



The Coalition Chronicle

E-Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- Mark your calendar: ICEARY Conference, **March 10 & 11, 2009**, Springfield, IL, Crowne Plaza.

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Spring 2008

"The past is a guidepost, not a hitching post."

- Thomas Holcroft

A Message from the President

The weather is warming, flowers are blooming, grants have been submitted, and there are questions as to when the state budget will be passed!!! Spring IS in the air!!!

As we end one school year and begin another we look back over the past school year and glow with pride at our successes and re-evaluate our shortcomings. It's time to think of new beginnings!!!!

In talking with my peers at the ICEARY Conference, many of us wearily decided that this has been a tough year and are glad to see it coming to an end. This does not mean that we are disillusioned or discouraged; it just says that it is time for re-grouping and moving forward. It is great to have that comradeship and spirit of support. ICEARY members provide this support, and I hope that each of you have been able to experience this same connection.

To those who do not work during the summer, enjoy and renew. For those who do continue through the summer, take time for yourself and your family. I hope to see all of you again in the fall ready to start the next cycle!

Please take a moment to enjoy the pictures below. These are students at the Adult Secondary Education Program at John A. Logan College in Carterville. In Clockwise order they are:

1. Geography students practicing map skills
2. ASE students helping prepare meals served and the Thanksgiving meal for community service.
3. Students participating in mismatch day of spirit week.
4. Students serving meals at the Community Thanksgiving dinner.
5. Students working together during Team's Course at Touch of Nature Environmental Center.
6. ASE students divided into team activities at the Day at the Park Activity
7. Students taking tennis lessons after school.

Elaine Parker, President
Illinois Coalition for Educating At Risk Youth

The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May.

- Edwin Way Teale



Service Learning Program

Service learning has been a component of the Educational Therapy Center and Center for Educational programs for many years. Service Learning projects have provided Madison County alternative students with the opportunity to collaborate with staff and engage in community activities with local residents. Favorite projects include an ongoing relationship with the Collinsville Animal Shelter, planning and implementing holiday parties and Earth Day celebrations with the Renfro Elementary preschoolers, and clothing and food drives.

Recently, middle school students

learned the “Cha Cha” and provided lessons to senior citizens at the Maryville YMCA. (They will be back by popular demand in March!)

Clearly, students and staff benefit from working together. Involving other schools and community agencies enhance a sense of civic responsibility. Service learning projects also contribute to the way members of the community view our students.

Check out *The Complete Guide to Service Learning* by C.B. Kaye, M.A. (ISBN 1-57542-133-X) to get a jump start on projects to implement in your



school and community.

This article was submitted by Kim Commack. Kim is the Campus Coordinator of the Madison County ROE Center for Educational Opportunities (Safe School program) and Educational Therapy Center.

2008 ICEARY Outstanding Student Award Finalists

Region:	Student:	Nominated by:	Program:
1	Sandra Aguilar	Walter Perkins III	Prologue Early College High School, Chicago, IL
2	Kory Ladha	Francesca Anderson	North Cook Young Adult Academy, Palatine, IL
3	Daniel Morales	Annette Kurek	Premier Academy High School
4	Alex Baldwin	Nancy West & Julie Male	Right to Succeed Program, Kishwaukee College, Malta, IL
5	John Witherall	Del Sutter	Salt Creek Academy, Athens, IL
6	Katelyn Osler	Stephanie Record	Unit 4 Attendance Improvement Program, Champaign, IL
7	Kyle Williams	JoEllen Anderson	St. Clair County ROE 50 Safe School, Belleville, IL
8	Dennis Chase Skelton	James Eskew	Mt. Vernon Alternative Learning Center, Mt. Vernon, IL

Opinions—Editors, Board, Guest Columnists and ICEARY Members

“It’s not enough to care, We have to calculate, compare and count” - Karen Pittman

Changing the odds for young people requires us to not only be passionate in our commitment to providing high-quality supports and opportunities to all youth, but precise in measuring how well we and they are doing, so that we can make real-time system adjustments. It’s not enough to care. We have to calculate, compare and count.

We need integrated quality improvement systems that not only store data, but

parse it at levels normally found in evaluations. In order to achieve our goals, we need more than gross annual numbers on youth participation and youth outcomes. We need to be able to look for patterns across populations, sort by neighborhood, create profiles and test hypotheses. We need all the data to be linked to individual children.

Is this possible? Absolutely. Cities like Chicago received help from the Wallace Funds, use program participation tracking software that stores basic information about youth. We know which kids get the short end of the

stick year after year, falling further behind. Technology makes it possible to calculate the pitiful returns they and their families are getting on their personal investments in schools and program that literally aren’t worth their time.

