

GUIDANCE AND PLACEMENT SERVICES DIGEST

Volume 6-Number 1 –August 7, 2008/ Page 1

This Digest is used to transmit information pertaining to the four program components of the Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program: Curriculum; Individual Planning; Responsive Services; and System Support to professional school counselors, placement personnel, career and technical school counselors and administrators at all levels throughout the state.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WELCOME BACK

As we begin the sixth year of the Guidance Digest, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you well as we begin the 2008-2009 school year. We are sure that it will be another challenging yet rewarding year of assisting students with their academic, personal/social and career development. We encourage you to contact any of us when you have questions; while we don't always have the answers, we will do our utmost to help you find the information you seek.

The initial copy of the Digest is sent to a guidance contact selected by the school district. To those of you who are receiving the Digest for the first time as your district's guidance contact, we ask that you help us to help keep others informed by forwarding it to all counselors, administrators, placement personnel, career and technical school counselors, other staff and whomever you think might profit from the information contained within.

If you have difficulties in doing this, contact John Robbins by e-mail at john.robbins@dese.mo.gov.

From the Guidance and Placement Section Staff: Have a great School Year!!!

Bragg Stanley, Director

Kyle Heislen, Supervisor, Mentor Coordinator

John Robbins, Supervisor, Digest Editor

Heather Evers, Administrative Assistant

NEW LOOK FOR WEBSITE

As part of a Department wide revision of the DESE website, the Guidance & Placement section website now has a new look. We encourage you to go to (http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/guidance_placement_index.htm) and see our new design.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

(From time to time, resources that are brought to our attention through ASCA listservs or other means that could be used as part of a guidance program will be listed here. The readers are encouraged to investigate the resources and decide whether or not they are appropriate for their programs. Listing of these resources does not constitute endorsement by either our section or DESE.)

{CURRICULUM}

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS FOR COUNSELORS SCHEDULED; CAN ENROLL ONLINE

The workshops, sponsored by the Guidance and Placement Section at DESE and SuccessLink, will provide professional school counselors the knowledge and skills base to conduct formative assessments of their guidance lessons. Formative assessment results have important implications for instruction. Counselors can use formative assessments to inform curriculum and instruction so that instructional goals are met.

Enrollment can be accomplished on line by going to <https://www.mylearningplan.com/WebReg/Catalog.asp?D=11005> and typing in formative assessment under search terms, clicking on guidance and placement under programs and hitting enter. That will give you a list of dates and locations from which to choose.

A REMINDER:

Sample curriculum lessons for all ages that correspond to the new standards and GLE's may be found on the Guidance E-Learning Center housed in the Missouri Center for Career Education at <http://missouricareereducation.org/curr/cmd/guidanceplacementG/elearning/>

You can also search for guidance lessons on the SuccessLink website at http://www.successlink.org/gti/search/start_search.asp

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Title IX Coordinator, 5th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0480; telephone number 573-751-4212.

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{INDIVIDUAL PLANNING}

MISSOURI CONNECTIONS REMAINS A VALUABLE RESOURCE

We encourage counselors and students to continue to utilize the Missouri Connections system for assistance with individualized education and career planning. For more information about Missouri Connections, contact Renee Bales, Missouri field trainer, at (515-326-1725) or e-mail balesr@kuder.com. You can visit the website for Missouri Connections at MissouriConnections.org.

CONFUSED ABOUT SAT AND ACT SCORES?

The ACT and SAT are different tests that measure similar but distinct constructs. The ACT measures achievement related to high school curricula, while the SAT measures general verbal and quantitative reasoning.

ACT and the College Board have completed a concordance study that is designed to examine the relationship between two scores on the ACT and SAT. These concordance tables do not equate scores, but rather provide a tool for finding comparable scores. To see these tables and explanations about what is meant by concordance, go to <http://www.act.org/aap/concordance/>

ANOTHER NATIONWIDE TESTING DATE ADDED BY ACT

Based on numerous requests and recommendations, ACT will—beginning in 2009—offer a September test date in all states. Although one year away, we hope that release of this information will help secondary and postsecondary educators better plan for the added test date.

“MISSOURI'S HOT JOBS” 2006-2016 IS NOW AVAILABLE

The "Missouri Hot Jobs" flyer is now updated with 2006 wage and 2006-2016 employment projection data provided by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC). Jobs making the list reflect those with better than average occupation outlook through the year 2016. To see the information, which is presented for each of the six career paths, go to http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/documents/MCE_Missouri_Hot_Jobs_2006-2016.pdf

{RESPONSIVE SERVICES}

RESOURCE FOR PARENTS WHO HAVE BEEN OR MAY BE DEPLOYED

ParentLink, which supports Missouri's families and communities by linking parents and professionals to information and resources, has created a healthy parenting toolkit to help talk about deployment, relocation, dangerous work, times of crisis, and other general parenting topics. The materials are provided free of charge and are available on their website for download. To access these materials, go to <http://extension.missouri.edu/parentlink/military.htm>

ANOTHER DEPLOYMENT RESOURCE

Sesame Street has a set of materials for helping very young children (ages 3-5) deal with deployment issues. If you are aware of military families to whom this might apply, they can order through www.militaryonesource.com to receive the materials as a free DVD.

SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK IS SEPTEMBER 7 - 13, 2008.

In order to promote this event along with the National Lifeline, the Missouri Department of Mental Health partnered with the Division of Youth Services to produce a Suicide Prevention Week Poster using artwork created by youth from the DYS St. Louis Region. To download a PDF version of the poster, please visit: www.dmh.mo.gov/cps/issues/suicide/SPWeek.htm

Anyone interested in planning an event for Suicide Prevention Week in their own community may be interested in the free "Info & Media Kit" available online from the American Association of Suicidology: **National Suicide Prevention Week Information & Media Kit** www.suicidology.org/associations/1045/files/Kit2008.pdf

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{SYSTEM SUPPORT}

PLEASE FORWARD THIS MESSAGE TO THE SCIENCE TEACHERS AND OTHERS AS APPROPRIATE.

This '08/'09 school year the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is once again sponsoring environmentally oriented field trips to sites and facilities regulated by the DNR. They accomplished 12 field trips this past year, and expect to double that number this year. They strive to accomplish three interdependent goals throughout the field trip:

1. Increase awareness of environmental issues.
2. Increase interest and motivation to pursue careers in environmental sciences/studies, and
3. Improve understanding of the role of DNR in managing our natural resources.

The DNR will cover all expenses: sub-contract for a bus, up to two substitute teachers, lunch and incidentals. Field trips are generally limited to one busload of students, starting about 8:30 am and return by 2:30 pm. Download an application packet from www.dnr.mo.gov, site directory, and scroll down to "Field trips and career awareness project." If you have any questions, contact James D. Lubbers, Ed.D. Environmental Education Specialist, DNR Field Services Division at jim.lubbers@dnr.mo.gov or call 800-351-4827.

CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS OF NOTE:

A. MISSOURI SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION (MSCA) LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

CONFERENCE will be held on September 6-7, 2008 at Tan Tar A. Information on the conference will be available at <http://schoolweb.missouri.edu/msca/>

B. MISSOURI ASSOCIATION FO CAREER SERVICES (MACS) WILL HOLD ITS FALL CONFERENCE

September 17 and 18, 2008 at the Court Yard by Marriott in Columbia, MO. To see more, go to <http://macs.mo-acte.org/>

C. 41ST ANNUAL MIDWEST SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE will be held September 18-20, 2008 in

St. Louis. For further information and to access online registration, go to <http://www.sswam.org/Conference/conference.html>

D. 2ND ANNUAL MISSOURI NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION (NAME)

CONFERENCE will be held on October 10th and 11th, 2008 in Springfield, Missouri. The theme is: *Achieving Academic Excellence Through Multicultural Education*. To register, contact Dr. Jamaine Abidogun, Missouri State University, Ph: (417) 836-5916; E-mail: JamaineAbidogun@MissouriState.edu

E. MISSOURI SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION (MSCA) FALL CONFERENCE will be held on

NOVEMBER 2-4, 2008 at Tan Tar A Resort. Future information on the conference will be available at <http://schoolweb.missouri.edu/msca/>

F. THE BUILDING BRIDGES 2008 CONFERENCE will be held on November 16-18, 2008 at Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO

On Sunday, November 16 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., two preconference options will be available:

1. R-Factor Learning: Rigor, Relevance and Relationships
 2. Using the High Schools that Work / Technology Centers That Work : Assessment Data to Drive Student Achievement
- To see more information about the conference, go to <http://www.missouricareducation.org/pd/conference08.html>

G. 2008 ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (ACTE) CONVENTION AND

CAREER TECH EXPO will be held on December 4-6, 2008 at the Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, NC. To see further information about the conference, go to <http://www.acteonline.org/Convention/>

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You can also search for guidance lessons on the SuccessLink website at http://www.successlink.org/gti/search/start_search.asp

{INDIVIDUAL PLANNING}

MISSOURI CONNECTIONS: DID YOU KNOW?

