



## November 2007

The ***Extended Learning Opportunities Network*** e-newsletter (ELON) is a monthly publication from CCSSO that provides timely information, research, and resources to support our members (chief state school officers, state education agency staff) in expanding and sustaining high quality Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) to students in need of them. ELOs are initiatives that provide safe, structured environments for students outside the regular school day. ELOs include before- and after-school programs; Saturday, weekend, and summer programs; extended day/year initiatives, distance learning, and early education initiatives.

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## Publications and Reports...

American Youth Policy Forum. ***Forum Brief: Using Assessment Tools to Evaluate Afterschool Programs: A Look at the Youth Program Quality Assessment (YQPA)*** – This brief summarizes the presentations and discussions made by Nicole Yohalem, Program Director, Forum for Youth Investment; Charles Smith, Director of Youth Development Group, High/Scope Educational Research Foundation; Jeanne Leland, Director of the North Branch Area Public Schools, Minnesota Community Education Department; and Judy Mills, Director, New York State Advantage After School Program. Presenters focused on the use of quality assessment in afterschool programs centering on the Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA). Speakers shared lessons learned related to implementing the assessment and their implications at the state and local levels.

According to the panel, the strengths of the YQQA are that it

- includes specific and detailed observation items that can inform staff on skills assessed
- details how programs are working and helps to foster accountability
- focuses on program improvement
- builds common language to discuss practice

This brief is available at:

<http://www.aypf.org/forumbriefs/2007/fb110207.htm>

The Brookings Institute. ***Demilitarizing What the Pentagon Knows About Developing Young People: A New Paradigm for Educating Students Who are Struggling in School and in Life*** – This working paper focuses on what lessons could be learned from the military about working with youth, especially those who have dropped-out of school or are potential drop-outs. It examines the approaches and experiences primarily from the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Corps program which was established in 1993. The program operates in twenty-seven states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C. It serves sixteen to eighteen year old drop-outs who are drug-free; have never been convicted of a felony; and are not on parole, probation, or under indictment. The program consists of a twenty-two week residential phase followed by mentoring by a caring adult for twelve months. During this time, graduates of the program earn a GED or high school diploma. An evaluation conducted by AOC Solutions found in 2005 that the program's curriculum increased participants reading by 1.6 grade levels and math by 2.1 grade levels.

In addition to the ChalleNGe program, the Junior ROTC, military academies, and basic training also show success in raising academic skill levels, improving high school graduation rates, and college matriculation rates in disconnected youth. Other components of these programs include creating a sense of belonging, emphasizing mentoring and monitoring, instilling motivation and self-discipline, and promoting teamwork.

This paper is available at:

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2007/05defense\\_price/05defense\\_price.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2007/05defense_price/05defense_price.pdf)

Education Commission of the States. ***Making the Case for P-3*** – Prepared for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, this issue paper reviews research and makes the case for the P-3 approach. It discusses the benefits to all stakeholders and explains how the P-3 approach supports children’s parents, families, and teachers.

The P-3 approach emphasizes programs and services for children from birth to age eight. This includes preschool programs, access to kindergarten, and alignment to the early elementary grades to ensure learning and development is consistent and continuous to prepare children to become successful learners.

The P-3 approach is guided by three principles

- parents and families are childrens’ first and most important teachers
- the “whole child” must be nurtured
- school readiness is multi-dimensional

This issue paper is available at:

[http://www.wkkf.org/DesktopModules/WKF.00\\_DmaSupport/ViewDoc.aspx?fld=PDFFile&CID=168&ListID=28&ItemID=5000367&LanguageID=0](http://www.wkkf.org/DesktopModules/WKF.00_DmaSupport/ViewDoc.aspx?fld=PDFFile&CID=168&ListID=28&ItemID=5000367&LanguageID=0)

Foundations, Inc. ***Afterschool Advantage: Powerful New Learning Opportunities*** – This book presents strategies related to building and expanding quality afterschool programs. Authors offer their expertise in the areas of science, technology, arts, entrepreneurship training, global literacy, and college preparation to discuss ways in which afterschool programs may provide students with the skills they need to succeed in today’s globally interconnected society and workforce. The book provides best practices of high-quality programs and describes notable examples of existing programs.

This book is available at:

[http://www.caceafterschool.org/publications/Afterschool\\_Advantage.pdf](http://www.caceafterschool.org/publications/Afterschool_Advantage.pdf)

The Future of Children. ***The Next Generation of Antipoverty Policies*** – This journal presents several specific public policies that would reduce poverty in a cost-effective way. The article, “Reducing Poverty through Preschool Interventions” introduces an intensive two-year, education focused, early childhood program for economically disadvantaged three- and four-year-olds. The program is not intended to replace Head Start or state pre-K programs but to offer another choice for families. The program comprises of

- classrooms staffed by college-trained teachers
- student to teacher ratio of six to one
- instruction based on proven preschool academic and behavioral curricula
- instruction provided three hours a day with wraparound child care

Access to the program may be universal. Authors, however, recommend program costs be publicly subsidized for families with incomes less than three times the federal poverty level.