How can we not want this data? How could it not impel us to greater outrage and action?

Karen Pittman is executive director of the Forum for Youth Investment. An expanded version of this article is at www.forumforyouthinvestment.org.

National Dropout Prevention Center Updates



2005). It is time for another Illinois winner!

Award Purpose

The purpose of the National Dropout Prevention Network (NDPN) Crystal Star Awards of Excellence in Dropout Recovery, Intervention and Prevention is to identify and bring national recognition to outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of the mission of the NDPN.

Upcoming Events from the NDPC/N:

2008 Crystal Star Award's

The NDPC/N is accepting applications for the [2008 Crystal Star Award Nominations](#) until June 30, 2008. There are three categories for nominations: Individual awards, Program awards, and Distinguished Leadership and Service Award. Illinois has been fortunate to have several individual winners in the past (in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and

Webcasts: The NDPC/N is now presenting monthly Webcasts. They can be viewed at: www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast/. The next scheduled event is "Bullying Prevention" on May 27 at 3:30-4:30 pm EST. Archived topics from the past are also available.

20th Annual National Dropout Prevention Conference will be held in Atlanta, GA on November 16-19, 2008.

Legislature Post Cards

The goal of the post card project is to ensure that legislators hear from those individuals who have benefited from Alternative Program Services in the State of Illinois. We are suggesting you distribute the post cards to students, parents, teachers, administrators to complete and send to state legislators.

Programs around the state should have received these already. Please contact your region representative if you did not receive them.

Please note that a return address (if possible) is a great addition to the card.

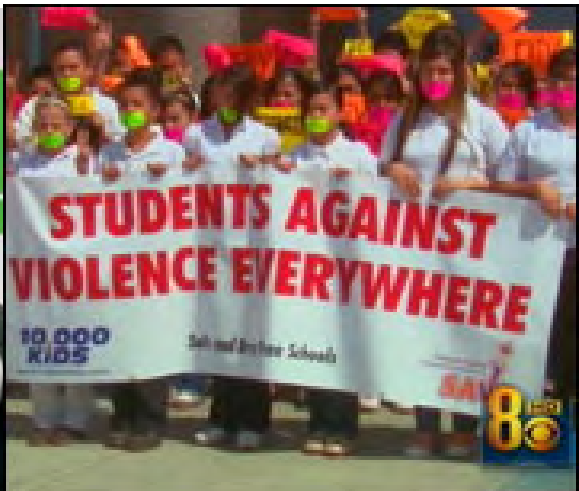
Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Programs & Regional Safe Schools Programs



help students stay in school, graduate, and become contributing citizens of our communities!

Mentoring is a great thing to do. Find out more.

Be A Mentor



Mentoring How-To's

Mentoring is a relationship of trust, friendship, and compassion. As the author Viktor Frankl reminds us, "the meaning of life is to help others find meaning in theirs."

Mentors help others find meaning in their lives. Mentors are needed in many facets of life. Consider reaching out and mentoring a student, co-worker, family friend, neighbor, or anyone who is seeking more meaning in their lives through the guidance of a wise friend.

- ✓ Be a friend.
- ✓ Be a good listener.
- ✓ Be a coach.
- ✓ Share your expertise.
- ✓ Share your career path and experience.
- ✓ Give advice (when solicited).
- ✓ Be trustworthy.
- ✓ Lead and teach by example.
- ✓ Encourage professional dress and demeanor.
- ✓ Help your mentee learn from his/her mistakes.
- ✓ Discourage negative attitudes and behaviors.
- ✓ Encourage a winning attitude.
- ✓ Raise self-awareness in your mentee by asking reflective questions.
- ✓ Encourage your mentee to think critically and analyze situations before taking action.
- ✓ Be committed. Make time to meet your mentee at least once a month.
- ✓ Keep clear boundaries as a mentor and do not "parent" your mentee.
- ✓ Help your mentee set long-term and short-term goals to achieve his/her aspirations.
- ✓ Introduce your mentee to professional associations and/or other valuable career networks to expand their horizons.
- ✓ Take your mentee to a conference or training event to expose them to new ideas and networks.
- ✓ Be genuine and compassionate.
- ✓ Have fun!

More information on mentoring is available at www.mentoring.org. Please reach out and mentor someone today!

This issue's "Practical Wisdom" - SPEA alum Tomja L. Eagan (MPA '94), now Chief Executive Officer, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana, teagan@bbbsci.org or (317) 472-3702.