For Middle School Students: It allows them to perform cluster and career exploration services and also gives them expanded information on educational options after high school.

For High School Students: It gives them postsecondary school information, apprenticeship information, military information and financial aid information

Please take time to visit the website for Missouri Connections at MissouriConnections.org.

A REMINDER FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS (NASFAA) TO SHARE WITH STUDENTS

Remind students entering their senior year of high school, it's time to research scholarship opportunities to finance their college education. Deadlines for many will occur during this fall semester, according to a new release from the National Association of Student Aid Administrators, to see the release, go to "[Tips on How to Get Scholarships.](#)"

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SHARE WITH YOUR STUDENTS: HIGHER EDUCATION BRINGS HIGHER EARNING POWER AND MORE GOOD REASONS TO GO TO SCHOOL THIS FALL

According to a news release from the Missouri Connections Public Outreach Partnership: “*At every level – associate, bachelor’s or graduate – greater education translates into greater earning power for Missourians.*” To read the entire news release, go to http://www.dese.mo.gov/divcareered/MC_newsroom_educ-attainment_072508.htm

2008-2009 DAY/NIGHT STATEWIDE COLLEGE FAIR CALENDAR IS NOW AVAILABLE

The Missouri Association for College Admission Counseling (MOACAC) has posted the calendar for college day night fairs on its website. To view it, go to <http://www.moacac.org/pdf/MOACACCALENDAR2008.pdf>

TWO PROGRAMS TO HELP STUDENTS: MARCH TO SUCCESS AND ASVAB

March 2 Success is a free no obligation tool that provides educational content to help anyone improve their knowledge and test scores in the areas of Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. The content is provided by Peterson’s, Educational Options and College Options Foundation. To learn more about this program, go to <https://www.march2success.com/index.cfm>

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is another means of helping students in their exploration of career choices. While the ASVAB was originally designed to predict future academic and occupational success in military occupations, Numerous validation studies since have also indicated the ASVAB assesses academic ability and predicts success in a wide variety of occupations. To see more about the ASVAB, go to <http://www.asvabprogram.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=overview.test>

{RESPONSIVE SERVICES}

SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK IS SEPTEMBER 7 - 13, 2008.

In order to promote this event along with the National Lifeline, the Missouri Department of Mental Health partnered with the Division of Youth Services to produce a Suicide Prevention Week Poster using artwork created by youth from the DYS St. Louis Region. To download a PDF version of the poster, please visit:

www.dmh.mo.gov/cps/issues/suicide/SPWeek.htm

Anyone interested in planning an event for Suicide Prevention Week in their own community may be interested in the free “Info & Media Kit” available online from the American Association of Suicidology: **National Suicide Prevention Week Information & Media Kit** www.suicidology.org/associations/1045/files/Kit2008.pdf

{SYSTEM SUPPORT}

NEW LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WORKING WITH AT-RISK TEENS

The University of Missouri Extension and University of Missouri-St. Louis are partnering to offer a new life skills certificate program for workplace and organizational educators, especially those working with at-risk adults and teens.

The Tackling the Tough Skills curriculum is currently being used around the world to teach life skills to hard-to-reach teens and adults, including school-to-work participants, ABE/GED students, alternative and traditional high school students, adult and juvenile offenders, pregnant teens, and the homeless, to name a few.

Participants can earn 1.2 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for the 12-hour training, which will be offered October 14-15 at UM-St. Louis. The program will use the new, revised version of a proven life skills curriculum called *Tackling the Tough Skills™: A Curriculum Building Skills for Work and Life*.

The certificate program equips participants to teach critical life skills related to attitude, responsibility, communication, problem solving, preparing for the workplace, anger management, conflict resolution, critical thinking, self-esteem, teamwork, and dealing with stress.

Rosilee Trotta, LCSW, MU Extension urban youth and family specialist, is the book’s author and the course instructor. The program meets requirements for training funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The fee of \$275 includes a copy of the revised curriculum (\$75 value). The registration deadline is October 10.

Online registration is available at <http://www.umsl.edu/ce/toughskills>.

For more information contact: Rosilee Trotta, by phone at 314-615-7637, or by e-mail at TrottaR@missouri.edu. Or: Roxanne Miller, Regional Civic Communications Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, 121 S. Meramec, Suite 501, St. Louis, MO 63105 by phone at 314-615-7607 office; 636-574-1324 pager or by e-mail at MillerRT@missouri.edu

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PLEASE PASS TO YOUR BUSINESS EDUCATION TEACHERS

Recently the Business, Marketing and Cooperative Education Section at DESE sent notice to their teachers about the opportunity to use free Technical Skill Assessments from National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI). To date, not very many have indicated that they wanted to participate. With the requirements of Perkins IV, everyone will need to look at third-party assessments for completers (those who earn 3 credits in a sequence). This is an opportunity to see how your students score. For more information about these assessments, visit the Business Education website at http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/business_ed_index.htm

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TO DISTRICT GUIDANCE CONTACTS:

There have been a number of changes made in district guidance contact distribution lists for this year. A number of these changes were made within this last week.

To those of you who may be receiving the Digest for the first time as your district's guidance contact, we ask that you help us to help keep others informed by forwarding it to all counselors, administrators, placement personnel, career and technical school counselors, other staff and whomever you think might profit from the information contained within.

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{INDIVIDUAL PLANNING}

MISSOURI CONNECTIONS: DID YOU KNOW?

Improvements and updates to Missouri Connections have been made and will be available in a few weeks. For a sneak peek at what is coming, go to http://www.missouriconnections.org/2008_MOEnhancements.pdf

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION?

This issue of *Edutopia* includes predictions on what might happen in the coming year in education. To see an introduction and access the issue, go to <http://www.edutopia.org/editors-note-creativity-innovation>

CAREER RESOURCE AVAILABLE

The National Career Development Association (NCDA) a division of the American Counseling Association (ACA) has as its' mission the promotion of the career development of all people over the life span.

To achieve this mission, NCDA provides service to the public and professionals involved with or interested in career development, including professional development activities, publications, research, public information, professional standards, advocacy, and recognition for achievement and service. One of the resources from NCDA is a web magazine called **Career Convergence**. To see this resource, go to <http://www.ncda.org/> and click on the icon at the top of the page.

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FREE RESOURCE AVAILABLE

Mapping Your Future, a national collaborative, public-service, nonprofit organization, publishes the *Early Awareness E-News*, a free monthly e-mail newsletter for counselors and educators.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide college, career, and financial aid information, tips, and ideas as you work with middle school and high school students. In addition, the newsletter provides news about Mapping Your Future's services and events. To see more about this or to sign up for this newsletter, go to

<http://mappingyourfuture.org/services/earlyeaenews.htm>

PLTW WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

A Project Lead the Way Counselors and Administrators Workshop will be held at the Missouri University of Science and Technology (MST) on Thursday, October 30. Please forward this information to other teachers, counselors, school administrators, principals and others at your school. For more information, contact Ms. Jackie Robinson, Mo S&T Project Lead The Way; Phone: (573) 341-4148; FAX: (573) 341-6577; Email: Jackie@mst.edu

INTERESTED IN DUAL ENROLLMENT POSSIBILITIES FOR YOUR STUDENTS ?

A report released by Jobs for the Future, "On Ramp to College: A State Policymaker's Guide to Dual Enrollment" (<http://www.jff.org/Documents/OnRamp.pdf>) shows how dual enrollment can serve as an "on ramp" to postsecondary education for students who are otherwise unlikely to attend college. The report also highlights examples of successful statewide dual enrollment efforts and provides a step-by-step plan for policymakers to create successful programs and policies and to assess their current approaches. To see the report, click on the above link.

CAREER CLUSTERS STUDENT MATERIALS AVAILABLE THROUGH MCCE

A new range of materials to promote career development with the Career Clusters framework have been developed and distributed by the Missouri Center for Career Education. Based on demand for the "What's the Plan?" booklet produced and distributed by the Division of Career Education and MCCE last year, new student-focused materials were created last spring. These include a new series of 16 promotional posters, a six-page print trifold titled "What's Your Plan?" and an extended 24-page newsprint version of "What's Your Plan?" that includes an occupational chart for each of the 16 Career Clusters and information for parents.

To view these materials or place an order, visit the MCCE website at www.mcce.org and click on the "Career Clusters Student Materials" link on the left. A sampling of these materials have also been distributed to the regional Tech Prep Coordinators and Career Education Coordinators, and schools are encouraged to contact their regional coordinators for more information. All of these materials are also available through the MCCE website in a printable format.

These print materials coordinate well with the Missouri Connections career development website (www.missouriconnections.org), since both are based on the Career Clusters framework.

