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## AMERICAN YOUTH POLICY FORUM e-bulletin

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### UPCOMING AYPF EVENTS

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

**NEW DATE: Friday, March 5, 2010 – A Comprehensive Approach to Success in Education and Careers for Out-of-School Youth** The Community Education Pathways to Success (CEPS) model targets out-of-school youth who have expressed interest in earning a GED, by addressing low literacy and math skills through an integration of youth development, social supports, and career-related services. Through building partnerships with community-based organizations and community colleges, participants are supported through completing their education, entering college, finding working, and contributing to their communities. This forum will provide an overview of the model, discuss results from a recently released evaluation, and provide recommendations for policy. Presenters include Peter Kleinbard, Executive Director, Youth Development Institute (NY); Vivian Vazquez, Director, CEPS, Youth Development Institute, Patricia Campbell, President, Campbell-Kibler Associates, Inc, and Jack Doyle, Executive Director, New Settlement Apartments. **[Rescheduled from Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, if you would like to RSVP for this event, please email [AYPF@aypf.org](mailto:AYPF@aypf.org)]**

**Friday, March 12, 2010 - Increasing Capacity and Quality in New York City's Beacons** Beacons are one of the nation's first citywide afterschool initiatives, and now operate in five cities, serving more than 150,000 children, youth, and community members. The Beacons Young Adolescent Initiative (BYA) is a four-year initiative of the Youth Development Institute (YDI), funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies. BYA seeks to improve outcomes for young people ages nine to 14 by increasing their participation in high quality activities during the afterschool, evening, and weekend hours. The initiative is designed to address two key issues in the afterschool field: the need for high quality programs and the reduced participation of young people as they enter adolescence. This forum will discuss the results of the BYA's recently released 3rd year evaluation report, examine YDI's capacity building strategies and their impact, and provide policy recommendations.

### AYPF PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

**Spotlight on Issue Briefs:** Throughout 2009, AYPF produced a series of five Issue Briefs on the topics examined during recent fact-finding field trips for teams of state and federal policymakers and education policy leaders. Over the past 14 years, AYPF has planned and facilitated over 100 strategically-designed and intensive field trips for state and national

policymakers, in which participants have had opportunities meet with state and district leaders, visit redesigned high schools, and engage in substantive policy discussions on a variety of youth issues. These Issue Briefs highlight recent trips focused on a range of relevant topics, identify promising practices in states, districts, and school sites visited, and provide recommendations for further action.

### **AYPF Issue Brief – Building and Using Longitudinal Data Systems for Effective Reporting and to Improve Student Achievement**

This issue brief describes AYPF's field trip and learning exchange hosted in June, 2009 in partnership with the Data Quality Campaign. The brief describes the key themes and lessons learned, including developing a data culture, effective data governance, and creating an LDS with the ability to connect across agencies and states. Additionally, there are excellent resources to guide states as they work to develop a comprehensive LDS. Included in the brief are descriptions of the event's key presenters, Kathy Gosa, Director of Information Technology for the Kansas State Department of Education, and Robert Curtin, Manager of Data Analysis and Reporting for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

### **AYPF Issue Brief – Linking Secondary and Postsecondary Systems: Lessons from Indiana**

This issue brief is focused on policies and practices that improve college and career readiness by strengthening the transition from high school to postsecondary education. The brief is largely based on a February, 2009 AYPF field trip to Indiana, and details the cross-system efforts implemented to help more of the state's students access and succeed in college and the workforce. This issue brief frames the overall issue of linking the secondary and postsecondary systems and describes the elements of success in Indiana, including cross-system collaboration to align high school education with skills and knowledge needed at the postsecondary level and in the workplace; use of acceleration mechanisms and other academic strategies to bridge the educational systems; innovative approaches for teacher preparation and professional development; and the state's ongoing efforts to develop a data system linking K-12, higher education, and the labor market.