Successful Strategies 2008



August 4 & 5, 2008
Rend Lake Resort, Whittington, IL

Start your school year with this exciting professional development event! Come and learn about ways to work with hard to reach youth - and have some fun! Topics such as classroom management, truancy, work-based learning, character education and more!!!

Registration: Cost is \$100 for both days. Fee includes breakfast and snack both days and lunch on Monday. Confirmations will be sent via email or fax.

Deadline: Monday, July 14, 2008: Registrations will continue to be accepted after this date on a space available basis, but no confirmation will be mailed. You may reserve your place by fax or mail and make payment at the conference. Fee will be \$110.00 after registration deadline.

Cancellation policy: Registrations must be cancelled by letter or fax. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after the registration deadline, July 14. Transfer of registration to another person may be made at any time.

CPDU's will be available.
Check at the registration desk.

Sessions Include:

- Social Emotional Learning Standards in IL ~ Sexual Abuse ~ Sex Offenders ~ Judges Roudtable ~ Cyberbullying ~ Child Predators ~ RSSP & TAOEP
- Directors' Meeting ~ MySpace/Internet Safety ~ Providing Interventions for the ADHD Child in the Classroom ~ PBIS ~ RTI ~ Social Work ~ Positive Behavior Classroom Management ~

An Administrators' Academy will be offered on Monday - w/ Brad Colwell (special registration required)

Visit www.roe20.k12.il.us for full conference brochure!

Successful Strategies for Working with Hard to Serve Youth is coordinated by the Successful Strategies Committee.

Lodging: Rooms will be held in group block # 1894 (Successful Strategies) until 6/28/08 with a state rate of \$60.00. You may call Rend Lake Resort & Conference Center, 11712 East Windy Lane, Whittington, IL 62897. Ph 618-629-2211 Fax 618-629-2584. www.rendlakeresort.com

Name: _____ School/Program/Agency: _____
 Work Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____
 Work Phone: _____ Fax: _____
 Home Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Registration fee (circle one) :\$100.00, enclosed \$100.00, PO # _____ (\$110.00 registration fee after July 14)

I will be attending the Administrators' Academy on Monday— _____

I need special accommodations _____

Mail Registration to: **Successful Strategies Conference, 307 E. Cherry Carmi, IL 62821, FAX: 618/382-5305**

Questions? Call Shannon at 618/382-5223 or check the ICEARY website at www.iceary.org or www.roe20.k12.il.us

“...Given me a second chance on getting my work caught up quickly and graduating on time and getting me on the right track to college.”



Mr. Lowell and Beacon's Students



Neiman with some of SAVE's Youth Advisory Board Members: Kalynn Kowitz, Wilmot, WI, Brehanna Jordan, North Chicago, IL, and Christian Gonzalez, Montbello, CO.



Neiman with Dr. Pamela Riley, Director of National SAVE and retired Principal.

ROE #11 TAOEP Expansion Grant

The expansion grant is offering an alternative to students with a history of chronic truancy. Mr. Chuck Lowell has been hired to teach in the new alternative education room. Mr. Lowell is energetic, positive, and is quickly making an impact upon the educational lives of his students. The following comments are from Mr. Lowell and some of his students:

The new alternative truancy program is underway in Lerna, IL. The program, designed to meet the needs of students in grades 6-9 up to age 16, has been called Beacons with a lighthouse as its icon. “Beacons are Hope for the lost and caution for the wayward.” is the program’s slogan, and most of the students in the

class will attest to that metaphor. The two main goal of Beacons are to get the students to come to school and get them caught up in their coursework.

The first student was staffed into the program on February 8th, followed by the second student on the 12th. The class now has grown to six students with classroom seating and on-line computers for up to ten students. An average school day consists of journal writing, character education, group story reading, physical education, and art for qualifying students. But mostly, the students are on-task with their on-line academic assignments, diligently catching up on coursework they have fallen behind because

of their truanancies.

To date, four of the six students have a 90% attendance rate or higher and all of the students have completed half a semester of coursework in some of their classes. One student remarked:

“Within the short time I have come to this school, it’s already given me a second chance on getting my work caught up quickly and graduating on time and getting me on the right track to college. I like the program, it’s full of fun and I always look forward to coming everyday. So far, I’ve gotten better attendance and I know when I go back to the high school, I won’t be skipping anymore.”