This article is available at:

[http://www.futureofchildren.org/information2826/information\\_show.htm?doc\\_id=522136](http://www.futureofchildren.org/information2826/information_show.htm?doc_id=522136)

The journal is available at: [http://www.futureofchildren.org/pubs-info2825/pubs-info\\_show.htm?doc\\_id=521579](http://www.futureofchildren.org/pubs-info2825/pubs-info_show.htm?doc_id=521579)

Healthy Teen Network. ***Engaging Youth...On Their Turf: Creative Approaches to Connecting Youth through Community*** – This report highlights six programs that connect- or reconnect- youth to their communities through parent engagement, athletics, service learning, art, mentoring, and youth empowerment approaches. It discusses ways in which youth-serving organizations and institutions may implement strategies to engage youth. Recommended first steps for connecting youth through community include

- collecting first-hand input by talking to youth
- addressing community needs to attract essential support
- exploring all possibilities for effective partnerships and collaborating with existing organizations and/or agencies to ensure entire populations of youth are served

This report is available at:

[http://www.healthyteennetwork.org/index.asp?Type=B\\_PR&SEC=%7B2AE1D600-4FC6-4B4D-8822-F1D5F072ED7B%7D&DE=%7BA376E296-EF63-46BA-AD21-5344B3C5F79A%7D](http://www.healthyteennetwork.org/index.asp?Type=B_PR&SEC=%7B2AE1D600-4FC6-4B4D-8822-F1D5F072ED7B%7D&DE=%7BA376E296-EF63-46BA-AD21-5344B3C5F79A%7D)

### **Tools You Can Use...**

In a joint collaboration, Family Health International, United Nations Population Fund, and Youth Peer Education Network have developed the Youth Peer Education Toolkit. It is designed to assist assessment teams, project managers, supervisors, and others to assess the quality of community-based youth peer education programs. The toolkit comprises of five resources that include

- The Training of Trainers Manual
- Standards for Peer Education Programs
- Theatre-based Techniques for Youth Peer Education: A Training Manual
- Performance Improvement: A Resource for Youth Peer Education Managers
- Assessing the Quality of Youth Peer Education Programs

To access this toolkit, please visit:

<http://www.fhi.org/en/Youth/YouthNet/Publications/peeredtoolkit/index.htm>

### **Conferences and Events...**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual National Service-Learning Conference will be held April 9-12, 2008 in Minneapolis, MN. Plenary sessions features speakers who include Ronald A. Tschetter, Director of Peace Corps; Pedro Noguera, author of *Unfinished Business: Closing the Achievement Gap in Our Nation's School*; and Desmond Tutu, Human Rights Activist and Noble Laureate Archbishop. Participants will have an opportunity to network and share ideas with others having similar interests and backgrounds. The conference is sponsored by the National Youth Leadership Council.

\*For more information, please visit:

<https://programs.regweb.com/metro/NYLC2008/index.cfm>

The 2008 Best of Out-of-School Time (BOOST) Conference will be held April 30-May 3, 2008 in Palm Springs, CA. Activities and sessions at the conference will provide

participants the opportunity to rejuvenate and boost their passion towards quality programming.

\*For more information, please visit: <http://www.boostconference.org/>

## **Grants and Other Opportunities...**

### **Youth Nutrition and Physical Fitness**

The Champion for Healthy Kids Program was developed by the General Mills Foundation, the American Dietetic Association, and the President's Council on Physical Fitness. Through this program, the General Mills Foundation will award fifty \$10,000 grants to community-based organizations developing creative ways to help youth adopt a balance diet and physically active lifestyle.

Deadline: January 15, 2008

<http://www.generalmills.com/corporate/commitment/champions.aspx>

### **Creating 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Environments**

Cable in the Classroom Leaders in Learning Awards will be recognizing teachers, administrators, and community leaders who are fostering the use of cable content and technology to expand and enhance learning opportunities for children and youth.

Deadline: January 16, 2008

<http://www.leadersinlearningawards.org/>

## **In the News...**

### **November 1**

#### **Md. Approves Alternative to Tests for Graduation**

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/31/AR2007103102021.html?nav=rss\\_education](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/31/AR2007103102021.html?nav=rss_education)

### **November 2**

#### **Merit bonuses elude top teachers**

[http://www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews/content/tcoast/epaper/2007/11/02/m1a\\_mcstar\\_1102.html](http://www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews/content/tcoast/epaper/2007/11/02/m1a_mcstar_1102.html)

### **November 4**

#### **Rethinking How to Teach the New Teachers**

[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/04/business/04frame.html?\\_r=1&ref=business&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/04/business/04frame.html?_r=1&ref=business&oref=slogin)

### **November 5**

#### **Tutors' work not getting checked Districts pay for unmonitored help**

<http://www.cleveland.com/education/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/isedu/1194255027284171.xml&coll=2>