### **AYPF Issue Brief: Advancing STEM Learning across the Educational Pipeline: Statewide Efforts in Ohio**

This issue brief is focused on state efforts to improve education in science, technology, engineering, and math - collectively known as the "STEM" disciplines. The brief is largely based on a March, 2009 AYPF field trip to Columbus and Dayton, Ohio, and describes Ohio's success in advancing STEM education across the state. This issue brief frames the overall issue of STEM education and describes the elements of Ohio's STEM strategy, including building a statewide STEM agenda; creating the capacity to advance a STEM agenda; the role of communication and visibility in advancing STEM education; a regional approach to STEM education; approaches and challenges to STEM education at the school level; and the lessons to be learned from Ohio's work. The brief concludes with state policy recommendations for advancing STEM education.

### **AYPF Issue Brief: Moving English Language Learners to College- and Career-Readiness**

This issue brief explores effective educational models for serving English Language Learners (ELLs) in ways that build upon these students' assets and prepare them for college and careers. The brief derives from an AYPF fact-finding trip to Texas's Rio Grande Valley region. The trip, conducted in May 2009, focused on how two school districts in the region, Hidalgo Independent School District (HISD) and Pharr San-Juan Alamo (PSJA) Independent School District, have implemented effective, asset-based programs to promote the educational and

career success of ELLs. The issue brief provides background information on federal legislation affecting ELL students, an overview of the models that are being implemented in the Rio Grande Valley region, and recommendations for future federal legislation.

### **AYPF Issue Brief on Career and Technical Education**

This brief is based largely on the November, 2008 field trip for state policy leaders to Sacramento, CA, which was conducted by AYPF in conjunction with the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. The focus was on California's initiatives around CTE, and the trip was exclusively for states selected by NGA's Center for Best Practices to participate in their Policy Academy on Career and Technical Education. While the brief does not address every issue involved with CTE, it does highlight issues that California is addressing that we learned about during the trip, such as the importance of legislative support to promote change, the development of the CTE model curriculum standards and framework, teacher credentialing and professional development, and the necessity of engaging the higher education community in CTE reform.

*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*

### **Inaugural Overview of States' Actions To Leverage Data To Improve Student Success**

#### Data Quality Campaign

This report finds that states are making impressive progress toward building longitudinal data systems and are taking the first steps to ensure that new information is used to improve student outcomes and system-wide performance. But the results, which are based on a survey of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, also show that most states have much work to do around key practices, such as following student progress from pre-school through college and the workforce, sharing student-level progress reports with teachers, and providing adequate training around data use.

### **Education at a Crossroads: A New Path for Federal and State Education Policy:** National Conference of State Legislatures

The report released Feb. 1, 2010 includes a list of recommendations for the federal role in education reform efforts. In the report, state legislators from across the country reviewed federal efforts in the K-12 education system and found that they failed to improve student achievement. Federal education policies tend to rely heavily on processes and compliance rather than maximizing the limited resources available, according to the findings. Furthermore, the report urges a re-defined role for federal education policy to one that is "focused, transparent and has clearly defined roles for all."

**Emerging Hispanic-Serving Institutions: Serving Latino Students:** Excelencia in Education  
The invention of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) in the 1980s was predicated on the premise that institutions enrolling a large concentration of Latino students adapt to serve these students better. This brief identifies and examines Emerging HSIs -- institutions that do not yet meet the HSI enrollment threshold of 25 percent, but are within the range of 15-24 percent and have the potential to become HSIs in the next few years. Synthesizing national Latino trend data, the results from a web-based survey and four case studies, this brief examines Emerging HSIs' awareness of Latino students on their campuses and changes in institutional practices to

better serve their Latino students. The four Emerging HSIs studied in this brief include: Loyola Marymount University (CA), Palm Beach Community College-Lake Worth (FL), Texas State University-San Marcos (TX), and Metropolitan State College of Denver (CO).

### **Expanding Access and Opportunity: The Impact of the Gates Millennium Scholars**

**Program:** Institute for Higher Education Policy

In 1999, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation began an innovative scholarship program providing full financial support to low-income, minority students across the United States. The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) program targets high-achieving African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic-American, and Asian/Pacific Islander American high school students to help them overcome the many challenges they will likely face while pursuing postsecondary education. In this synthesis report the Institute's extensive summary of the GMS program shows that reducing the financial burden of low-income, minority college students leads to enhanced persistence, college completion, and community engagement after college.

*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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