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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

Please check back with us at a later date at: www.aypf.org

AYPF PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

New Publication: Success at Every Step: How 23 Programs Support Youth on the Path to College and Beyond (2009) This publication describes 23 programs that have been proven to help young people successfully complete high school and be prepared for success in postsecondary education and careers. These programs represent a wide range of interventions, including school-wide reform initiatives, community-based afterschool services, work-based learning opportunities, and college access programs. From an analysis of the included programs, the report identifies common programmatic and structural elements that may contribute to their effectiveness and summarizes key outcomes. The publication also sets forth a logic model that illustrates the complexity of the process for youth to develop the foundational knowledge, skills, abilities, and personal resources required for success in careers, lifelong learning, and civic engagement, as well as the various systems and service providers that support youth at each step of the developmental pipeline. The report concludes with policy recommendations on how policymakers can support college- and career-readiness for all students. (October 2009).

New Publication: Strengthening Indian Country Through Tribal Youth Programs This report examines how Tribal Youth Programs (TYP), supported by the office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) at the U.S. Department of Justice, are succeeding in improving the lives of youth and strengthening families through detailed case-studies of five tribal communities. TYP provides funds to Native American tribes to support and enhance tribal efforts to prevent and control delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system for American Indian and Alaska Native youth ages 10-17. AYPF and OJJDP conducted site visits with five TYPs in 2007 and 2008 in order to examine how TYPs are succeeding in improving the lives of youth and strengthening families. The TYPs featured in this report empower youth to lead the community in activities that build a sense of attachment to heritage, promote belonging, support personal development, and provide exposure to career-related skills (October 2009).

New Publication: High School Career Academies: A 40-Year Proven Model for Improving College and Career Readiness (2009)

High school career academies are a time-tested model for improving academic outcomes and preparing students for both college and careers. Career academies (1) are smaller learning communities taught by a team of interdisciplinary teachers, (2) provide a rigorous academic curriculum based on a career theme that demonstrates how knowledge is used and applied in career fields, and (3) partner with colleges and employers to provide opportunities for dual enrollment, internships, and increased mentoring by adults. With a strong research base, career academies have been shown to have positive impacts on attendance, earned credits, and high school graduation and college attendance rates. Additionally, participation in a career academy increased post-high school employment rates and earnings, particularly for at-risk young men. Career academies are also unique by having created National Standards of Practice that guide the model's continuous improvement. This publication provides an overview of career academies along with policy recommendations to expand the model.

*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

Louisiana's Comprehensive Learning Supports System: The Design Document: The Louisiana State Department of Education has just released its design prototype document that will guide its work across the state in supporting development of a *Comprehensive Learning Supports System*. Louisiana joins Iowa in having developed a prototype design for schools to adapt as they move forward in developing a comprehensive system for addressing barriers to learning and teaching and re-engaging disconnected students. Iowa's design can be accessed by clicking on the following topic.

Developing Our Youth: Fulfilling a Promise, Investing in Iowa's Future: This document is intended for policy makers and leaders at the state, regional, and local levels within and outside of the education system who have a compelling interest in the achievement of all students and are seeking effective ways to improve student learning. It introduces a set of new concepts for systems of supports that students need if they are to achieve at high levels. The document calls for rethinking the directions for student supports in order to reduce fragmentation in the system and increase the effectiveness and efficiency by which it operates.

One Year Later: How the Economic Downturn Continues to Impact School Districts: Sixth in a series of studies conducted by AASA. The study is based on a survey of 875 school administrators conducted in September and October 2009 and finds that while funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act have provided some relief, districts in every part of the nation are being forced to make cuts that directly impact student learning. The data also suggest a "shell game" in which state budgets were cut after it was known that ARRA included money for education.

ED Recovery Act Report: Summary of Programs and State-by-State Data: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) made available approximately \$100 billion to the Education Department, in an effort to deliver emergency education funding to all of the states. Moving quickly to provide a large portion of these funds to the field, over \$67 billion in formula grants were awarded by September 30th, 2009. Based on the reports of stimulus

spending that states submitted to the Office of Management and Budget on Friday, October 30th, the Department has created a state-by-state report that summarizes and clarifies where and how 325,000 jobs have been saved or created throughout the country.

Paying for College Success: An Introduction to the Performance-based Scholarship

Demonstration: This policy brief describes a demonstration launched by MDRC in four states in 2008 to evaluate whether performance-based scholarships – paid contingent on attaining academic benchmarks – are an effective way to improve persistence and academic success among low-income college students. The demonstration builds on positive results from an earlier MDRC study in Louisiana.

State High School Exit Exams: Trends in Test Programs, Alternate Pathways, and Pass

Rates: The Center on Education Policy released its 8th annual report on high school exit exams. The report identifies long-term trends in state exit exam policies and student performance and highlights a growing trend among states to establish alternate pathways to graduation for students who are struggling to pass exit exams. State High School Exit Exams: Trends in Test Programs, Alternate Pathways, and Pass Rates, and profiles of the 26 states that are or will soon be implementing exit exams, is available on the CEP Web site and can be downloaded free-of-charge.

AYPF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Staff Opening:

Website Coordinator (part-time) - Closing date: November 27, 2009

Administrative Assistant (part-time) - Closing date: November 27, 2009

Closing Date: November 27, 2009

The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) is seeking two part-time individuals to join our non-profit team dedicated to providing learning events to education and youth policymakers: Website Coordinator and an Administrative Assistant.

The Website Coordinator is responsible for various important functions in the office, focusing on the management and maintenance of the AYPF website. Tasks will include posting event information and supporting documents on the website, making appropriate links, and providing quality control to ensure web pages and links are accurate, active, current, and consistent in appearance. The Administrative Assistant will provide logistical support for events, publications dissemination and fulfillment, and general administrative support for the office. Please submit by Friday, November 27, 2009.

[Click here to read the full job descriptions.](#)

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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