

December 10, 2003 Newsletter from GEAR UP

Welcome to the third edition of the Oregon GEAR UP newsletter. Previous editions can be found on the Oregon GEAR UP website at [www.ous.edu/gearup](http://www.ous.edu/gearup). While you're there check out some of the amazing resources assembled for your viewing pleasure!

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1. CLOSING THE COLLEGE PARTICIPATION GAP

A new series from the Education Commission of the States (ECS), shows who is -- and is not -- participating in postsecondary education, and who is likely to have access to a college education in the future. The reports describe the extent of postsecondary education in each of the 50 states and in the nation as a whole, and examine the conditions likely to influence access and participation. A National Summary examines the nature and extent of college participation in the United States and offers priorities for state policy action. The U.S. Profile contains statistics on postsecondary participation in the United States and estimates how many students need to enroll by 2015 for the nation to match the participation rate of the best-performing states. Two policy briefs examine what impact changing demographics and new workforce requirements will have on adults needs for access to postsecondary education, and describe how to assess people's needs for community college services. The Oregon profile is attached to this email in PDF format.  
<http://www.communitycollegetpolicy.org/ccpaccess>

2. Partners in Hispanic Education Host Feria de Educacion ED & the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, & other members of Partners in Hispanic Education kicked off a nationwide effort to help Hispanic American families become stronger advocates for their children's education. They released "Ten Key Benefits for Parents of English Language Learners," a summary of the most important provisions in the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) affecting the nation's approximately 5 million English language learners.  
<http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2003/11/11212003.html>

3. TV Show, Webcast: Closing America's Achievement Gap ED's monthly TV show will focus in January on closing America's achievement gap & will commemorate the second

anniversary of No Child Left Behind. It will air on January 20 from 8:00 - 9:00 pm ET on cable outlets & on the web.

<http://www.ed.gov/news/av/video/edtv/index.html>

#### 4. Characteristics of Higher Performing Urban High Schools

With few exceptions, urban high schools that serve high proportions of low-income and minority youth are failing to meet the academic needs of their students, according to a new study released by the Center for

Education Research and Policy at MassINC. Using a range of indicators, some of which include: attendance rates, drop-out rates, college plan data, and MCAS scores, this new report identifies just one Bay State high

school as "high performing." The report identifies eight other non-selective urban high schools that are on the road to success in helping their students achieve at high levels (the study's parameters were

50% minority and 45% low-income). The report details five common practices that were found across all nine schools: High standards and expectations; A culture of personalization; Small learning communities;

Data-driven curricula; and, Strong community relationships.

[http://www.massinc.org/handler.cfm?type=2&target=Head\\_of\\_class/index.html](http://www.massinc.org/handler.cfm?type=2&target=Head_of_class/index.html)

#### 5. Research Finds Out-of-School Programs Boost Achievement

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 places new pressure on schools to provide effective out-of-school-time (OST) strategies to improve student achievement. A quantitative analysis of 56 studies of after-school and summer programs found these programs have a small, though statistically significant positive impact on student achievement in reading and mathematics.

In summary, key findings from the study are as follows: OST strategies can have positive effects on the achievement of low-achieving or at-risk students in reading and mathematics; no difference in effectiveness can be attributed to timeframes for delivering OST programs ; early elementary students appear to benefit more from OST strategies to improve reading; older students appear to benefit more from OST strategies to improve mathematics; OST strategies need not focus solely on academic activities to have positive effects on student achievement; and, OST strategies that provide one-on-one tutoring for low-achieving or at-risk

students have strong positive effects on student achievement in reading.

<http://www.mcrel.org/newsroom/OSTsynthesis.asp>

#### 6. Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program - Deadline: May 3

The Young Scholars Program selects high-achieving youth with financial need and provides them throughout high school with individualized educational services that will enable them to develop their talents and abilities. Applications will be available in January at [www.jackkentcookefoundation.org](http://www.jackkentcookefoundation.org) or by calling the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth at (410)516-4382.

[http://www.jackkentcookefoundation.org/jkcf\\_web/Documents/Young%20Scholar%2011%202003.pdf](http://www.jackkentcookefoundation.org/jkcf_web/Documents/Young%20Scholar%2011%202003.pdf)

#### 7. Twelve new Learning Resources at FREE

New resources in arts, language arts, science, & social studies have been added to FREE. The Federal Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE) website makes it easy for teachers, parents, students, & others to find learning resources from more than 40 federal organizations.

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

#### 8. Do Something Seeks Youth Leaders for Brick Awards Program

Deadline: April 8, 2004

Do Something ( <http://www.dosomething.org/> ) is a national not-for-profit organization that trains, funds, and mobilizes young people to be leaders who measurably strengthen their communities. Founded in 1996, the Do Something Brick Awards program is designed to honor young people under the age of eighteen for service in the areas of community building, health, or the environment. Brick winners are leaders who identify and realize solutions to problems facing local communities across America.

RFP Link: <http://www.dosomething.org/brick-awards.htm>