

Parent Involvement Resources, Upcoming Meetings & Trainings

A National Movement for Pre-Kindergarten is being Lead by a New Advocacy and Public Education Organization



Pre-K Now was created as a part of a major grant-making strategy of The Pew Charitable Trusts. Originally founded in 2002 inside the Education Trust as the Trust for Early Education, Pre-K Now became a separate organization in 2005. It was Pew's original vision to assist national and state leaders and the public to design and implement sound, research-based policies that support voluntary access to high-quality pre-kindergarten for all three- and four-year-old children in this nation.

Since 2002 more than \$5.5 million has been provided to a small set of carefully selected states that are advancing the pre-kindergarten movement. Pre-K Now's vision is a nation in which every child enters kindergarten prepared to succeed.

The organization collaborates with advocates and policymakers to lead a movement for high-quality, voluntary pre-kindergarten for all three- and four-year-olds. The goal of Pre-K Now is to advance high-quality pre-kindergarten programs for all children. They pursue this goal by:

- providing financial and technical assistance to advocates and other leaders in targeted states to create and fund new public pre-kindergarten programs or to improve the quality of and access to existing programs;
- strengthening the capacity and skills of early childhood advocates and state leaders to secure policy changes and funding; and
- waging a targeted campaign to educate and mobilize key sectors of the public and policymakers at the state and national level about the severity of the American school readiness problem and the potential that high-quality pre-kindergarten for all has for addressing the problem and boosting K-12 student achievement for all children.

Visit Pre-K Now online at: www.preknow.org. Past and present funders include: The Pew Charitable Trusts, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Schumann Fund for New Jersey, the Foundation for Child Development, the Kellogg Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, and the McCormick Tribune Foundation.

The National Community Education Association's Annual Conference: "Community Education: Gateway to Strong Diverse Communities" *Celebrating 40 Years of Excellence* December 7–10, 2005, Renaissance Grand Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri



If you work to improve education, health and services, and cultural and recreational opportunities for all members of your community — from infants to seniors — this two- and-a-half day conference is for you. This conference is a national gathering of community educators in a forum is designed to help you create comprehensive community programs, including community schools, for the 21st century. Whether you're a newcomer or a veteran, experts in the field will fill you in on the latest issues, model programs, best practices, services and products to support you efforts. Come to learn about community education management and professional development, community education programming, after-school programs and the opportunity to explore how community education can create unity in diverse communities.

Keynote speakers on the program include:

- **Wendy D. Puriefoy**, President of the Public Education Network, a national organization of local education funds and individuals working to improve public schools and build the public's support for public education. Her organization has helped many communities establish community schools.

- **Joy Dryfoos**, author of the "Inside the Full Service Community School" and "Community Schools in Action" books. She is known for her leadership in campaigning for full service schools.
- **Eileen Kugler** a mother who shares her experiences in her children growing up in a very diverse high school. She is the author of "Debunking the Myth: Why Diverse Schools are Good for All Kids".
- **Jorge Cardoso**, the new director of the Institute for Responsive Education, brings a rich background developed by working in working with families of students in the bilingual programs in schools in the Boston area. In working on his doctorate at Boston University he studied under Don Davies, a longtime leading advocate for increasing the voice of families and communities in the education of their children.
- **Warlene Gary**, the Chief Executive Officer of the 6 million member National PTA draws from her more than two decades of advocacy for children and families to further National PTA's mission to be a powerful voice for children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education. She is also a great supporter of community schools and Community Education. Warlene will address Community Education as the underutilized resource for schools to connect families and communities to their schools.

Attendance at the NCEA National Conference will provide you with excellent professional development opportunities, allow you to renew old friendships and make new ones, all the while enjoying the best St. Louis has to offer. **To register on-line visit <http://www.ncea.com/conferences/index.cfm> or call 703-359-8973.**

Facilitating Family and Community Connections with Schools Workshop

This workshop is sponsored by the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory's National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools and will provide research-based strategies and resources for those interested in increasing family and community involvement to increase student success. For more information, visit: <http://www.sedl.org/connections/events.html>.

When: November 7-9, 2005

Where: Cheyenne Mountain Resort, 3225 Broadway Valley Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906

Do you need...

- Help in increasing family and community involvement in schools?
- Suggestions for using family and community involvement to support student achievement?
- Strategies for family and community involvement grounded in current research?
- Tips on evaluation strategies for family and community involvement programs?

Who Should Attend: Educators and other professional development specialists who are committed to helping students reach their full potential by using research-based strategies to connect families and communities with schools.

Time and Location: Sessions will begin at 4 p.m., November 7, 2005 and end at noon, November 9, 2005. The workshop will be held at Cheyenne Mountain Resort, 3225 Broadway Valley Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906 (<http://www.cheyennemountain.com>).

Lodging: A block of rooms has been reserved at the special room rate of \$86.00 (plus tax). Call the Cheyenne Mountain Resort at their reservations/toll free line 800-428-8886 and ask for Facilitating Family and Community Connections to reserve a room. To receive this rate, reservations must be received on or before October 15, 2005.

Registration: \$50 per person, please register online at <http://www.sedl.org/connections/events/facilitatingworkshop2005.html>. Registration includes all meals from dinner on Monday, November 7 through lunch on Wednesday, November 9.

Materials: Participants will receive a complete set of training materials, including a detailed facilitation guide, CD with presentation slides, and electronic copies of resource materials.

For more information, contact Maria Rodriguez, Southwest Educational Development Laboratory 211 E. 7th St., Suite 200 Austin, TX 78701-3253 800-476-6861, <http://www.sedl.org>

NCPIE's October Meeting and Presentation

Our next NCPIE meeting is Wednesday, October 26th, at NEA in the State Dining Room. We will meet from 9:00 to 12:00. NEA is located at 1201 16th Street NW, Washington DC. Come at 9:00 for a delicious continental breakfast and networking. The meeting will begin at 9:30.

At this meeting we are very fortunate to have **Esther Parker**, President of Maryland's PTA and Chair of M-PAC, Maryland's Parent Advisory Council, **LaVerne Nicholson Sykes**, Director, Office of Parent Involvement and Family, School, Community Connections, Baltimore City Public Schools, and **Adam Kernan-Schloss**, President, KSA-Plus Communications share with us the M-PAC final report, ***A Shared Responsibility: Recommendations for Increasing Family and Community Involvement in Schools*** August 2005. M-PAC is Maryland's Parent Advisory Council, a statewide group of parents and advocates appointed by State Superintendent of Schools Nancy S. Grasmick in the fall of 2003 to advise Dr. Grasmick and the State Board of Education on parent involvement issues ranging from policy to implementation. M-PAC spent nearly two years studying the current state of parent and family involvement in Maryland and identifying ways to increase the quantity and quality of it. We will learn more about M-PAC, the impact of the final report and the challenges that are still ahead of them to make sure their recommendations are truly implemented.