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AMERICAN YOUTH POLICY FORUM e-bulletin

Contents

>Upcoming AYPF Events> AYPF Publications and Resources> Recommended Reading and Resources>About AYPF

UPCOMING AYPF EVENTS

Mark your calendars – events you don't want to miss

Forum Series: Building Afterschool Capacity at the Local, State, and National Levels

Research on creating high-quality afterschool programs points time and time again to the importance of building capacity through investing in elements such as staff professional development, evaluation, and partnerships. This three-part forum series, funded by the C.S. Mott Foundation, will profile unique and effective efforts at all levels to build the capacity of the afterschool field. The next two forums in the series are:

- **Rescheduled for April 24, 2008 – Spotlight on the NYC City-Wide Out-of-School Time Initiative.** Under the current mayor's leadership, NYC is investing in numerous capacity-building techniques in their OST system, such as evaluation, data systems, and professional development—and the city's youth are already experiencing positive results because of it. Speakers: Jeanne B. Mullgrav, Commissioner, NYC Department of Youth & Community Development; Richard Berlin, Executive Director, Harlem RBI; and Elizabeth Reisner, Principal, Policy Studies Associates, Inc. [RSVP Now](#)
- **May 14, 2008 – The Role of Community Schools in Expanding and Improving Out-of-School Time Programs.** This forum will examine the "community schools" model as a part of the growing movement to expand the lens through which "out-of-school time programming" is viewed. The community schools model is proving to be an effective comprehensive learning model and has fully embraced out-of-school time enrichment as a necessary and valued piece of its framework. Speakers will include representatives from the Coalition for Community Schools, Communities in Schools, Children's Aid Society, and University of Pennsylvania Center for Community Partnerships.

June 13, 2008 – Building a Better Bridge: Helping Young Adults Enter and Succeed in College. A partnership between the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation (CHLDC) and The New York City College of Technology (NYCCT) of CUNY was created to develop and implement a college access and success program for young people who are overage, under-credited, or have dropped out of high school. This forum will describe the successes and challenges of the partnership and lessons learned on how to help formerly disconnected youth access postsecondary education. Speakers will include Peter Kleinbard and Vivian Vazquez of

the Youth Development Institute, New York City, Bonne August, Provost of New York City College of Technology, and a representative of the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation.

June 27, 2008 -- Improving Long-Term Labor Market Prospects for Youth: Evidence from Career Academies - Career Academies are one of the most popular and lasting school-to-work transition and high school reform strategies. This forum will feature the release of a new report from MDRC which includes findings from eight years of post-high school data and should prompt a useful discussion of the findings' potential policy significance and implications for school reform and youth programming. Speakers will include James Kemple, Director of K-12 Education Policy at MDRC, J.D. Hoyer, President, National Academy Foundation, and Charles Dayton, Director of the Career Academy Support Network.

*For more information about these events, visit <http://www.aypf.org/events/future.htm>
RSVPs are required to attend an event; to RSVP please send an email to aypf@aypf.org*

AYPF PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

Stay informed – publications and briefs recently added to our extensive online library

Forum Brief: Improving Transition to Higher Education for Out-of-School Youth. This forum, co-sponsored by the American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) and the National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC), highlighted factors influencing the success of youth programs that provide support for formerly out-of-school youth as they transition to postsecondary education and employment. The session featured NYEC's policy recommendations intended to inform federal higher education and workforce development policy.

*Briefs and trip reports are available online at <http://www.aypf.org/events>.
Publications are available online at <http://www.aypf.org/publications>.*

RECOMMENDED READING AND RESOURCES

Check these out – recommended reading from the AYPF staff

Lost in Transition: Building a Better Path from School to College and Careers (Southern Regional Education Board)

This report suggests that educators and policymakers need to create better transition paths for students to all post-secondary options, including community colleges, technical schools, and apprenticeship programs, and for students who choose to go directly to work.

Raising Graduation Rates in an Era of High Standards: Five Commitments for State Action (Jobs for the Future)

This report calls upon state policymakers to commit to five key outcomes for high school age youth, and suggests strategies and action steps they can take to focus high school reform efforts on ensuring that these commitments are met.

Overcoming Obstacles, Optimizing Opportunities: State Policies to Increase Postsecondary Attainment for Low-Skilled Adults (Center for Law and Social Policy)

This paper provides an overview of state policies that can be most successful in helping lower-skilled adults enter and succeed in college and careers. The paper introduces a series of state policy reports developed as part of Breaking Through, a national project that is helping community colleges identify and develop institutional strategies that can enable low-skilled adult students to enter into and succeed in occupational and technical degree programs at community colleges.

Making a Difference?: The Effects of Teach for America in High School (CALDER)

Teach for America (TFA) selects and places graduates from the most competitive colleges as teachers in the lowest-performing schools in the country. This paper is the first study that examines TFA effects in high school. It relies on longitudinal data from North Carolina and estimates TFA effects through cross-subject student and school fixed-effects models. The report finds that TFA teachers tend to have a positive effect on high school student test scores relative to non-TFA teachers, including those who are certified in-field. Such effects exceed the impact of additional years of experience and are particularly strong in math and science.

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The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF), a nonprofit, nonpartisan professional development organization based in Washington, DC, provides learning opportunities for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers working on youth and education issues at the national, state, and local levels.

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