### **November 6**

#### **Nurturing a taste for healthy choices**

[http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/classifieds/news/jobcenter/news/stories/DN-schoolfood\\_04emp.ART.State.Edition1.45f94bd.html](http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/classifieds/news/jobcenter/news/stories/DN-schoolfood_04emp.ART.State.Edition1.45f94bd.html)

**November 7**

**All city schools to get water coolers**

**15-year effort to remove lead from fountains dropped**

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/education/bal-water1107,0,7704534.story>

**November 11**

**The Right Way to Oust the Wrong Teachers**

**'Peer Review' Addresses The Trouble With Tenure**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/09/AR2007110901966.html>

**November 13**

**Hispanic student numbers up by 12 percent**

<http://www.al.com/news/birminghamnews/index.ssf?/base/news/1194945651247570.xml&coll=2>

**November 14**

**Teacher training expected to meet U.S. standards**

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071114/NEWS06/711140406/1008/NEWS06>

**November 15**

**Study compares American students with other countries'**

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/11/15/america/14students.php>

**November 16**

**NSBA statement on President's veto of education spending bill and failure of House to override**

[http://hb1.eschoolnews.com/tech-solutions/all-press-releases-1/?i=50605;\\_hbguid=5964eb89-47a6-44ff-ba4e-a2bdd93e5191](http://hb1.eschoolnews.com/tech-solutions/all-press-releases-1/?i=50605;_hbguid=5964eb89-47a6-44ff-ba4e-a2bdd93e5191)

**November 17**

**Parents ordered to court for kids' shots**

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/topstories/2007-11-17-2251687368\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/topstories/2007-11-17-2251687368_x.htm)

**November 18**

**\$500 for driver's ed? Price tag separating haves from have-nots**

**As fewer districts offer classes, private (and more costly) firms fill up the gap**

[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/transportation/340230\\_driversed19.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/transportation/340230_driversed19.html)

**November 19**

**Merit pay for teachers to resurface on Oregon ballot in 2008**

<http://www.oregonlive.com/newsflash/regional/index.ssf?/base/news-22/1195505664180430.xml&storylist=orlocal>

**November 20**

**Reading's New Chapter**

<http://www.startribune.com/462/story/1559535.html>

**November 21**

**Tutors for Toddlers**

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0%2C9171%2C1686826%2C00.html>

**November 22**

**Beebe creates task force on after-school, summer programs**

<http://www.arkansasnews.com/archive/2007/11/22/News/344137.html>

**November 24**

**The iPod lecture circuit**

<http://www.latimes.com/news/education/la-fi-podclass24nov24,1,2641233.story?coll=la-news-learning&ctrack=1&cset=true>

**November 25**

**House calls part of schools' prescription for improvement**

<http://www.cleveland.com/education/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/isedu/1195997405111340.xml&coll=2>

**November 26**

**Educators step up fight against a new generation of bullies**

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/front/5328080.html>

**November 27**

**State wants to train educators to improve reading instruction**

<http://www.adn.com/news/education/story/9481398p-9392587c.html>

**November 28**

**Schools are urged to toughen curriculum**

**State adopts college preparatory guidelines**

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/11/28/schools\\_are\\_urged\\_to\\_toughen\\_curriculum/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/11/28/schools_are_urged_to_toughen_curriculum/)

**November 29**

**Short Notice on Plan to Close Schools Angers Council**

**Members, Though Powerless, Vow to Hold Hearings; They See a Pattern in Timing of Fenty Announcements**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/28/AR2007112801656.html?hpid=topnews>

**November 30**

**Stem-cell research pot sweetened**

**The Gates Family Fund will add another \$5 million to the \$6 million it gave to launch the college's program in '06.**

[http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci\\_7595316](http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_7595316)

## **About the Extended Learning and Development Opportunities Project**

The Extended Learning and Development Opportunities Project is housed at CCSSO and is supported through funding from the [Charles Stewart Mott Foundation](#). The project is designed to assist states in developing their capacity to effectively implement the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC), and Supplemental Educational Services programs, as well as other state-based extended learning initiatives.

To submit a news item relevant to extended learning efforts at the state or district level, provide feedback, or to subscribe/unsubscribe, send an e-mail to Morakot Masokas at [morakotm@ccsso.org](mailto:morakotm@ccsso.org). The PDF version of this newsletter is available at the following URL:

[http://www.ccsso.org/whats\\_new/newsletters/elon\\_news/index.cfm](http://www.ccsso.org/whats_new/newsletters/elon_news/index.cfm)

*The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is a nonpartisan, nationwide, nonprofit organization of public officials who head departments of elementary and secondary education in the states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and five U.S. extra-state jurisdictions. CCSSO provides leadership, advocacy, and technical assistance on major educational issues. The Council seeks member consensus on major educational issues and expresses their views to civic and professional organizations, federal agencies, Congress, and the public.*

*Our mission statement: The Council of Chief State School Officers, through Leadership, Advocacy, and Service, assists chief state school officers and their organizations in achieving the vision of an American education system that enables all children to succeed in school, work, and life.*

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