Questions may be directed to MCCE Coordinator for Communications Nathan Wittmaier at info@mcce.org or (660)543-8206.

{RESPONSIVE SERVICES}

CRISIS RESOURCE

With the flooding in Missouri, hurricanes this fall and the chance of more types of crises occurring during the year, a resource that can be accessed for help is from the UCLA Mental Health Project. It has a variety of links that may help by providing a variety of resources and materials for use in crisis prevention and response.

To visit this site, go to <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/> and click on the button labeled "Responding to a Crisis".

{SYSTEM SUPPORT}

A RESOURCE TO SHARE WITH TEACHERS

Federal Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE) is a website that makes teaching resources from federal agencies in a number of curricular areas easier to find. To visit this website, go to <http://www.free.ed.gov/>

FREE FALL COUNSELOR WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Title IX Coordinator, 5th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0480; telephone number 573-751-4212.

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The typical workshop agenda includes:

- Counselor advocacy initiatives and activities
- Enhancements to *My College QuickStart* to help students, parents, and teachers
- How to use the new SAT-ACT Concordance Table
- New online tools and services available to better serve students, parents, and education professionals

The Fall Counselor Workshop will be held in Saint Louis on Tuesday, September 16 at Saint Louis University. To sign up for this free Fall Counselor workshop, go to www.collegeboard.com/fcw.

There will also be an **AP** workshop at Saint Louis University HS in St. Louis, MO on Friday, October 17, 2008. To sign up for this one, please visit https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/find_meeting.jsp

INFORMATION ON THE 2009 MISSOURI FINE ARTS ACADEMY AND MISSOURI SCHOLARS ACADEMY

The 2009 Missouri Fine Arts Academy and Missouri Scholars Academy timeline has been posted on the DESE website at <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/gifted/index.html>

Missouri Fine Arts nomination information will be mailed to superintendent in September. Please check with your superintendent to secure the information you will need to submit your district nomination(s).

Please note that nominations for the Fine Arts Academy must be postmarked on or before November 14, 2008. Late submissions will not be accepted.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A SPECIAL REQUEST

Counselor educators at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (Matt Lemberger), Missouri State University (Jeff Cornelius-White), and Southeast Missouri State University, (Jan Ward) are attempting to do a needs assessment to determine interest in a cooperative Ed.D with the three institutions. This would be a degree in Counselor Education with an emphasis in school counseling. Some paper/pencil administrations of this survey are being done, but we were asked to try to get the link out to as many people as possible as they hope to have the numbers crunched by the end of next week. Please access the online survey at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=NPh_2bW2rLNqILk73qvIY_2b1g_3d_3d

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{CURRICULUM}

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Sample curriculum lessons for all ages that correspond to the new standards and GLE's may be found on the Guidance E-Learning Center housed in the Missouri Center for Career Education at

<http://missouricareereducation.org/curr/cmd/guidanceplacementG/elearning/>

You can also search for guidance lessons on the SuccessLink website at

http://www.successlink.org/gti/search/start_search.asp

NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY FOR USE IN CAREER PLANNING

The Missouri Connections Public Outreach Partnership has scheduled two Newspapers in Education series for the 2008-09 school year. This is a new venture for us, and we are really excited about the possibilities of this educational and outreach opportunity.

Newspapers In Education (NIE) is a partnership between newspapers and schools in which teachers use classroom sets of newspapers as an educational resource in a variety of age and curriculum settings. For more information, see the Newspapers in Education website: <http://www.mopress.com/nienews.php>

Here's the schedule:

NOVEMBER - Following the general election, the Department of Higher Education will be presenting in four parts content from its College Road Map: Directions to your Future (<http://www.dhe.mo.gov/files/rm.pdf>). The series will help students plan their "road trip" to a college education, from middle school through senior year in high school.

FEBRUARY/MARCH - Career Paths and Career Clusters will be the next feature. Starting the first week of February, a 7-part series will feature information for students and lesson plans for teachers to introduce and explore the Career Clusters and 6 Career Paths. Of course, resources, such as MissouriConnections.org, will be included.

[Nathan Wittmaier and Bragg Stanley are working on the development of the content.]

GUIDANCE AND PLACEMENT SERVICES DIGEST

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{INDIVIDUAL PLANNING}

MISSOURI CONNECTIONS: DID YOU KNOW?

In a Special Transmission sent out Monday Sept 15, it was announced that Missouri Connections, an online resource for career planning, has transitioned to an enhanced 2008-09 version. The enhanced version can be accessed at <http://www.missouriconnections.org>

If you have any questions regarding Missouri Connections or need assistance logging in to your administrative database, please contact the Kuder Customer Support Department at 877.999.6227 or e-mail support@kuder.com. If you would like to schedule training on the system, please contact Renee Bales, Missouri Connections Field Trainer, at 515.326.1725 or balesr@kuder.com.

NEW ISSUE OF KUDER NEWS AVAILABLE.

The Summer/Fall issue of *Kuder User News*, the quarterly newsletter for those that use, teach, and administer Kuder systems as well as those that are interested in career planning, is now available! To access it, go to http://www.kuder.com/news/vol7_no1/

{RESPONSIVE SERVICES}

SHARE WITH PARENTS AND COACHES: THE PARTNERSHIP AND MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL LAUNCH "PLAY HEALTHY"

The Partnership for a Drug-Free America and Major League Baseball are proud to introduce a new online resource to educate teens about the dangers of steroids and other performance enhancing substances and encourage them to "Play Healthy."

In addition to comprehensive information about the risks of performance enhancing substances, the site provides parents, caregivers and coaches with the tools to communicate with teens and drive home the message that it's not worth risking their health to get ahead in sports.

Parents and coaches can [download a free Talk Kit](#) to help guide conversations about the value of healthy competition among young athletes, and a new blog, Coaches Corner, offers a place to connect with others on this important health issue.

Visit drugfree.org/playhealthy now, and learn how to help keep teens on a healthy track.

A BACK TO SCHOOL RESOURCE FROM THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION SAMHSA TO SHARE WITH PARENTS

SAMHSA's Family Guide Web site dedicates an entire section to "Back to School" resources. Everything from helping with homework or issues making friends, to dealing with the back-to-school blues is covered. To access this resource, go to [HTTP://WWW.FAMILY.SAMHSA.GOV/SET/SEPTEMBERBACKTOSCHOOL.ASPX](http://www.family.samhsa.gov/set/septemberbacktoschool.aspx)

{SYSTEM SUPPORT}

HELP NOMINATE A TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The Missouri Society of the Sons of the American Revolution sponsors the Missouri Graham Clark Teacher of the Year Award. This award will recognize a teacher from a Missouri elementary, middle/junior high or high school, public or private, who by his or her actions in the classroom or school setting, "perpetuates the memory of those patriots who, by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American People." The award will be made at the annual meeting next April. The State Winner then competes for national competition where the prize is the Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award. The winner will receive a trip to Freedoms Foundation Summer Teacher Graduate Workshop at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. This award, valued at over \$1,400.00, will include tuition, room, and board provided through the Freedoms Foundation. Transportation expenses will be limited to \$400.00. The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution will provide this professional educational opportunity to an educator who will bring back to the classroom a heightened level of creativity and enthusiasm to their students of the American Revolutionary era. Submissions may be in hard or electronic copy (**Electronic copy preferred**).

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Title IX Coordinator, 5th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0480; telephone number 573-751-4212.

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Superintendents, Principals and others should nominate deserving teachers with the following format: The application needs to include the following:

Nominee Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

School:

School Phone Number:

Why this teacher should be recognized with this award:

Biographical summary of the nominee (required):

The winning teacher will be a guest of the Missouri Society Sons of the American Revolution in April 2009

Completed nominations must be submitted to the chapter by close of business Friday, January 16, 2009.

