Welcome to the Southeastern North Carolina Dropout Prevention monthly Newsletter. We will be highlighting dropout prevention activities and accomplishments in the region. So please send us your stories, highlights, accomplishments and upcoming events. Additionally, we will give you some notice to local and national events, resources, funding and research.

April 11: Evidence Based Dropout Prevention Program
Melissa Schingler, Vice President of National Accounts, Scholarcentric will present: Assessing and Building Resilience: The Key to Improving Academic Performance and Graduation Rates

Researchers have identified critical, interrelated resiliency skills including motivation, connectedness, and academic confidence that are directly tied to student engagement, achievement and graduation rates. Districts around the country are using resiliency data to more accurately predict which students transitioning into high school will succeed academically and which may struggle and even drop out. This session will review resiliency research and offer participants an opportunity to view mock data and make determinations about causes and interventions. We will get to see assessment tools and evidenced based classroom strategies that improve resiliency and academic achievement for middle and high school students.

Wednesday, April 11: 9-10 am; time available afterward for questions
UNCW Watson School of Education Building Room 162

The event is free of charge and open to all Coalition members. Please RSVP to Dr. Janna Robertson
robertsonj@uncw.edu
April 19: What Works: Innovative Models and Best Practices in Education

Discover what's happening in our partnership districts in 2011-2012! A presentation series sponsored by the UNCW Watson School of Education Outreach Alliance

Thursday, April 19, 2012: Topic: Anti-Bullying Initiatives in Our Schools
Time: 5:00 — 6:00 p.m. UNCW Education Building Room 387

Presentations by teachers and administrators in our partnership districts!
Register online today!
http://www.uncw.edu/ed/whatworks/
For additional information, please contact:
Sommer Lewis, Teacher-in-Residence 910-962-7669 lewiss@uncw.edu

April 26: Dropout Prevention Symposium

The Dropout Prevention Coalition and UNCW Watson School of Education Outreach Alliance are hosting an event to showcase regional success stories. We invite you to be a presenter at the Dropout Prevention Symposium! School Districts or Community Agencies can share what is working to Prevent School Dropouts! Many of you have had wonderful successes this year and we would love to hear about them. To submit a proposal or to attend, please register online by April 18, 2012. You may access the registration electronically by clicking the link:
http://appserv01.uncw.edu/SelectSurveyNET//TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=ml1L7\n\nm94

For more information, please contact John Shannon at John.Shannon@onslow.k12.nc.us or Deloris Rhodes at rhodesd@uncw.edu.

Deadline for Proposals: April 18
The Symposium is free of charge and open to all Coalition Members:
Thursday, April 26th – UNCW- Watson School of Education- Room 162-2:00 -4:30
We hope to have everyone attend!
May 4: Chick-fil-A Leadercast
The Dropout Prevention Coalition and Warner Temple A.M.E. Zion Church will host a Chick-fil-A Leadercast event in Wilmington on Friday, May 4

Chick-fil-A Leadercast is a one-day leadership event broadcast LIVE from Atlanta. Renowned leaders Tim Tebow, Roland Fryer, John D. Maxwell, Andy Stanley, and Soledad O’Brien will speak on leadership issues you face every day. Join local leaders, and an expected 125,000 leaders from around the world at the 12th annual Leadercast event here in Wilmington:

Friday, May 4 – UNCW – Watson School of Education – Room 162: 9 am – 5 pm
REGISTRATION: Before Sunday, April 25th $60.00
To register, call the church office at (910) 763-6308 or email Rev, Clifford Barnett, Chair of the Dropout Prevention Coalition at wwb89c@aol.com. For more information about the event, visit www.chickfilaleadercast.com

Regional Success Stories

REGIONAL SUCCESS STORIES

The UNCW, Watson School of Education has selected four awardees for the Razor Walker Awards. The award has been presented annually since 1993 to individuals and organizations recognized as “walking the razor’s edge” in service to the children and youth of the state of North Carolina. Congratulations to DREAMS of Wilmington, Ms. Linda Wheeler Hayes, Dr. Olson Huff, and Ms. Kathy Stoute, our own Dropout Prevention Coalition Vice Chairperson. Kathy Stoute was nominated in the category of Public Service/Policy by Mr. Zachery Mitcham, a YES Advisory Board Member, who in his nomination statement wrote, “Through Kathy’s leadership and vision, Youth Empowerment Services (YES) has positively impacted the lives of literally hundreds of New Hanover County at-risk youth”.

