap." The guide is available at: <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0510GOVGUIDELITERACY.PDF>.

**Jobs for the Future's Connected by 25: Improving Outcomes for Struggling Students publication** is designed to improve the options and outcomes for African-American and Hispanic students who attend high schools around the country and who are not on track to graduation. To access this document, go to: <http://www.jff.org/jff/approaches/youthtrans/showcase/ConnectedBy25.html>.

### ***Program Resources***

**Community Guide to Helping America's Youth Now Available.** Nine Federal agencies came together to assist in the Helping America's Youth initiative. These agencies contributed to the development of The Community Guide to Helping America's Youth. The Guide was created to help communities build partnerships, assess needs and resources, and select from program designs that could be replicated in their community. The document is available at: [www.helpingamericasyouth.gov](http://www.helpingamericasyouth.gov).

**Funding Guide prepared by the Finance Project.** This guide provides an overview of strategies for gaining access to and using federal funds, as well as a catalog of 87 funding sources that can potentially support workforce development initiatives for adults and youth. It includes well-known sources of funding for workforce development efforts (e.g., the Workforce Investment Act, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Job Corps), and other sources like the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Outreach Partnership Centers Program. For a copy of the guide, visit: [www.financeproject.org/Publications/workforcefunding.pdf](http://www.financeproject.org/Publications/workforcefunding.pdf).

**Educating Homeless Children & Youth (2005).** The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty developed this guide on how programs and case workers can assist homeless youth get an education. For a copy of the report, visit: [http://www.nlchp.org/content/pubs/Basic%20McKinney%20Booklet%20\(2005\).pdf](http://www.nlchp.org/content/pubs/Basic%20McKinney%20Booklet%20(2005).pdf)

**Financing Alternative Education Pathways: Profiles and Policy.** The National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC) has published nine profiles of alternative education schools and programs that have accessed state and local education funds. The NYEC publication includes discussion of innovative practices and creative state and local policy mechanisms used to finance alternative education pathways. For additional information, visit: <http://www.nyec.org/EdStrategies.html>.

**Do You Know the Latest Good News About American Education?** This Center on Education Policy report analyzes positive trends in such categories as school participation and course-taking, student achievement, school climate and public support, teachers, and higher education and also includes recommendations for the work ahead. For a copy of this report, visit: <http://www.cep-dc.org/pubs/LatestGoodNews/LatestGoodNewsAug05.pdf>.

**Getting Smarter, Becoming Fairer: A Progressive Education Agenda for a Stronger Nation.** For more than a year, the *Renewing Our Schools, Securing Our Future* National Task Force on Public Education has investigated innovative strategies and approaches to improving

public education. This work, in addition to several commissioned papers and six public forums, has culminated in the development of a progressive education agenda for a stronger nation. For a copy of the report, visit:

<http://www.americanprogress.org/site/pp.asp?c=biJRJ8OVF&b=994995>.

### **Websites**

**The FunWorks: Career Exploration for Young Adolescents** website is designed to capture the imagination of middle school students and encourage them to consider careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). It features online career resources for middle-school students with a particular emphasis on engaging currently underrepresented populations in STEM education and careers—girls, minorities, and students with disabilities. To explore the site, visit: <http://caren.edc.org/index.php>.

**Taking a Closer Look: A Guide to Online Resources on Family Involvement.** The Harvard Family Research Project has created an online guide to information, resources and tools dedicated to promoting and supporting family involvement in education. For more information, visit: <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/fine/resources/guide/index.html?pid=10625>.

### **Calendar of Events**

**December 8, 2005.** Nashville, TN. White House Faith Based and Community Initiatives Conference. For additional information, visit: <http://www.dtiassociates.com/FBCI/>.

**January 9-13, 2006.** Washington, DC. Building on Success. The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) will sponsor a National Conference entitled "Building on Success: Providing Today's Youth with Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow." The registration deadline is December 9. For more information visit: <http://www.juvenilecouncil.gov/2006nationalconference>.

### **NOTICE:**

**The Office of Youth Services 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 Office of Youth Services at [youth.services@dol.gov](mailto: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: Office of Youth Services at (202) 693-3030 or e-mail [youth.services@dol.gov](mailto:youth.services@dol.gov).

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