TAOEP Student Recognized as National SAVE Student of the Year

Raleigh, North Carolina — Neiman Riley, a Senior at North Chicago High School, was recognized by the National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) for his volunteer work and efforts in preventing school violence. The **2007-2008 National SAVE Student of the Year Award** was awarded to Neiman for outstanding performance and lasting contributions to the school, community, and students and for exemplifying the ideals of SAVE. Neiman’s received his award at the 12th Annual SAVE Summit in Raleigh, NC. The SAVE Summit was the culminating event to National Youth Violence Prevention Week across the country (March 31 – April 5, 2008).

Neiman has been instrumental in all SAVE chapter activities, co-leading projects, and volunteering for the mission of SAVE. Neiman has presented safety programs such as “Child Lures Safety” to his peers and younger children throughout his community. He has conducted presentations to train fellow students to work with each other “Student 2 Student”. Mr. Riley displays great leadership qualities for the SAVE Chapter, modeling the behavior, attitude and the

the SAVE Chapter Advisor states, “Neiman consistently exhibits a positive and productive work ethic which has resulted in successful outcomes for numerous SAVE projects.”

“Neiman embodies the ideals of SAVE and is a model for SAVE members everywhere.” stated Dr. Pamela L. Riley, Executive Director of SAVE. “SAVE’s vision is for all students to be able to attend schools that are safe and secure, free of fear, and conducive to learning. As more students join SAVE chapters all across the country, we are moving closer to making our vision for safer schools a reality.”

Neiman also attends Daisy’s Resource and Development Center in North Chicago. He is also in the TAOEP program through PASS (Positive Alternative Student Services) of the Lake County Regional Office of Education.

The North Chicago SAVE Chapter is being highlighted on www.childluresprevention.com, for their demonstrations of the Child Lures program in the community and at the SAVE Summit.

Information regarding SAVE can be found on the opposite page (Page 7).

Article from Youth Today, May 2008

News Briefs

EDUCATION

Dropout Campaign Launched; Will Youth Agencies be In?

The dropout problem is getting a lot of attention lately, and last month brought a new sign of its growing stature as a national issue: It was the subject of a Washington news conference featuring a granola and strawberry breakfast spread, retired Gen. Colin Powell and television news cameras.

The event at Union Station, a few blocks from the Capitol, was sponsored by the America's Promise Alliance to unveil its new Dropout Prevention campaign, which aims to set up dropout summits (100 of them) in every state. To draw the media, America's Promise released a dropout study and filled the stage with some big names, including Alma Powell (its board chairwoman and wife of Colin Powell, the founding chair), U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings, National Urban League President Marc Morial and a couple of U.S. senators.

To garner real national attention – in this year's presidential campaign, for instance – the dropout prevention movement is reaching beyond drawing sympathy for the plight of individual young people, and painting the dropout phenomenon as a threat to the public's safety and wallets. Us-

ing data from the study – for example, that only about half of youths served by the “main school systems” in the nation's largest cities graduate from high school – the speakers said the dropout problem threatens national security and the economy.

Colin Powell noted that the military needs educated and skilled leaders. Morial warned of an “economic tsunami,” saying, “We cannot compete in this changing global marketplace if we leave these young people behind.”

(For more on the report, “Cities in Crisis,” see Report Roundup, page 24.)

No one from the field of youth work was among the unusually large number of speakers at the news conference (10) or in the subsequent panel discussion (six). Researchers, education experts and elected officials dominated.

They were, after all, talking about dropping out of school. Still, one had to wonder what role non-school youth development agencies might play in what America's Promise hopes to turn into a signature campaign. The plan is to hold at least one summit in each state, plus summits in 50 more communities, over two years.

“We'll not just be meeting to talk about the problem,” Alma Powell pledged. The goal is “to build a specific action plan” in the communities.

As for the youth agency role – raised by *Youth Today* during the three-question Q-and-A., with the

other two questions coming from the invited audience – she said, “People who work with youth-serving organizations ... are in the very best position” to help prevent dropping out. “Youth-serving organizations are a major part of this.”

“All of the communities and youth-serving organizations have a role to play, and it is just as important as the schools,” Colin Powell added. He noted that the effort will require contributions not only from educators, but from mentors and other types of youth workers.

The audience of 100-plus did feature several people from key organizations in youth work, including Youth Service America, the Forum for Youth Investment, the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship and Casey Family Programs. The youth speaker at the news conference, former high school dropout Kareema Conda-Barr, is an alumna of YouthBuild.

The campaign is backed by, among others, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Casey Family Programs and State Farm Insurance (the lead sponsor).

For more on youth agencies preventing dropouts, see Jane Quinn, page 18.

Contact: America's Promise (202) 657-0600, www.americaspromise.org.

