



The following information is also available on www.psaydn.org.

Take Ten!

Welcome to *Take Ten!* - A monthly bulletin designed to keep you informed. We invite you to take 10 minutes a month to update yourself with what's going on in the network and the afterschool/youth development field.

November/December: *Holiday Issue 2008*

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THE SPOTLIGHT!

Five Promises for 15 Million – The America's Promise Alliance wants to improve the lives of 15 million young people in the next five years by delivering more of the Five Promises to those most at risk. By working with their partners they hope to improve the health of children, which they believe is a prerequisite for a successful school experience. The Alliance wants to make sure all children in the U.S. who are qualified for publicly funded health insurance programs are enrolled in those plans, and will work to create strong, integrated and coordinated local programs committed to helping young people succeed. The Alliance aims to provide superior service-learning and career exploration experiences to youth at a time when the choices they make can set them down the path to a productive and thriving future. For more information, <http://15in5.americaspromise.org/Pages/Strategy.aspx>.

PSAYDN UPDATE

Stay informed – Here's what's going on.

- **Allegheny Partners for Out-of-School-Time**

The Allegheny Partners for Out-of-School-Time (APOST) is a group of funders, afterschool intermediaries, and afterschool providers in partnership with PSAYDN whose goal is to strengthen afterschool programs and ensure accessibility for children and youth in need of the services. The first step in the process has been to develop a vision for what afterschool will be like in the next 5 years. Armed with the vision, APOST has embarked upon a series of benchmarking trips to visit cities/counties that have developed comprehensive afterschool initiatives. APOST is using the information gained from these visits to identify its next steps in afterschool system-building efforts to increase access to quality afterschool opportunities in Allegheny County. For more information on APOST, contact Wendy Etheridge Smith, Ph.D. at wendy.smith@uwac.org or (412)456-6855.

PROMISING PRACTICES – PROVEN STRATEGIES

Learn about what is going on locally and nationally.

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Dropout Prevention Summit was held during National Dropout Prevention Week 2008, on Thursday, November 13, 2008. The Summit was held at the Harrisburg Area Community College in Harrisburg, Pa. This invitation-only event included over 100 leaders from a wide cross-section of stakeholders, who came together to consider and make recommendations on statewide strategies to address Pennsylvania's dropout crisis. For more information on the Summit, please visit <http://www.psaydn.org>.

Around the Country

The telecommunication giant, AT&T, of San Antonio plans to commit \$100 million over four years to help reduce the dropout rate in U.S. high schools, and better prepare students for college and the workforce. The effort is being billed as the company's largest single charitable commitment to date, and is also among a number of recent announcements of major giving dedicated to a particular education issue by U.S. corporations. America's Promise Alliance, the nation's largest multi-sector collaborative dedicated to the interests of children and youth, has noted that nearly one-third of U.S. high school students drop out before graduating, with about 7,000 students dropping out every school day. The "AT&T Aspire" initiative will include four main components: engaging key constituencies, raising awareness, setting policy priorities and planning and committing to the plan. For more information, <http://www.att.com/gen/press-room?pid=4800&cdvn=news&newsarticleid=26089>

RECOMMENDED READING

Check out these recent articles, research and reviews on afterschool and youth development issues.

Dropping Back In: Re-engaging Out-of-School Youth: This report outlines the impacts of dropping out, and recommends state and local policy strategies and initiatives to re-connect high school dropouts with the education system. To read this article, http://www.papartnerships.org/droppingbackin/youth_reengagement.pdf.

Strengthening Out-Of-School Time Nonprofits: The Role of Foundations in Building Organizational Capacity: As a part of a three-part series, this reading looks at the role that foundations can play in building OST nonprofits' organizational capacity. In it, they suggest several possible tactics to strengthening OST organizations, including approaches to ensure that providers become stronger partners with other groups and more adept advocates for their field. To read this article, <http://www.hfrp.org/publications-resources/browse-our-publications/strengthening-out-of-school-time-nonprofits-the-role-of-foundations-in-building-organizational-capacity>

High School Reform and High School Afterschool: A Common Purpose: With a job market that requires nearly all workers to have a high school diploma, America faces a huge challenge with the dropout crisis. This brief examines the potential role high school afterschool could play in decreasing dropout rates, undertaking the achievement gap, and keeping kids on track towards successful futures. To read more on this brief, http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_23_high_school.cfm.

Youth Drop-out Policy Updates: Because addressing the dropout problem is a civil rights and public health imperative, policymakers are revising the problem of preventing school dropouts. For more on this article, <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/Newsletter/fall08.pdf>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars; you don't want to miss these events.

- **11/18/2008-12/05/2009: Council on Accreditation After School Informational Sessions:** The council is hosting a series of informational conference calls and webinars in continuing efforts to

facilitate communication regarding their After School initiative. To find more information and participate in a general After School session,
<https://coanet.ilinc.com/perl/ilinc/lms/event.pl?pp=jmurphy>.

- **12/11/2008- 8th Annual Youth Development Conference to Inspire Community Action:** The United Way of Philadelphia is to hold its 8th annual conference, with this year's theme; "Me, We, Us: The Bridge to the Future." It will challenge us to shift our mentality from a "Me" to a "We" perspective to build a brighter future benefiting "Us." The conference will feature two workshop tracks, youth leadership development and program/professional development. For more information on this event, http://www.uwsepa.org/HowWeHelp_events_details.asp?specialeventid=177.
- **12/11-12/12/2008- Youth Services Academy: Organizing To Re-Engage and Re-Connect Out-of-School Youth-** The 2008 Youth Services Academy will offer practitioners and policymakers opportunities to discuss issues, develop skills, and build strategies to address out-of-school re-engagement issues at local, regional and state levels. For more information and to register for the conference through the PA Partners website, go to <http://paysa08.pbwiki.com> and click on Workshop Facilitators.

ADVOCACY CORNER

Sustain afterschool funding by getting involved – Here's a tip to help steer you in the right direction.

The most effective way to keep children on the right track for a productive education is a good quality start. To help build awareness about how important a great start is in a child's life, PA Partnership for Children is sponsoring a 2008 Pre-K Now Satellite Conference and National Strategy Session. This year's topic is "Breaking Down Barriers to Quality Pre-K." The broadcast will feature success stories from communities where pre-k advocates are conquering common implementation challenges that can impact the quality of programs. The sessions will be held on December 10th from 12:30pm to 3:00pm, with the live broadcast from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. To find the closest viewing site and to register for the event <http://www.preknow.org/advocate/conference2008/>. For questions and information contact: Diane Barber, Early Childhood Education Director, PPC at 717-236-5680 x 210 or email dbarber@papartnerships.org

The **PSAYDN** is a collaborative effort among state, regional and local partners. Its purpose is to promote sustainable, high-quality out-of-school time youth development programs through advocacy and capacity building to enhance the welfare of Pennsylvania's children, youth and families.

To learn more about PSAYDN, please contact:
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