Submit completed applications to: Bragg Stanley, 511 Nancy Dr., Columbia MO 65203

Jbstanley_2000@Yahoo.com

A RESOURCE FOR INFORMATION REGARDING EDUCATION

Established in 2002, the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) is a central and trusted source of scientific evidence for what works in education. An initiative of the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences, the WWC: Produces user-friendly practice guides for educators that address instructional challenges with research-based recommendations for schools and classrooms;

Assesses the rigor of research evidence on the effectiveness of interventions (programs, products, practices, and policies), giving educators the tools to make informed decisions;

Develops and implements standards for reviewing and synthesizing education research; and

Provides a public and easily accessible registry of education evaluation researchers to assist schools

To visit this resource, go to <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>

CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS OF NOTE:

A. 41ST ANNUAL MIDWEST SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE will be held **September 18-20, 2008 in St. Louis**. For further information and to access online registration, go to

<http://www.sswam.org/Conference/conference.html>

B. 2nd Annual Missouri National Association of Multicultural Education (NAME) Conference will be held on **October 10th and 11th, 2008** in Springfield, Missouri. The theme is: *Achieving Academic Excellence Through Multicultural Education*. To register, contact Dr. Jamaine Abidogun, Missouri State University, Ph: (417) 836-5916

E-mail: JamaineAbidogun@MissouriState.edu

C. MISSOURI SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION (MSCA) FALL CONFERENCE will be held on **NOVEMBER 2-4, 2008 at Tan Tar A Resort**. Information on the conference is available at

<http://schoolweb.missouri.edu/msca/>

D. THE BUILDING BRIDGES 2008 CONFERENCE will be held on **November 16-18, 2008 at**

Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO

On Sunday, November 16 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., two preconference options will be available:

1. R-Factor Learning: Rigor, Relevance and Relationships

2. Using the High Schools that Work / Technology Centers That Work: Assessment Data to Drive Student Achievement

To see more information about the conference, go to <http://www.missouricareeducation.org/pd/conference08.html>

E. 2008 ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (ACTE) CONVENTION AND

CAREER TECH EXPO will be held on **December 4-6, 2008 at the Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, NC**. To

see further information about the conference, go to <http://www.acteonline.org/Convention/>

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GUIDANCE AND PLACEMENT SERVICES DIGEST

Volume 6-Number 5 –October 3, 2008/ Page 1

This Digest is used to transmit information pertaining to the four program components of the Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program: Curriculum; Individual Planning; Responsive Services; and System Support to professional school counselors, placement personnel, career and technical school counselors and administrators at all levels throughout the state.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MISSOURI CENTER FOR CAREER EDUCATION OFFERS PRIZE

You could win a free set of 16 Career Clusters occupational posters. All you need to do is submit a brief online review or comment for any item in the [Resources@MCCE](http://resources.mcce.org) free loan library. Your name will be submitted one time for each valid comment or review you submit in the library system. We will draw two names each week from October 3 through December 19 for a free set of 16 Career Clusters posters.

The Career Clusters poster set is a \$16 value. To see the posters, visit the following webpage:

<http://missouricareereducation.org/project/clusterpubs>

Visit the library at <http://resources.mcce.org> to post your review or check out items for your classroom.

Valid comments or reviews reference a specific item in the library or another review or comment for an item. Your comment or review must be relevant to the specific resource item where it is submitted to qualify for this drawing. No inappropriate language is permitted.

Some suggestions for reviews and comments:

Rate how well an item worked for your classroom.

Share how you used an item with your classes.

Post web resources that complement an item in the library. All URLs posted in reviews will automatically become hyperlinks when they appear on the website.

Address the appropriateness of a resource for a grade level or course.

Respond to another member's review of an item.

If an item worked for your class, let your fellow library members know. If an item didn't work for your class, this is also good to share with your fellow library members.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

(From time to time, resources that are brought to our attention through ASCA listservs or other means that could be used as part of a guidance program will be listed here. The readers are encouraged to investigate the resources and decide whether or not they are appropriate for their programs. Listing of these resources does not constitute endorsement by either our section or DESE.)

{CURRICULUM}

FREE STANDARDS-BASED LESSON PLANS AVAILABLE

The Verizon Foundation has created a website "Thinkfinity" with free educational resources that includes interactive, 21st Century skills and professional development information. To visit the site, go to

<http://www.thinkfinity.org/EducatorHome.aspx>

{INDIVIDUAL PLANNING}

"SOFT SKILLS" GIVE STUDENTS AN EDGE: HIGH SCHOOLS PILOT CAREER PREP CERTIFICATE

A new certificate program being piloted in 29 Missouri schools this fall emphasizes the need for students to develop soft skills alongside their academics.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) launched the Career Prep Certificate Program in response to 2006 state legislation that required the development of a "ready-to-work" endorsement program. Members of the business community and the education community worked together to determine the components of the voluntary program.

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The 29 schools piloting the program are spread across four projects, three in individual school districts and one a consortium made up of 22 schools in East Central Missouri. While most of the pilots are using this year to plan and promote the program, there will be seniors who graduate in May with the new Career Prep Certificate, in addition to their regular diploma.

The exact requirements for the certificates will vary across the pilot projects because each certificate will be tailored to the needs and desires of area businesses. However, all of the certificates will include some assessment of soft skills, such as attendance habits, professional and ethical behavior, and interpersonal skills, along with traditional academic indicators such as grades, test scores, and occupational training and certification. Certificates could also include information about graduates' community service hours, extracurricular activities, awards and honors.

Meanwhile, a new report to be released from the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) in October stresses the importance of soft skills. The most common shortcomings of recent job applicants, as reported by Missouri employers, involve a lack of such skills as attitude, work ethic and customer service.

"Everyone says kids need the basics, and we agree," said Steve Coffman, director of Employment Training at DESE. "But in today's world, the 'new basics' include applied skills and people skills, such as communication, critical thinking and problem-solving — not just the three Rs. Through the Career Prep Certificate Program, we're making sure students know what employers expect, and we're providing employers with a tool to ensure chosen applicants are ready for the workforce."

The Four Pilot Projects:

Fort Osage School District, Independence

Maryville School District

North Kansas City School District

East Central Consortium (22 schools)

MISSOURI YOUTH PORK AMBASSADOR PROGRAM OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Missouri Pork Association is continuing its youth program to help promote youth involvement in the swine industry. The Missouri Youth Pork Ambassador program is one that combines a scholarship opportunity with the chance to actively participate in Missouri's pork industry. The Ambassador will receive a \$1,000 scholarship, payable to a technical school, community college or a four-year university, as well as many opportunities to increase their knowledge of the pork industry.

The Missouri Youth Pork Ambassador Program will help youth develop strong relationships with both pork producers and allied industry members. It is an opportunity to learn about pork production and the industry and to improve communication and leadership skills. The main goal of the Ambassador is to promote the Missouri Pork Association and the pork industry at various events. The Ambassador will gain valuable experience and develop relationships that will last a lifetime.

As the Missouri Youth Pork Ambassador, participants will attend various events throughout the year including the University of Missouri Pork Institute, Missouri Pork Classic golf tournament, the Governor's Conference on Agriculture, the Missouri State Fair and the Missouri Pork Expo. Participants will also be given the opportunity to job shadow professionals in the pork industry. Applicants must be a senior in high school up to a sophomore in college as of January 1st of the year they will begin the program.

Applications and three letters of recommendation are due **December 15, 2008**. Visit www.mopork.com/youth_youthporkambassador.asp for complete details and an application. You may also contact Diane Slater, director of communications for MPA, at (573) 445-8375.

{RESPONSIVE SERVICES}

The following link will take you to a page with information and some excellent resources for persons with special needs
[HTTP://SIS.NLM.NIH.GOV/OUTREACH/SPECIALPOPULATIONSANDDISASTERS.HTML](http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/outreach/specialpopulationsanddisasters.html)

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{SYSTEM SUPPORT}

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES (Originally sent out on Sept 26)

Formative Assessment for the Guidance Curriculum:

Join us for an inexpensive but very productive professional development opportunity for school counselors. SuccessLink is offering a series of workshops on formative assessment for the guidance curriculum. These workshops will provide professional school counselors the knowledge and skills base to conduct formative assessments of their guidance lessons. Formative assessment results have important implications for instruction including whether or not the lesson/activity is advancing grade level expectations in the guidance content areas.

See what previous attendees have indicated:

75% indicated they had developed new skills and concepts

67% indicated that formative assessment will enhance student performance

83% indicated the workshop was worthwhile and would encourage others to attend

There are dates available October 9 through December 1 and you can register through My Learning Plan which you can now locate on DESE's home page in the right hand column, a-z listing. Sign up now for these informative workshops

Note to second year protégés: If you have not signed up for a ProBE training near you, there is still time to do so. These ProBE workshops will provide you the understanding and skills to conduct results based evaluation which is your second year requirement. Sign up now at My Learning Plan.

Note To counselors wanting to attend the Counselor Formative Assessment workshop at the SuccessLink office on October 17th: You need to register on the SuccessLink website. Go to successlink.org home page; then curriculum; October workshops; counselors Formative Assessment and then register.

ProBE training workshops may be available to others who might be interested in this PD opportunity. If you are not in the mentoring program, but are interested in ProBE training e-mail Bragg Stanley, Director of Guidance and Placement at DESE, bragg.stanley@dese.mo.gov and let him know of your interest.

If you go to the following DESE website and type in formative assessment, it will give you the scheduled dates for the workshops and if you see one that works for you, can sign up for it on that site.