– Patrick Boyle

“We'll not just be meeting to talk about the problem,” Alma Powell pledged. “The goal is to build a specific action plan in the communities.”

About SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere)

SAVE started at West Charlotte High School (N.C.) in 1989 following the tragic death of a student who was trying to break up a fight at an off-campus party. Students met first to console each other, then as an organization to promote violence prevention and to work together to prevent future incidents from occurring.

The National Association of SAVE is a student-run, student-

initiated public nonprofit violence prevention organization with over 1,700 chapters in 46 states and close to 200,000 members in elementary, middle, high schools, colleges and communities nationwide. SAVE provides education about the effects and consequences of violence and helps provide safe activities for students, parents and communities.

For further information on SAVE, please visit

www.nationalsave.org. Anyone interested in starting a SAVE chapter at their school can contact SAVE at 1-866-343-SAVE to receive free start-up materials and guidance.



North Chicago High School SAVE Chapter Presented Child Lures Prevention Program at SAVE Summit in Raleigh, NC on April 5, 2008.



ICEARY (ILLINOIS COALITION FOR EDUCATING AT-RISK YOUTH)

We Know We are Late with this Newsletter...

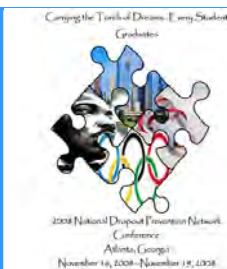
A **big thank you** to all the Regions for contributing and participating in what has been the best ever submission of articles, pictures and information from members around the state. This later time created more end of the year activities featuring our youth working in collaboration with program staff. Please keep those articles coming and don't forget to share this newsletter with our legislators! - Edward Bates and Andrea Kowitz

To those who do not work during the summer, enjoy and renew. For those who do continue through the summer, take time for yourself and your family. I hope to see all of you again in the fall ready to start the next cycle! - Elaine Parker

2009 ICEARY Membership Fees

The ICEARY Membership fees for 2008-09 are **\$40.00**. Make checks payable to ICEARY and mailed to:

Pat Dal Santo
Kane County ROE
210 S. Sixth St.
Geneva, IL 60134-2622



NATIONAL CONFERENCE:
20th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference:

November 16-19, 2008
The Crowne Plaza
Ravina, Atlanta, GA.

SAVE THE DATE—ICEARY Conference '09

Join your colleagues from across the state at the annual ICEARY conference in Springfield, IL, **March 10 & 11, 2009**. Please save the dates! More information will be forthcoming.



Meet the ICEARY Board!

- President**—Elaine Parker
(618) 985-3741 Ext 8349
elaineparker@jalc.edu
- President-Elect**—Stephanie Record
217/621-4664
- Secretary**—Althea Pendergast
217/235-2222 X8383
- Treasurer**—Harold Sweeney
815/316-8450 (Truancy Committee)
- Past President**
Julie Wallerman 618/283-5011

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- Edward Bates
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ebates@lake.k12.il.us

MISSION

The Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth will optimize the positive growth of at-risk youth and those individuals working with at-risk youth through educational program support, training, legislative leadership, information exchange, advocacy, and other support services.

ICEARY Region Representatives

Region	Area	Contact Person	Phone
1	Cook	Rick Dorsey	773/553-2243
2	Suburban Cook	Patricia Crawford	708/709-7138
3	Lake, McHenry, Kane, Kendall, Grundy, DuPage, Will	Ed Bates	847/223-3400 X225
4	Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, Carroll, Ogle, DeKalb, Whiteside,	Janet Kacvinsky	815/652-2054 X241
5	Mercer, Knox, Peoria, Tazewell, Logan, Sangamon, Christian, Montgomery, Morgan, Scott, Pike, Adams, Hancock, Henderson, Warren, Fulton, Cass, Mason,	Bonnie Malchow	309/694-5499
6	Kankakee, Iroquois, Livingston, Ford, Vermillion, Champaign, Edgar, Clark,	Dr. Bobbi Mattingly	217/235-4867
7	Clinton, Greene, Jersey, Calhoun, Macoupin, Madison, Bond, Fayette, Effingham,	JoEllen Anderson	618/233-6874
8	Jasper, Crawford, Lawrence, Wabash, White, Gallatin, Hardin, Massac, Pulaski, Alexander, Union, Jackson, Perry, Jefferson, Marion, Clay, Richland, Edwards,	Dorothy Roesch	618/244-8040
	At-Large	Brad Harriman Carl Bopp	618/397-8930 X653 309/477-2290
	Program & Training	Joni Deems	309/837-4821

