Welcome to the Southeastern North Carolina Dropout Prevention 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.

Local Events Update

Join us!
We are cosponsoring the
25th Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM
Investing for a Lifetime: Education Is Economic Development
February 17 - 20, 2013
Embassy Suites at Kingston Plantation
Myrtle Beach, SC

Dropout Prevention Coalition members take the UNCW discounted registration of $210 ($85 will be taken off the individual fee and $25 off the presenter fee). There is also a One-Day Registration Fee of $95 for those individuals who would like to attend for just one day. On the final "Payment Page" enter UNCW13 in the discount code box and click apply (see attached registration procedure).

http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferences/25th-annual-at-risk-youth-national-forum

On Monday February 18, a van will be leaving from UNCW. If you would like to join us let us know.

We currently have several presentations planned. Plus, our DPC chairperson, Rev. Clifford Barnett is a keynote speaker on Wednesday!

Please complete our Transition survey!

In December the Dropout Prevention Coalition held an Education Symposium to showcase success stories in our region. Several presentations featured programs designed to ease the transition from middle school to high school. Attendees expressed a high level of interest in learning more and we are planning to hold a follow-up Roundtable in March entitled "Successful and Innovative Programs to Ease the Transition from Middle School to High School."

At this time we are interested in finding out what arrangements schools have in place to support a successful transition. Please would you take a few moments to indicate whether your transition programs include the following features/programs.

NC Schools in the News!

DROP OUT RATE TRENDS TO ANOTHER RECORD LOW

Key findings of the 2011-12 Consolidated Data Report show that:

- The annual high school dropout rate decreased from 3.43 percent to 3.01 percent for 2011-12 (.42 percentage point decrease).
- A total of 13,488 high school students dropped out in 2011-12 as compared to 15,342 students in 2010-11 (12.1 percent decrease).
- There were dropout count decreases in 70.4 percent (81 of 115) of school districts.
- Excluding the newly reported Pacific Islander group, black students had the largest percentage decrease in dropout count (16.1) followed by white students (10.8) and Hispanic students (9.7).
- Males accounted for 60.3 percent of reported dropouts, which was slightly up from 60 percent in 2010-11.
- Students dropped out most frequently at grade 10 (28.6 percent) followed by grade 9 (26.7 percent), grade 11 (25.3 percent) and grade 12 (17.3 percent).
- Attendance was the reason most cited for dropping out (41.5 percent).

In considering the annual dropout rate, it is critical to note that this rate is not the same as the four-year cohort graduation rate. The cohort graduation rate follows a group of ninth graders across four years’ time and reports the percentage of these students who graduate four years after they begin high school. North Carolina high schools reported a record-high 80.4 percent four-year cohort graduation rate for the class of 2012. A lower dropout rate often corresponds with a higher graduation rate. The annual dropout rate illustrates the number and percentage of students who drop out during one year’s time. Some of these students may return to school in the subsequent year and complete high school; others may drop out multiple times. The four-year cohort graduation rate is considered a more comprehensive picture of this issue.

http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/newsroom/news/2012-13/201301110-02

### Regional Success Stories

Area school districts follow suit in state decline of school drop-out rates

By Presley Baird & Jason Gonzales

Published: Thursday, January 10, 2013 at 12:59 p.m.

Dropout rates hit another record low throughout the state, with two Southeastern North Carolina counties helping lead the charge.

In 2011-12, 3.01 percent of high school students dropped out of school, according to data released Thursday by N.C. Department of Public Instruction. Last year, the state posted a 3.43 percent dropout rate.

The rate includes students who graduate from high school within five years. Here is a county-by-county breakdown of those numbers:

Note: Districts with small cohort numbers will have wider variations from year to year.

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Compiled from:

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**Successful and Innovative Programs to Ease the Transition from Middle School to High School.**

Save the Date! March 21, 2013 1-4:30 pm.
This event will feature successful middle school and high school programs designed to help students successfully transition to the 9th grade, and attendees will have an opportunity to participate in roundtable discussions. Please register with Delores Rhodes: Rhodesd@uncw.edu at the survey below:
Regional News

New Hanover County: Homeless students increasing in New Hanover County: It has nearly doubled in the past 3 years . . .

Pender County: Guys Read Program Expands: In collaboration with Pender Early College High School, Burgaw Middle School has expanded its reading program for boys . . .
http://pendercountyschools.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=3727476&pageId=17295999

Columbus County: ECHS ROCAME Club Attends Health Science Day at UNCW
http://www.columbus.k12.nc.us/

Onslow County: Lejeune Marines help students succeed: 2nd Maintenance Battalion, CLR-25, 2d MLG, Camp Lejeune spent time with Onslow County Learning Center students in November to build relationships and promote education.

Dropout Prevention Information

Regional Resources

- Check out our Website!
  http://uncw.edu/ed/Dropout/
- Local STEM Resources!
  http://uncw.edu/ed/stem/
- More STEM assistance
  http://www.uncw.edu/cestem/

A new report from Jobs For The Future examines the impacts of dual enrollment on college readiness and success.

The 2012 High School Dropouts in America survey, conducted by Harris/Decima on behalf of Everest College, lists reasons younger Americans drop out of high school.
(America’s Promise Alliance)

Developing and Assessing School Culture: A New Level of Accountability for Schools, A Position Paper of the Character Education Partnership (CEP)

Poll: Students less engaged the longer they stay in school
http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20130107/NEWS02/301070025/-1/YOUTUBE/Poll-Students-less-engaged-longer-they-stay-school?nclick_check=1

Economic Conditions at Birth Linked to Behavior in Teen Years

Jack Britt High School, Fayetteville, Recognized by Education Trust
http://www.edtrust.org/dc/success-stories/jack-britt-high-school-1

December 5: Dropout Prevention Symposium was a Success!

We had 90 people attend to hear Sen. Howard Lee present his views of dropout prevention and school reform. Then we had a whirlwind of 15 presentations on exciting successful programs in the Southeastern North Carolina Region. The presentations are posted to our website. The evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. We hope you can attend our future events.
http://uncw.edu/ed/dropout/news.html#dprs
Local Events Update
Continued

All of these events are open to DPC members and guests!

UNCW WATSON COLLEGE OF EDUCATION PUBLIC SPEAKER SERIES

Wednesday, January 30: Our first speaker is Dr. Sonia Nieto, Professor Emerita of Language, Literacy, and Culture at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She will speak on “Finding Joy in Teaching Students of Diverse Backgrounds” on Wednesday, January 30, 5:00-6:30 (Lumina Theater), with a reception starting at 4:00 before her presentation (Clocktower Lounge).
We were asked to co-sponsor the Leadercast event again in May 11, 2013.

We will be requesting new mentors to work with the Youthbuild program.

Additional programs:

Southeast Education Alliance in collaboration with the Watson College of Education Outreach Office. You are invited! Registration is a must, contact Deloris Rhodes rhodesd@uncw.edu

The Collaborative Leader Conference Series:

- **February 4, March 4th, April 23th** - Watson College of Education Room 162-UNCW
- **March 12th** - School Assessment with Dr. Sue Gendrow – Warwick Center Ballroom-UNCW

**Working with Children in Poverty with Dr. Eric Jensen** – April 9, 2013 - Warwick Center Ballroom-UNCW

Note: Please send any items you would like to see in upcoming newsletters to Dr. Janna Robertson at robertsonj@uncw.edu We want to share your news! Please send it as soon as you can get it to us!