<https://www.mylearningplan.com/WebReg/Catalog.asp?D=11005&S=&G=&L=&AF=&I=&H=1&SDate=3/10/2008&EDate=>

CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS OF NOTE:

A. 2nd ANNUAL MISSOURI NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION (NAME) CONFERENCE

will be held on **October 10th and 11th, 2008** in Springfield, Missouri. The theme is: *Achieving Academic Excellence Through Multicultural Education*. To register, contact Dr. Jamaine Abidogun, Missouri State University, Ph: (417) 836-5916 ; E-mail: JamaineAbidogun@MissouriState.edu

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D. 2008 ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (ACTE) CONVENTION AND CAREER TECH

EXPO will be held on **December 4-6, 2008 at the Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, NC**. To see further information about the conference, go to <http://www.acteonline.org/Convention/>

GUIDANCE AND PLACEMENT SERVICES DIGEST

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This Digest is used to transmit information pertaining to the four program components of the Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program: Curriculum; Individual Planning; Responsive Services; and System Support to professional school counselors, placement personnel, career and technical school counselors and administrators at all levels throughout the state.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A FOND FAREWELL

At the end of this month, Kyle Heislen, a Supervisor in the Guidance and Placement Section at DESE since 2000, will be leaving to assume new duties in Federal Grants Management Section in the Division of School Improvement at DESE. We appreciate his many contributions during his time with Guidance and Placement and wish him well in his new position.

In the near future, the official notice of the Supervisor Vacancy in Guidance and Placement will be posted and we will then begin accepting applications for this position.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

(From time to time, resources that are brought to our attention through ASCA listservs or other means that could be used as part of a guidance program will be listed here. The readers are encouraged to investigate the resources and decide whether or not they are appropriate for their programs. Listing of these resources does not constitute endorsement by either our section or DESE.)

{CURRICULUM}

TIME FOR A NEEDS ASSESSMENT?

If you need to do a Missouri Guidance Planning Surveys (Needs Assessment) this year, remember that the Assessment Resource Center has one available that utilizes the latest standards and GLE's. To get further information about this and to access their online catalog, go to http://arc.missouri.edu/index.php?p=/K12/K-12Ser_DownloadCat.htm

{INDIVIDUAL PLANNING}

COLLEGE/SCHOLARSHIP FAIR FOR THE CLASS OF 2009 IN KANSAS CITY AND ST. LOUIS

The Infinite Scholars Program, a leader in recruiting minority students for college is hosting this fair. Don't Miss An Opportunity To Go To College With A Full Or Partial Scholarship. Some Colleges Will Be Accepting Students And Awarding Scholarships On Site.

There is no cost to attend, but students need to register on-line at www.mohela.com/infinitescholar

Saturday February 21, 2009

Marriott Hotel, Downtown
Kansas City, MO
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Saturday February 28, 2009

Airport Marriott Hotel
St. Louis, MO
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Students Need To Bring Multiple Copies Of:

- High school transcripts
- ACT/SAT scores
- Two letters of recommendation
- Resume
- On line registration ticket for entry

The program is free and open to the public regardless of race or ethnic origins.

Contacts:

- Thomas Ousley, 314-220-3105, infinitescholar2003@yahoo.com
- Glenda Terrill, 573-522-8621, glenda.terry@ded.mo.gov

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MISSOURI CONNECTIONS: DID YOU KNOW?

One of the important features found on the current Missouri Connections website is a feedback survey that allows readers to give information about their use of the system. This feedback will help to continually improve the service and features available through this resource. We encourage you to visit Missouri Connections, and, at the conclusion of your visit, take time to fill out the feedback survey. To visit Missouri Connections, go to <http://www.missouriconnections.org>.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Horatio Alger Association provides scholarships to high school seniors who pursue higher education. Those chosen to receive the scholarships are teenagers who have risen above adversity in their lives to maintain their grades, remain active in their community and participate in extracurricular activities.

To be eligible to apply for the Horatio Alger Missouri Scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- be enrolled full time as a high school senior in Missouri, progressing normally toward graduation, and planning to enter college no later than the fall following graduation;
- have a strong commitment to pursue a bachelor's degree at an accredited institution located in the United States (students may start their studies at a two-year institution and then transfer to a four-year institution);
- critical financial need (\$50,000 or less adjusted gross income per family is preferred; if higher, an explanation must be provided);
- involvement in co-curricular and community activities;
- demonstrate academic achievement (minimum grade point average of 2.0);
- be a resident of Missouri; and
- be a citizen of the United States

To apply for the scholarship, go to <http://www.horatioalger.org/scholarships/apply.cfm>

{RESPONSIVE SERVICES}

RESOURCE TO UTILIZE:

The Guidance Channel Ezine is an online portal that offers access to an online magazine including insightful articles, thought-provoking interviews, tips, website reviews, and other content that addresses the social, emotional, and educational issues facing today's youth. To visit it, go to [HTTP://GUIDANCECHANNEL.COM/](http://GUIDANCECHANNEL.COM/)

MENTAL HEALTH PARITY NOW A LAW

For more than a decade, the American Counseling Association (ACA) and the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA) have been working with other mental health and addictive disorder advocacy organizations to gain the enactment of a federal law to help end discriminatory insurance coverage of mental health and addictive disorder services. This goal was realized with the enactment of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, as part of broad economic rescue and tax policy extension legislation.

The parity law's requirements will apply to group health plans for plan years beginning one year from now. Starting then, health plans covering more than 50 employees will be prohibited from using different deductibles, copayment requirements, or treatment limits for mental health and addictive disorder services than are used for other types of covered care.

ACA and AMHCA devoted significant time and energy into pushing the parity legislation, and will continue working alongside other mental health advocacy organizations on the development of regulations to implement the new law. Their work would not have succeeded, however, without grassroots advocacy by counselors. They sincerely thank their members who contacted their Senators and House members over the years to push for passage of this legislation.

For more information on the new parity law, please contact either Scott Barstow, ACA Director of Public Policy and Legislation (800-347-6647 x234, e-mail: sbarstow@counseling.org) or Beth Powell, AMHCA Director of Public Policy and Professional Issues (800-326-2642, ext. 105, e-mail: bpowell@amhca.org).

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{SYSTEM SUPPORT}

WORKSHOPS FROM THE COLLEGE BOARD:

A. AP Fellows Scholarship

The College Board is offering AP Fellows Scholarship to AP teacher at schools that serve a majority of underrepresented students of color or low-income students. Each recipient of 2009 College Board AP Fellows scholarship will be offered \$1,000 to attend a College Board-endorsed AP summer institute. **The application deadline is Feb. 15, 2009.**

For more details please visit www.collegeboard.com/cbfellows and click on 2009 AP Fellows application at the bottom of the page to apply.

B. AP Workshops

Please sign up for College Board AP workshops to receive latest AP materials. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for full day workshops. Please visit www.collegeboard.com/meetings to sign up online.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY: OPERATION: MILITARY KIDS READY, SET, GO!

This training will be held from 12:30 – 4:00, on Friday, Dec. 12, 2008 at Tan-Tar-A. —Note: Registration deadline: **Nov 25, 2008.**

Participants will:

- Gain an understanding of the military deployment process.
- Explore issues that arise because of deployment of a loved one.
- Receive an implementation packet to help create a network of support for youth.

If you have any questions or wish to register, please contact **Joan Zeller** at **660-747-3193** or zellerc@missouri.edu.

CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS OF NOTE:

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D. PATHWAYS CONFERENCE

The twenty-second annual Pathways Conference will be held March 1-3, 2009 at Tan Tar A. The conference is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in collaboration with other state agencies and institutions that work with children in crisis or at-risk. For information about the conference in the future, go to <http://dese.mo.gov/divteachqual/leadership/>

GUIDANCE AND PLACEMENT SERVICES DIGEST

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

As mentioned in the last Digest, Kyle Heislen, a Supervisor in the Guidance and Placement Section at DESE since 2000, has left the Section to assume new duties in Federal Grants Management Section in the Division of School Improvement at DESE.

Until the position is filled, we will divide his responsibilities and continue in our efforts to promote the full implementation of Comprehensive Guidance Programs in Missouri's Public Schools.

In January 2009, the official notice of the Supervisor Vacancy in Guidance and Placement will be posted and we will then begin accepting applications for this position.

Thanks for your continued support and encouragement for Comprehensive Guidance.

Bragg Stanley, Director

John Robbins, Supervisor, Digest Editor

Heather Evers, Administrative Assistant

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

(From time to time, resources that are brought to our attention through ASCA listservs or other means that could be used as part of a guidance program will be listed here. The readers are encouraged to investigate the resources and decide whether or not they are appropriate for their programs. Listing of these resources does not constitute endorsement by either our section or DESE.)

{CURRICULUM}

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You can also search for guidance lessons on the SuccessLink website at http://www.successlink.org/gti/search/start_search.asp

{INDIVIDUAL PLANNING}

REMINDERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR:

- Have you created a schedule or master calendar so you don't overlook important admission or financial aid deadlines? If not, it's not too late.
- Take advantage of opportunities to meet with college representatives visiting your high school. Attend financial aid nights and college fair events in your community, and don't be afraid to ask questions. Go prepared with a list of questions about cost, financial aid, admissions, student

GUIDANCE AND PLACEMENT SERVICES DIGEST

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population, academics, social life, surrounding community, housing, dining, recreational facilities, student services, security, etc.

