



Intermediary Network News Update

March 2009

Welcome to the INet News, a timely update on events, legislation, and resources for INet members designed to support your work in making and managing community connections to support youth in their successful transition to adulthood.

Intermediary Network News & Events

1. **Reinvesting in Our Youth: A New Day-A New Way** **Intermediary Network 2009 Spring Strategic Planning Institute** **Baltimore, Maryland – April 29-May 1, 2009**

Join Intermediary organizations and leaders from around the country for the 2009 Intermediary Network Spring Strategic Planning Institute in Baltimore, Maryland.

[Click here](#) to register or copy the following link into your web browser www.regonline.com/SI09.

The last day to register is Friday, March 27, 2009.

The 2009 Spring Institute brings Intermediary leaders and practitioners together to discover effective and innovative ways to leverage new investments in youth, and to help shape a new national focus on our nation's young people.

New leadership from Washington has been invited to update us on the direction of the Obama Administration and the new congress.

Invitees Include:

- Education and Labor Department Appointees
- Key members from the House, Senate, and Labor and Education Committees

Just Added!!

- How-to-Sessions and Strategy Sessions to help in implementing quality practices.
- Special Session with leadership from Washington to update us on the direction of the Obama Administration and the new congress.

For more information please contact Kellie Noe at knoe@newwaystowork.org or [click here](#).

Member Spotlight

2. **Beyond Tracking: Multiple Pathways to College, Career, and Civic Participation** [Beyond Tracking: Multiple Pathways to College, Career, and Civic Participation](#) is a recently released book on Multiple Pathways. **David Rattray, UNITE – LA/ LA Area Chamber of Commerce** was privileged to author one of the 13 chapters. This chapter and most of the others promote what is basically a school-to-career argument about blending academic with thematic or contextualized learning.

Legislation

3. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Get ready! Last month President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which includes \$1.2 billion for WIA Youth programs including summer youth employment. For more information about the act [click here](#).

Some things you can do right now!

- Contact your partners at the Workforce Investment Board and Youth Council.
- Offer help. Let them know that you are ready to work with them to prepare and support youth.
- Think about internships and projects that you could host this summer.
- Start getting your youth ready.
- Engage new partners, especially those working with older youth since the program age has been extended to 24.

4. Promoting Innovations to 21st Century Careers Act, S.3573, Senator Patty Murray

This bill will provide incentives for communities, employers and schools to work together and identify ways to open up “career pathways” that help our students get the knowledge and skills they need to succeed by providing for:

- **New Resources** – The bill establishes \$912 million in federal grants that can be used by state and regional partnerships to help students move from high school, to a wide array of post-secondary education options, to skilled careers.
- **Strong Partnerships** – It requires state and regional partnerships applying for funding to include representatives from high schools, post-secondary education, business, labor, workforce, and economic development.
- **Innovation** – It encourages state and regional partnerships to develop career pathways for high school students that include counseling, mentoring, work-based experiences, and assistance in obtaining degrees, apprenticeships, and other postsecondary credentials.
- **Real Accountability** – The bill incorporates measures to evaluate the success of state and regional efforts, including reports to Congress.

For more information [click here](#).

Resources

5. Report: Middle School Central to College, Work Preparation

Fewer than 20% of U.S. eighth-graders are on track for college and many are unable to catch up during high school, according to a new ACT report based on 216,000 students who took precursors to the college-entrance exam in the eighth and tenth grades. "What we're saying is college and career readiness is a process that includes high school but is not exclusively a high school issue. It's a K-12 issue," said Cyndie Schmeiser, president of ACT's education division. For more information [click here](#).

6. Pathways to Graduation: Data-Driven Approaches to Addressing the Graduation Crisis

District leaders in cities such as New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, Portland (Oregon), and Chicago are creating promising strategies to re-engage students who are slipping off-track to graduation and to get them on their way to a diploma. The approach is referred to collectively as Multiple Pathways to Graduation. More than a program, this framework represents a new way of envisioning the path towards graduation. Instead of assuming a linear process proceeding step by step towards graduation, Multiple Pathways to Graduation operates on the assumption that districts must focus on early indicators, offering increased responsiveness, flexibility and differentiated levels of support to help all students graduate. This guide, built upon the emerging lessons from successful districts nationwide, is designed to help districts plan a comprehensive reform process to increase graduation rates for all students. To view the report [click here](#).

7. College Access & Opportunity Guide

A comprehensive college guidebook aimed to prepare first-generation and traditionally underserved college-bound students for college and to help these students understand the many college opportunities that exist for them. Features in-depth profiles of over 220 colleges and universities identified for their commitment to serving and supporting students from first-generation, underserved backgrounds. Comprehensive profiles highlight the outreach efforts, scholarship and financial aid opportunities, and support and retention services that each institution offers. To view the report [click here](#).

8. The 1st Report to the Nation on Youth Courts and Teen Courts: 1993 to 2008

This national report documents significant highlights and events over a fifteen (15) year period of unprecedented and historic growth of this groundbreaking American Juvenile Justice program that utilizes volunteer youth to help sentence their peers. The report begins in 1993, when fewer than 75 local youth and teen courts existed in just about a dozen states. The report concludes 15 years later in 2008, when more than a record 1,000 local communities operate these local juvenile justice programs. Historic numbers of youth and adults are now involved, as more than 111,868 juvenile cases were referred to local youth and teen courts and more than 133,832 volunteers, to include both youth and adults who volunteered to help with the disposition and sentencing of these juvenile cases. The report was researched and written by Scott Bernard Peterson. To view the report [click here](#).

9. Measuring Skills for the 21st Century

Leaders in government, business, and higher education are calling for today's students to show a mastery of broader and more sophisticated skills like evaluating and analyzing information and thinking creatively about how to solve real-world problems. But standing in the way of incorporating such skills into teaching and learning are widespread concerns about whether or not they can be measured. In *Measuring Skills for the 21st Century*, Senior Policy Analyst Elena Silva argues that they can indeed be measured accurately and can serve as common metrics of student achievement. Silva examines a number of new assessment models that do this and that demonstrate the potential to measure complex thinking skills at the same time that we measure a student's mastery of basic skills and knowledge. These emergent models, she concludes, are critical to meeting our educational goals—to ensure that teachers and students can monitor and improve the learning process—and our accountability goals—to ensure that schools are giving all students what they need to succeed. To view the report [click here](#).

10. Finding Resources to Support Mentoring Programs and Services for Youth

This brief highlights three strategies that leaders and stakeholders can use to finance and sustain mentoring programs and services for youth. These strategies include building partnerships with businesses and foundations, conducting community fundraising to generate revenue, and maximizing public revenue. In addition, it provides information on 25 federal funding sources that can be used to finance and sustain these programs. To view the report [click here](#).