The Dropout Prevention Coalition in collaboration with the UNCW Watson School of Education Outreach Alliance and the NCPTA had a successful Emerging Leaders Conference. Eighty-nice parents and community stakeholders attended. http://ncpta.org/pta/EmergingLeaders.html

Southeast Education Alliance in collaboration with UNCW Watson School of Education Outreach Alliance hosted Carlton Ashby Effective Strategies for Helping African American Males to Succeed: K-12 on March 23 to 127 educators.
Regional Resources

- We have a new Website! Please check it out at: http://uncw.edu/ed/Dropout/

- We have a new mentoring committee. If you would like to join please contact Claudia Buer at: buerbabe1@yahoo.com

- Would you like to be a graduation project judge? New Hanover High School is soliciting graduation project judges. Please complete the attached Google document (just click on the link below).
  https://docs.google.com/a/ncpublicschools.gov/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dGo3Uy1Zb2dGMUlwRmNzUzhvOENJaG6MQ

Many of our members are currently serving as mentors to high school students on the Senior Project, and we would like to expand this next year. If your school needs judges or coaches for next year, or if you would like to learn more about becoming a mentor please contact Claudia Buer:
  buerbabe1@yahoo.com

Dropout Prevention Information

The National High School Center's Early Warning System (EWS) High School Tool enables schools and districts to identify students who may be at risk of dropping out of high school and to monitor these students’ responses to interventions. The tool relies on student level data available at the school or district including indicators for attendance, course failures, GPA, credit attainment, and behavior (if available) to calculate potential risk for dropping out. The intended purpose is to support students with an increased risk of academic failure, in order to get them back on track for graduation.

http://www.betterhighschools.org/EWS_tool.asp

TIPS FOR PARENTS:

PARENT TEST-SUPPORT STRATEGIES

By Waltrina Barnett

- Note test dates on your home calendar; schedule appointments on non-testing days.
- Encourage your child to take responsibility for homework and class study.
- Help you child learn how to find information independently.
- Praise your child for work done well.
- Encourage your child to ask questions at home and in class.
- Get to know your child's teachers.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences.
- Confer with teachers on a regular basis for progress reports.
- Gather available test preparation materials.
- Assure your child knows that you value a good education.

To read the entire article:

Continued
Are retention policies detrimental to students? Education Week writer Nancy Flanagan cites research that says holding students back in school is arguably a symptom of an "unworkable system" in which students are grouped by age rather than ability.

The American Youth Policy Forum’s brief discusses: Making Every Diploma Count: Using Extended-Year Graduation Rates to Measure Student Success.

Why some students do not speak up in class. This new study, was published in the American Sociological Review and highlighted in the Chicago Tribune.

U.S. Department of Justice launches Web site to improve outcomes for at-risk and delinquent girls.

Workshop presentations, speaker biographies, and additional content from the recent 2012 National Mentoring Summit in Washington, D.C. – Invest in the Future: Mentor a Child – are now posted online.

Funding Sources

- LEGO: Children's Fund Grants
- After-School Advantage Grants
- Ben & Jerry's Foundation: Grassroots Grant Program
- McCarthey Dressman Education Foundation: Teacher Development Grants - April 15
- McCarthey Dressman Education Foundation: Academic Enrichment Grants - April 15
- Captain Planet Environment Grants - May 31
- Humane Society of the United States: Education Mini-grant - November 30

For additional funding sources and national resources please check out the most recent newsletter at the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network at: http://www.dropoutprevention.org/e-newsletters

Note: Please send any items you would like to see in upcoming newsletters to Dr. Janna Robertson at robertsonj@uncw.edu

Any and all typos are the sole responsibility of the newsletter editor-Bill Garmon