- If you're still undecided, schedule school visits for your top choices. Consider characteristics such as the size of each school and its classes, location, campus environment, housing, social activities, facilities, job availability, and financial assistance. Our [Institution, Program, and Degree Search](#) can also help you determine the schools that have programs in fields that interest you.
- Explore the wide variety of financial aid opportunities available to students. The MDHE administers several [grant and scholarship programs](#), and many private and community organizations also provide [scholarship funds](#).
- If you are exploring student loans, use federal loans first because interest rates tend to be lower and are capped.
- Complete college applications and work on any required admissions essays.
- Request letters of recommendations to submit with your application for admission.
- Make plans to take the ACT or SAT again if you are not satisfied with your score. As a reminder, the students in the class of 2009 will need to score 31 on the ACT or obtain a critical reading score of 790 *and* a math score of 780 on the SAT in order to qualify for the [Bright Flight Scholarship](#). As a senior, you must achieve the qualifying score(s) on a [national test date](#) that falls on or before the June 2009 test date. Scores achieved as a sophomore and junior on national test dates will also be accepted.

MISSOURI CONNECTIONS: DID YOU KNOW?

Improvements and updates to Missouri Connections have been made. By using it, you can:

- Learn about career paths, clusters, pathways, and career options.
- Build a portfolio with education plans, resumes, favorites, and more.
- Make college, financial aid, and scholarship decisions.
- Stay on track with goals and get prepared for the workforce.

To access Missouri Connections, go to <http://www.missouriconnections.org/>

{RESPONSIVE SERVICES}

RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS IN PARTS OF THE STATE TO BE AWARE OF TO UTILIZE IN SUICIDE PREVENTION

Through the Mental Health and Substance Abuse funding program, the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) has approved grants to 18 Missouri nonprofit organizations to address the emotional and physical problems affecting Missouri citizens with mental and substance abuse issues. Organizations receiving funding include:

- **Mental Health Association of Greater St. Louis**, St. Louis, \$191,542. Funding supports efforts to train school employees and parents to recognize potential signs of suicide.
- **Midwest Behavioral Healthcare Management, Inc.**, Osage Beach, \$158,734. The grant supports the increasing need for suicide prevention programs for youth in Camden, Cole, Laclede and Miller counties.
- **Provident Counseling, Inc.**, St. Louis, \$375,000. With this grant, the organization is expanding weekly support groups about suicide prevention to help adolescent and high school students already enrolled in a substance abuse treatment programs.
- **Regional Healthcare Foundation**, Dexter, \$89,853. The grant helps expand the "Signs of Suicide" program to 7th and 8th graders in Butler, Dunklin, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Scott and Stoddard counties.

You can read the full press release announcing the grants at: http://www.mffh.org/press_release4208.htm

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DISASTER READINESS NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE

The current issue of the Office of Disaster Readiness newsletter, *Advance Notice*, can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.dmh.mo.gov/diroffice/disaster/AdvanceNoticeSept08.pdf>

BULLYING PREVENTION RESOURCE AVAILABLE

This document "**Make Time To Listen...Take Time To Talk...ABOUT BULLYING**" consists of interactive questions to start conversations between parents/caregivers and children. Schools, adults and children can use these questions to start conversations about bullying and how to prevent it. To see this document or print it out, go to

<http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/publications/allpubs/SVP-0051/>

{SYSTEM SUPPORT}

STUDENT CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITY, PLEASE PASS TO SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHERS

Youth in grades 10, 11 and 12 can apply to attend the Americanism Youth Conference sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, to be held in Philadelphia, March 5-8, 2009 expenses paid.

The deadline to apply is December 1, 2008.

The Conference offers a rare and unique opportunity for high school students to participate in a four day residential program. It focuses on the discussion of current issues facing the United States from a historical and global perspective on constitutional law and government. Participation is by invitation only and based on application and essay.

Student participants from around the country will be challenged to articulate their views.

To see more about this conference and directions for application, go to

<http://www.mo4h.missouri.edu/go/programs/military/>

CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS OF NOTE:

A. MISSOURI SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION (MSCA) FALL CONFERENCE IS THIS WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 2-4, 2008 at Tan Tar A Resort. Information on the conference is available at <http://schoolweb.missouri.edu/msca/>

B. THE BUILDING BRIDGES 2008 CONFERENCE will be held on November 16-18, 2008 at Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO

On Sunday, November 16 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., two preconference options will be available:

1. R-Factor Learning: Rigor, Relevance and Relationships
2. Using the High Schools that Work / Technology Centers That Work: Assessment Data to Drive Student Achievement

To see more information about the conference, go to

<http://www.missouricareereducation.org/pd/conference08.html>

C. 2008 ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (ACTE) CONVENTION AND CAREER TECH EXPO will be held on **December 4-6, 2008** at the **Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, NC**. To see further information about the conference, go to <http://www.acteonline.org/Convention/>

D. PATHWAYS CONFERENCE

The twenty-second annual Pathways Conference will be held March 1-3, 2009 at Tan Tar A. The conference is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in collaboration with other state agencies and institutions that work with children in crisis or at-risk. For information about the conference in the future, go to <http://dese.mo.gov/divteachqual/leadership/>

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This Digest is used to transmit information pertaining to the four program components of the Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program: Curriculum; Individual Planning; Responsive Services; and System Support to professional school counselors, placement personnel, career and technical school counselors and administrators at all levels throughout the state.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

INFORMATION ON SOCIAL SECURITY QUESTIONS

The Office of Administration has indicated to personnel at DESE that they want all inquiries about social security changes (which usually come to DESE as questions about length/history of certificates – especially in the student services areas) sent to 218agreements@oa.mo.gov ; the person having questions can also go to their website for clarification at <http://oa.mo.gov/acct/ssa.htm>.

DIGEST SCHEDULE

Due to the upcoming holidays and increased commitments due to a temporary reduction in staff, the Digest will be sent out as time permits during the rest of November and December. Remember that the Digest is posted on the Guidance and Placement portion of the DESE website shortly after it is sent out via the distribution lists. If you are unsure if one has gone out or wish to view previous issues, please check the website at http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/guidance_digest.htm

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

(From time to time, resources that are brought to our attention through ASCA listservs or other means that could be used as part of a guidance program will be listed here. The readers are encouraged to investigate the resources and decide whether or not they are appropriate for their programs. Listing of these resources does not constitute endorsement by either our section or DESE.)

{CURRICULUM}

A REMINDER:

Sample curriculum lessons for all ages that correspond to the new standards and GLE's may be found on the Guidance E-Learning Center housed in the Missouri Center for Career Education at <http://missouricareereducation.org/curr/cmd/guidanceplacementG/elearning/>. You can also search for guidance lessons on the SuccessLink website at http://www.successlink.org/gti/search/start_search.asp

Remember that the e-Learning Center on the MCCE website also contains additional resources that can be beneficial in helping with implementation of the Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program. Take time to check them out.

{INDIVIDUAL PLANNING}

INFORMATION FROM CAREER EDUCATION:

GOALS Toolkits

More than half of the newly-released GOALS Toolkits ([see memo](#) for overview) were successfully distributed to school counselors serving grades 7-12 at the recent MSCA Conference. DESE hopes many more will be picked up at the upcoming Building Bridges Conference to be held at Tan-Tar-A, Nov. 16-17. Any remaining toolkits will be handed over to the regional Tech Prep Coordinators next week for local distribution.

- **What can you do?** If your school building is in line to receive a toolkit, see whether someone has picked it up by checking the [sign-out list](#). (It was updated this week.) If you still don't have yours after Building Bridges, look for an opportunity to get your toolkit from your regional Tech Prep Coordinator in the coming weeks.

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Missouri Connections Public Outreach

The [Missouri Connections Public Outreach Partnership](#) is continuing its efforts to reach out to students, parents, educators, and the public to provide information and resources for education and career planning. Here is a preview of new resources being launched in November:

Newspapers In Education – Two new career education series are being developed by Missouri Connections and the Missouri Press Association for use in Missouri newspapers. A new four-part “College Road Map” series will explore preparation for college, from middle school through a student’s senior year. Also, beginning in mid-January, a new 7-part series will be available to introduce the Career Clusters and feature each of the 6 Career Paths. This should tie in nicely with February Career and Technical Education Month activities.

- **What can you do?** Counselors and teachers interested in seeing the career education series published in their community newspapers should contact their local publisher or editor.

Facebook Ads – DESE will begin placing ads in the Facebook social network next week to encourage students to visit MissouriConnections.org to explore careers, colleges and to start a portfolio. Two audiences of Missouri Facebook users will see the ads through the end of the year as they log in to their Facebook accounts: Secondary (ages 13-18) and Postsecondary (ages 19-25).

