



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 2007

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THE SPOTLIGHT!

PEPP Talk – The Penn State Educational Partnership Program (PEPP) is a middle and high school early intervention collaboration between Penn State's College of Education and a growing number of Pennsylvania school districts. PEPP is a free program that exposes underrepresented youth to college life and career opportunities and prepares them for higher education. Earlier this month, approximately 40 students from four different middle schools in Reading School District attended workshops on chemistry, statistics, and horticulture at Penn State Berks for math and science day. "Many of the children we serve have the potential to extend their education beyond high school, but they may not be focused on the academic pathway," said Darrell Thomas, Director of PEPP Operation, "We help students acquire skills and positive attitudes that enable them to eventually go on to college." Generally, students who successfully complete the program are guaranteed admission to Penn State. For more information about PEPP, visit <http://www.ed.psu.edu/pepp>.

PSAYDN UPDATE

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

A Continuum of Learning: EPLC's Breakfast Series – In early November, Kisha Bird, PSAYDN Director and Alana Kulesa, Director of Education Programs at 3 Rivers Connect presented at the Holiday Inn at University Center in Pittsburgh, PA to address the need for high-quality afterschool and youth development programs. The presentation focused on PSAYDN Regional Summits' theme *A Continuum of Learning: Pennsylvania Supports the Power of Afterschool*. PSAYDN and attendees discussed promising afterschool strategies to help prepare youth for postsecondary education, productive employment and active citizenship. The October Forum was hosted by the Education Policy and Leadership Center and is one of many forums offered by EPLC's Breakfast Series to address education policy issues. For more information about EPLC or upcoming forums, please visit www.eplc.org.

PROMISING PRACTICES – PROVEN STRATEGIES

Learn about what is going on locally and nationally.

Pennsylvania

Community LEARNS is an initiative funded by the US Department of Education Community and Technology Centers to prevent 9th through 12th grade students in Pittsburgh from academic failure. The initiative operates on the belief that schools and community partners can work together to improve the lives of high school students. It implements a program model which encourages resource sharing and alignment with the school district, targeted academic intervention, support services such as daily school data monitoring and academic success plans, and an employment component which allows students to link school to work. Students of all levels are provided with individualized academic and personal support ranging from enrichment activities to credit recovery. The initiative is supported by Peabody High School, in partnership with Pittsburgh community organizations and faith-based agencies such as Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and Mt. Ararat Community Activity Center. For more information about Community LEARNS, visit www.wireless-neighborhoods.org.

Around the Country

Art is a key element to attracting many middle and high school students to afterschool programs. The Metropolitan Museum of Art located in the city of New York, NY offers free museum admission to youth and free art classes that are held after school hours and on weekends. These classes not only give youth the opportunity to stretch their creativity and express themselves, but require students to be active and discuss their work. The Museum also offers an internship program to high school seniors so that students can meet members of the Museum staff, participate in gallery and studio learning projects, and expand their knowledge of art. For more information about the youth programs offered at the Metropolitan Museum, visit <http://www.metmuseum.org/events/students>.

RECOMMENDED READING

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

- **Achievement Trap: How America is Failing Millions of High Achieving Students from Lower-Income Families** – This report by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation and the Civic Enterprises discusses new and old research on the academic achievement of lower-income students in comparison to higher-income peers. Research indicates that high achieving low-income students disproportionately fall behind during elementary and high school. To read, visit http://www.jackkentcookefoundation.org/jkcf_web/Documents/Achievement%20Trap.pdf.
- **Preventing Students' Disengagement in Middle Schools** – Recent research by The Center for Social Organization of Schools at Johns Hopkins and the Philadelphia Education Fund notes that about half of all high school dropouts can be predicted by sixth grade. Researchers identified four risk factors and stress the importance of early intervention. To read, visit <http://web.jhu.edu/CSOS/images/TDMG/preventing.pdf>.
- **The Condition of Education 2000 to 2007** – This National Center for Educational Statistics annual report discusses indicators significant to the state of American education; topics examined include enrollment trends, the effect of education on student long term success and student effort and rates of progress through the educational system. To read this report, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- **12/6/07 PSAYDN Quarterly Meeting** – The Quarterly Meeting will be on Thursday, December 6th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Commonwealth Room located at the Center for Schools and Communities in Camp Hill, PA. For more information, contact PSAYDN at (717) 763-1661.
- **12/10/07 – 12/11/07 Pennsylvania Conference and Summit on Education Excellence for Latino Students, "Roots for Change: Pennsylvania Latino Education Agenda 2012"** – This event is sponsored by the Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs and the Pennsylvania Department of Education in partnership with the Center for Schools and Communities. It will be held at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College, PA. For more information, visit www.21stcccl.org.
- **12/11/07 Cultural Competence: Bridging Difference and Building Partnerships** – This professional development opportunity is offered by the Philadelphia Health Management Corporation (PHMC) and will be

held at the PHMC building located in Philadelphia, PA. For more information, visit https://www.sporg.com/registration?link_type=reg_info&form_id=89995&view_type=windowed.

- **12/12/07 – 12/14/07 Youth Service Institute: Surfing the Wave of Change** – This Institute is sponsored by Youth Service America and will held at the Omni San Diego Hotel in San Diego, CA. For registration information, visit <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site>.

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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