

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. This edition of INet News describes the exciting work being done by the Intermediary Network Practice Communities.

Intermediary Network News & Events

1. **[If You Haven't Already Registered - Register Now!](#) 2008 Intermediary Network Spring Institute – April 30th – May 2nd, 2008**

2. **The Intermediary Network Practice Communities—Update!**

- **Policy Practice Community**

Participants in this Practice Community focus on creating a Policy Framework for the Intermediary Network looking at national, state, and local opportunities.

- **Leadership Development Practice Community**

Participants in this Practice Community discuss opportunities and strategies to grow leadership within the Intermediary Network and organizations.

- **Evaluation Systems Practice Community**

Participants in this Practice Community meet to explore effective ways to use data to drive programming decisions and increase resources at the local level, as well as for the network as a whole, to measure the efficacy of intermediary practice.

- **After School and Out-of-School Time Practice Community**

Participants in this Practice Community focus on strategies for working with youth during after school and out-of-school time to help disconnected youth make successful transitions to adulthood.

- **Workplace Partner Engagement Practice Community**

Participants in this Practice Community focus on quality practices supporting career preparation and transition to work.

- **School Improvement and Supports Practice Community**

Participants in this Practice Community discuss the quality practices that support high school improvement and ensuring academic success and the transition to college for all youth.

- **Out-of-School Youth Practice Community**

Participants in this Practice Community connect with staff from leading national youth-focused organizations as well as with colleagues from intermediaries dedicated to supporting youth who are out-of-school.

Member Spotlight

3. Congratulations Iowa INet!!

Resources

4. **McDiploma**
 5. **The National Fund for Workforce Solutions: A History of Collaboration**
 6. **Winning the Skills Race and Strengthening America's Middle Class: An Action Agenda for Community Colleges**
 7. **Cities in Crisis: A Special Analytic Report on High School Graduation**
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Intermediary Network News & Events

1. [If You Haven't Already Registered - Register Now!](#) 2008 Intermediary Network Spring Institute – April 30th – May 2nd

Please join Intermediary Organizations and leaders from around the country in Santa Fe, New Mexico, a world-renowned travel destination unparalleled in richness of history, heritage, arts and culture for the 2008 Intermediary Network Strategic Planning Institute and to celebrate the Intermediary Network's 10 year anniversary. This year's Institute will focus on strategies and practices used by local Intermediaries to connect youth (especially our most vulnerable youth and those who are at risk of being left behind) to supports that help prepare them for a successful transition to adulthood. For the first time, the 2008 Strategic Planning Institute will also include two Pre-Forum Super Sessions – Serving Out-of-School Youth and Leadership Development.

For additional information, please see the [2008 Spring Strategic Planning Institute Fast Facts](#) information or contact Kellie Noe knoe@newwaystowork.org.

2. The Intermediary Network Practice Communities—Update!

The Intermediary Network Practice Communities provide a vehicle for members to share quality practice, identify areas of potential collective work, and explore topics of common interest in topical areas. Practice Community members define the content of the calls and periodically invite guests to serve as experts on particular topics of interest. Practice Community members also help determine the agenda for the Annual Spring Strategic Planning Institute and Fall Leadership Forum and contribute to the INet professional development and policy agendas.

- **Policy Practice Community**

The Policy Practice Community is continuing to develop the Intermediary Network Policy Framework that was first drafted at the Intermediary Network 2007 Fall Leadership Forum. A revised version of the Policy Framework was presented at the United States Conference of Mayors Workforce Development Council Annual Winter Meeting. The Practice Community will present a further developed Policy Framework at the 2008 Intermediary Network Spring Strategic Planning Institute.

[Join the group!](#)

- **Leadership Development**

The Leadership Development Practice Community is currently working on a proposed governance structure and leadership development plan for the Intermediary Network. This Practice Community is also creating the design and content for the 2008 Intermediary Network Spring Strategic Planning Institute Pre-Institute Super Session on Leadership Development.

[Join the group!](#)

- **Evaluation Systems Practice Community**

The Evaluation Systems Practice Community is focused on Intermediaries impact on local systems. Over the past few months, New Ways to Work and Public/Private Ventures, along with support from the Practice Community, have been working to develop a concept paper to describe the impacts of Intermediaries over the last ten years through the Intermediary Network. The Practice Community is proposing a three-phased approach to the systems evaluation development process. This valuable conversation will continue at the 2008 Intermediary Network Spring Strategic Planning Institute.