- **What can you do?** Since students will be seeing the ads at home and during the holidays, consider arming your students (grades 7-16) with your school’s batch codes for taking the Kuder™ assessments (or a contact to get the codes). Caution: Do not post your batch codes on your school’s public website for the world to see, but possibly include in alternate communications to students and/or parents, such as in a newsletter or e-mail.

 <p>What's Your Plan?</p> <p>Whatever you hope to be, education after high school is a must. Explore your interests and find the careers and colleges that fit.</p>	 <p>Majorly Undecided?</p> <p>Put yourself on track for success. Explore careers, search colleges, build a resume and more with free tools from Missouri.</p>
Secondary (Age 13-18)	Postsecondary (age 19-25)

Career Cluster Video – A statewide [news release](#) will be going out Monday announcing the availability of the new “What’s Your Plan?” Career Cluster video. It is one of the new resources provided in the (grades 7-12) school counselors’ GOALS Toolkit to introduce students to the 16 Career Clusters. In addition to the counselor offices, the video also is being provided to all public libraries in the state, as well as all school libraries serving grades 7-12. School libraries should have their DVDs in the mail by the end of next week. Public libraries will receive them at the end of November, and depending on the facility, should have them on their library shelves by the end of the year.

- **What can you do?** Encourage your school district to run the news release in your newsletters and/or on the website to let your patrons know about the new resource and how they can access it.

MissouriConnections.org

By now, we hope you are using Missouri Connections as part of your comprehensive guidance program. Your feedback is important to our continually improving the system. Nearly 200 students and other users of have provided feedback so far through our online survey on Missouri Connections. Based on student feedback, the information on the home page is being refreshed today to make it easier for students to get started and access the Kuder™ assessments. Also, if anyone has any lesson plans they would like to share using MissouriConnections.org, please forward them to John Robbins at john.robbins@dese.mo.gov and we can offer those resources through the Web site’s administrative area, as well as in the e-Guidance Learning Center.

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{RESPONSIVE SERVICES}

DISASTER READINESS NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE

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NAME CHANGE FOR DMH DIVISION

On October 16, 2008 Governor Matt Blunt signed an executive order officially changing the name of the Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to a new name by removing the words “mental retardation” and renaming it the Division of Developmental Disabilities. The executive order does not change the division’s mission, or impact those eligible for services or those receiving services from the division or contract providers. Many self advocates and family members have been advocating for this change for years and the change is consistent with the division’s statutory obligation to decrease stigma.

{SYSTEM SUPPORT}

THE MISSOURI CENTER FOR CAREER EDUCATION HAS AN OPENING FOR THE FOLLOWING

POSITION: Director, Missouri Center for Career Education.

The Director of the Missouri Center for Career Education oversees and coordinates Center operations. The purpose of the position is to provide leadership and direction for Center staff in supporting career and technical education throughout the state. Manage the budget of the MCCE to assure cost-effective operation. Develop and implement a strategic plan for MCCE operation. Establish/maintain collaborative relationship with Missouri DESE in implementation of state initiatives. Establish/maintain collaborative relationship with UCM College of Education programs, faculty, and staff. Market and evaluate the services of the MCCE. Requires a Masters degree in any field in Career Education, Counseling, School Administration or a closely related field and minimum of 5 years progressively more responsible experience in management, preferably in career and technical education or related field. Additional requirements are listed online. Priority will be given to completed applications received by 12/01/2008. Cover letter, resume, and contact information for 3 references required. UCM requires that all applicants fill out an online application. For further qualifications/application procedures visit our web site at jobs.ucmo.edu or call 660-543-4255. AA/EEO/ADA

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On Sunday, November 16 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., two preconference options will be available:

1. R-Factor Learning: Rigor, Relevance and Relationships

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To see more information about the conference, go to <http://www.missouricareereducation.org/pd/conference08.html>

B. 2008 ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (ACTE) CONVENTION AND CAREER TECH EXPO will be held on **December 4-6, 2008** at the Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, NC. To

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This Digest is used to transmit information pertaining to the four program components of the Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program: Curriculum; Individual Planning; Responsive Services; and System Support to professional school counselors, placement personnel, career and technical school counselors and administrators at all levels throughout the state.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU

As we approach the holiday season, we in the Guidance and Placement Section would like to take this opportunity to wish you well and thank you again for all that you do to assist students with their academic, personal/social and career development.

We are thankful that the students in Missouri Public Schools have individuals who continue to show through their actions everyday that they are there for kids.

From the Guidance and Placement Section Staff:

Bragg Stanley, Director

John Robbins, Supervisor, Digest Editor

Heather Evers, Administrative Assistant

SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE

Here is the latest word on the Social Security Issue from the Office of Administration:

“SSA has determined that the Counselor position is exempt from Social Security. This determination was made based on documentation from 1948 that supports the requirement for a Counselor to hold a teaching certificate. At this time, other similar positions including, but not limited to, School Psychological Examiners, School Psychologists, Adult Education Supervisors, Career Education Counselors, Career Education Placement Coordinators, and Speech-Language Pathologists are still under review and are not considered exempt at this point.”

Vandee DeVore, CGFM

Assistant Director, Office of Administration/Division of Accounting

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

(From time to time, resources that are brought to our attention through ASCA listservs or other means that could be used as part of a guidance program will be listed here. The readers are encouraged to investigate the resources and decide whether or not they are appropriate for their programs. Listing of these resources does not constitute endorsement by either our section or DESE.)

{CURRICULUM}

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO COUNSELORS:

Here are two recent additions to the resources available to counselors from the library at Missouri Center for Career Education. To see other resources, go to <http://missouricareeducation.org/res/index.html>

G&P 13.1001 R133

Classroom and Small Group Activities For Teachers, Counselors, and Other Helping Professionals, Vol. I

Tommie R. Radd, Ph.D

OMAHA, NE, GROW WITH GUIDANCE, 2006.

BOOK — This book of classroom guidance and small group counseling activities includes more than 250 powerful activities. The activities are easy to follow and collectively provide an in-depth coverage of each topic. Volume I covers the strand areas of Self and Decision Making/Problem Solving. Grades Pre-K to 12.

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G&P 13.1001 R133.1

Classroom and Small Group Activities For Teachers, Counselors, and Other Helping Professionals, Vol. II

Tommie R. Radd, Ph.D

OMAHA, NE, GROW WITH GUIDANCE, 2006.

BOOK — This book of classroom guidance and small group counseling activities includes more than 250 activities. The activities are easy to follow and collectively provide an in-depth coverage of each topic. Volume II covers the strand areas of Other Awareness, Self-Control, and Group Cooperation. Grades Pre-K to 12.

{INDIVIDUAL PLANNING}

NEW VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS CAREER CHOICES, ASKS STUDENTS “WHAT’S YOUR PLAN?”

Upbeat music, bold colors and amusing teenage hosts invite Missouri students to explore the world of careers in a new video being distributed this month to schools and libraries statewide. “What’s Your Plan?” is a production of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The video organizes students’ career options with the national Career Clusters framework. This framework encompasses virtually all occupations from entry through professional levels and divides careers into 16 distinct categories or Career Clusters. Each cluster represents a range of careers that require similar knowledge and skills.

The video can be watched in its entirety or in self-selected segments, which are about three minutes each. Teenage hosts guide students through the clusters and provide an overview of the range of occupations included in each one. Each cluster presentation also features a professional who offers his or her reasons for choosing the given career area, as well as a discussion of the rewards it offers and the basic skills needed.

DESE is making the DVD-format video accessible to students through public and school libraries, middle school and high school counselor offices, and educators involved with career and technical education. Students and parents also may access the video in a Web-streamed format at the Missouri Connections site, www.missouriconnections.org, where many complimentary resources are available. Many schools have received the new video and public libraries will have it on their shelves in December.

FREE WORKSHOP FOR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS IN ST. LOUIS, COLUMBIA, AND KANSAS CITY!

You are invited to attend a FREE college financial aid workshop hosted by the MASFAP (Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel) Association.

The event will cover the following topics:

Overview of Financial Aid Programs	FAFSA4caster
Applying for Federal Financial Aid	Academic Competitiveness Grants (ACG)
Searching for Scholarships	State and Institutional Aid

There will be 3 free workshops across the state. Each workshop will last from 9AM – Noon.

- St. Louis Workshop will be held at the University of Missouri St. Louis on December 8th. Email volunteer Robyn LeGrand at robyn1@nslp.org for more information and to register.
- Columbia Workshop will be held at the University of Missouri Columbia on December 9th. Email volunteer Temeka Easter at teaster@upromise.com for more information and to register.
- Kansas City Workshop will be held at the Metropolitan Community College- Business and Technology Center on December 10th. Email volunteer Katie Lewis at Katie.Lewis@commercebank.com for more information and to register.