[Join the group!](#)

- **After School and Out-of-School Time Practice Community**

The After School and Out-of-School Time Practice Community participants have been sharing valuable resources and program information with one another. Content experts have and will be participating in audio conferences to talk about their work in the field and current trends in the After School and Out-of-School Time community, especially at the high school level. This community looks forward to sharing promising practices, resources, and discussing opportunities to connect the After School arena to Workforce Development at the 2008 Intermediary Network Spring Strategic Planning Institute.

[Join the group!](#)

- **Workplace Partner Engagement Practice Community**

The Workplace Partner Engagement (WPE) Practice Community has identified six goals for their group. They have begun to prioritize these goals and will continue this work at the Spring Strategic Planning Institute. At the Spring Strategic Planning Institute, the Practice Community plans to share promising practices and workplace partner engagement strategies and resources used by members. Of particular interest to the group are strategies used with employers who have reached hiring capacity. The Practice Community has also been developing a matrix of national employers engaged with INet members.

[Join the group!](#)

- **School Improvement and Supports Practice Community**

The School Improvement and Supports Practice Community participants have been sharing quality practices and resources that support high school improvement with one another. The group has also been working to identify indicators that exhibit the success of Intermediary support for school improvement. This Practice Community looks forward to sharing information and compiling indicators at the 2008 Intermediary Network Spring Strategic Planning Institute.

[Join the group!](#)

- **Out-of-School Youth Practice Community**

The Out-of-School Youth Practice Community has been continuing the valuable work that began at the 2007 New Ways to work Innovations Symposium and continued at the 2007 Intermediary Network Fall Leadership Forum Serving Out-of-School Youth Pre-Session. Through ongoing conversations, this group plans to bring forward a single framework that outlines the work of Intermediaries with Out-of-School Youth at the 2008 Intermediary Network Spring Strategic Planning Institute that will contribute to the INet National Policy Framework. This Practice Community has also began planning the 2008 Spring Strategic Planning Institute Serving Out-of-School Youth Pre-Session.

[Join the group!](#)

INet Members and partners of members may participate in any of the Practice Community Audio Conferences. To sign up for a Practice Community please visit the Intermediary Network website at www.intermediarynetwork.org. If you have any questions please contact Kellie Noe at 707-824-4000 x 33 or knoe@newwaystowork.org.

Member Spotlight

3. Congratulations Iowa INet!

In the 2005 Legislative Session, Representative Dave Jacoby introduced a bill that became HF 858 and was unanimously passed and signed into law. This bill created the policy framework and fund to enable the model of intermediary work known as The Workplace Learning Connection to be replicated as a peer network of practice across the state. The convening of potential partners began in November 2006 and was funded by the Iowa Departments of Education, Workforce Development, and Economic Development, as well as several major corporate partners. The creation of a funding stream, per the description in HF 858, which was proposed in the 2008 Legislative Session, would have provided the necessary funds to truly bring the Iowa Intermediary Network to scale and capacity. The amount requested was \$600,000 and although the \$600,000 was cut from the first committee draft, there is good news! Last week the Iowa DED Education and Workforce Development Committee meeting resulted in a recommendation to the IDED that the department move forward on the statewide intermediary network proposal. If approved, funding for the RFP proposals will be from the Iowa DED Battelle Study funds (\$1M) with the Education/Workforce Committee serving as the initial steering committee. Congratulations Iowa!!

For more information please contact Kellie Noe at knoe@newwaystowork.org.

Resources

4. McDiploma

In Britain you can now earn nationally recognized school credits through the employee training program at McDonald's. For more information about [McDiplomas click here](#).

5. The National Fund for Workforce Solutions: A History of Collaboration

In 2007, several national foundations and the U.S. Department of Labor launched *the National Fund for Workforce Solutions*, a \$50 million effort to strengthen and expand high-impact workforce development initiatives across the country. NFWS, which builds on years of important work by many people and institutions both nationally and locally, has the potential to play a major role in improving how workforce development services are funded and delivered. [This report](#) traces how national foundations, smaller local foundations, and government agencies helped to shape this new national workforce development initiative.

6. Winning the Skills Race and Strengthening America's Middle Class: An Action Agenda for Community Colleges

[This report](#) from the College Board's National Commission on Community Colleges makes a number of recommendations around data systems, accountability, and metrics. Among other recommendations, the commission asks Congress to include in a proposed Community College Competitiveness Act of 2008 "an appropriation sufficient to assist the colleges to improve the success rates of their students by bringing the *Achieving the Dream: Community College Counts* research initiative to scale across the country."

7. Cities in Crisis: A Special Analytic Report on High School Graduation

A [new report](#) from America's Promise Alliance has stunning data about the high school graduation rate in our nation's 50 largest cities: only about half (52 percent) of students in the main school systems actually finish high school with a diploma – the number is as low as 35 percent in Baltimore, Cleveland, Detroit and Indianapolis.