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{RESPONSIVE SERVICES}

RESOURCES AVAILABLE INCLUDING THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUBSCRIBE TO A FREE NEWSLETTER.

The **Guidance Group** is a publishing company that specializes in hands-on materials for drug and violence prevention, character education, life skills, school success and mental health. You can visit their website by going to <http://guidance-group.com/>

{SYSTEM SUPPORT}

Please forward to those working with students who will be taking end of course exams:

End-of-Course Implementation Timeline	
Phase I 2008-09 School Year	Phase II 2009-2010 School Year
	Field Test: Spring 2009 Operational Test: Fall 2009
Algebra I	Algebra II, Geometry, Integrated Math II, Integrated Math III
Biology	English I
English II	Government, American History

CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS OF NOTE:

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CAREER TECH EXPO will be held on **December 4-6, 2008** at the **Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, NC**. To see further information about the conference, go to <http://www.acteonline.org/Convention/>

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This Digest is used to transmit information pertaining to the four program components of the Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program: Curriculum; Individual Planning; Responsive Services; and System Support to professional school counselors, placement personnel, career and technical school counselors and administrators at all levels throughout the state.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Digest will resume after the first of the year. On behalf of the Guidance and Placement Section, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

(From time to time, resources that are brought to our attention through ASCA listservs or other means that could be used as part of a guidance program will be listed here. The readers are encouraged to investigate the resources and decide whether or not they are appropriate for their programs. Listing of these resources does not constitute endorsement by either our section or DESE.)

{CURRICULUM}

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO COUNSELORS:

Here are two more recent additions to the resources available to counselors from the library at Missouri Center for Career Education. To see other resources, go to <http://missouricareereducation.org/res/index.html>

G&P DVD ROM 5 & G&P VIDEO 72

Wanting In, Kept Out: When Cliques Harass -- Sunburst Visual Media

PLAINVIEW, NY, SUNBURST VISUAL MEDIA, 2006.--DVD ROM — Follows two teens who are both being excluded from an existing clique. Viewers learn to identify harassment, recognize their own role in the bully/target/bystander cycle, and how to develop relationships that are supportive and meaningful. Grade level 9-12. 20 minutes.

G&P DVD ROM 61

Fears and Phobias: Understanding Them, Defeating Them--Human Relations Media, Inc.

MT. KISCO, NY, HUMAN RELATIONS MEDIA, INC., 2005.--DVD ROM — Program explains the dividing line between normal fears and when teens and young adults may need help to defuse and overcome them. Real teens are seen interacting with a psychologist in a phobia clinic as typical fears and phobias are explained including fear of public speaking, social anxiety, fear of enclosed spaces, test anxiety and panic attacks. The psychologist describes both short term and long term methods for controlling and ultimately defeating these fears including deep breathing, meditation, desensitization, medication and improving one's nutrition. Grade 7 to College. 21 minutes.

{INDIVIDUAL PLANNING}

JANUARY TASKS TO SHARE WITH HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS(From Mapping Your Future)

- As soon as possible after January 1 and when tax forms are complete (they don't have to be filed until April 15; you can use estimates), complete your FAFSA online. Go to mappingyourfuture.org/paying/fafsa.htm for more information.
- If you can't attend financial aid nights, ask if you and your parents can borrow a video of an event from your counselor.
- Contact the U.S. Department of Education at 800-4-FEDAID for assistance completing the FAFSA and/or plan to attend a College Goal Sunday event (free FAFSA advice) near you. Go to www.collegegoalsundayusa.org for more information.

NOTICE OF ESSAY CONTEST FOR STUDENTS WITH AWARD AMOUNT OF \$6,000

The Optimist International Essay Contest is open to students who are under the age of 19 as of December 31st of the 2008-2009 school year (December 31st, 2008). To be considered for this award, the student must write a 400-500 word essay on the topic, "The Power of Youth" and submit it to his/her local Optimist Club. Students do not have to be Optimist members to compete.

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RESOURCE FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN ENCOURAGING GIRLS TO CONSIDER THE STEM FIELDS

The National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP), whose goal is to maximize access to shared resources within projects and with public and private sector organizations and institutions interested in expanding girls' participation in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), has a list-serve through which members receive information about the NGCP as well as information from other resources that may be valuable for STEM-related programs, including funding opportunities, resources, and upcoming events. To learn more about the project, go to <http://www.ngcproject.org/>

NEW ACT STUDY REVEALS THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ON TARGET FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL

The data studied by ACT shows that “fewer than two in ten eighth graders are on target to be ready for college level work by the time they graduate from high school.” An implication from the study is that intervention to help raise the level of readiness must not happen in high school but needs to occur in upper elementary and middle school. Among the behaviors felt to impact academic success were some that are addressed in various ways through implementation of the Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program (MCGP). Those behaviors were academic discipline, orderly conduct and positive relationships with school personnel. This study shows why K-12 implementation of the MCGP is so important in helping students to achieve positive outcomes. To see the study, go to <http://www.act.org/research/policymakers/pdf/ForgottenMiddle.pdf>

{RESPONSIVE SERVICES}

CRISIS RESPONSE RESOURCES TO SHARE WITH STAFF:

The following brief resources can be shared with school staff for a quick check and to stimulate discussion related to the school's response plan –

> ***School Helping Students Deal with Loss*** -- <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/loss.pdf>

> ***The School's Role in Addressing Psychological Reactions to Loss*** --
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/lossdiscussion.pdf>

> ***School Responses to Natural Disasters*** --
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/practicenotes/naturaldisasters.pdf>

For more in-depth resources, see

> ***Responding to Crisis at a School*** -- <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/crisis/crisis.pdf>

> ***School-based Crisis Intervention*** (Quick Training Aid) -- http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/qf/crisis_qt/ or
<http://www.smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/quicktraining/schoolbasedcrisisinterv.pdf>

MISSOURI'S YOUTH/ADULT ALLIANCE (MYAA) ANNOUNCES ITS STATEWIDE PSA CONTEST!

MYAA is a statewide network of support empowering Missouri's youth to make healthy decisions about alcohol and other drugs. Please inform your students about this opportunity to tell Missouri what is great about their generation. The winning PSA will run on channels such as MTV, Discovery, The CW, ABC Family and more. For more information, see www.myaa.org/mostofmissouri.

Visit <http://www.myaa.org/mostofmissouri/docs/PSAContestRules.pdf> to print off complete rules and registration forms.

{SYSTEM SUPPORT}

INFORMATION ABOUT FERPA:

In response to the “Report to the President on Issues Raised by the Virginia Tech Tragedy” (June 13, 2007, <http://www.hhs.gov/vtreport.html>), the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services have issued “Joint Guidance on the Application of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) to Student Health Records.” The guidance addresses the interplay between FERPA and the HIPAA Privacy Rule at elementary and secondary levels, as well as at the postsecondary level. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Title IX Coordinator, 5th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0480; telephone number 573-751-4212.

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and addresses many of the questions raised by school officials, health care professionals, and others regarding the applicability of these two laws to records maintained on students. It also addresses certain disclosures that are allowed without consent or authorization under both laws, especially those related to health and safety emergency situations. School officials may find the guidance on our Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/doc/ferpa-hippa-guidance.pdf>. Understanding the law will empower school officials to act quickly and decisively when problems arise.

We hope that you will find this guidance helpful. Should you have any questions about the issues raised in the joint guidance, email DOE at FERPA@ED.Gov.

PLEASE SHARE WITH TEACHERS

The Missouri Department of Higher Education's Curriculum Alignment Initiative (CAI) is pleased to announce the public comment period for **Cross-Disciplinary Competencies**.

Please visit http://www.dhe.mo.gov/cai_feedback.shtml to view the draft cross-disciplinary competencies and provide feedback. **The public comment period will last through January 5, 2009.** *Please share this message with educators in the appropriate areas in your districts and encourage them to provide feedback and comment on the public draft.* All public comments will be considered by the Cross-Disciplinary Workgroup or by the CAI Steering Committee.

The draft [cross-disciplinary competencies](#) document is the product of the Curriculum Alignment Initiative's (CAI) Cross-Disciplinary Workgroup. The workgroup was charged with drafting a set of competencies that were considered to be foundational knowledge for entry into postsecondary education, cross-cutting specific disciplines, in the following areas:

1. Key Cognitive Skills or "Habits of Mind" (e.g. critical thinking, positive work habits)
2. Reading and Writing
3. Technology and Information Literacy

Every discipline workgroup identified these competencies as important in developing a foundation for content knowledge and critical for collegiate success. The competencies articulated in the discipline areas are useless if the student entering the course does not have the ability to effectively read the material being presented or adequately and ethically utilize technology in their students.

These drafts are meant to be a vehicle for feedback and review. The educators and faculty were asked to independently consider the knowledge and skills necessary to enter into collegiate-level work; later efforts by the workgroup and the Steering Committee will revise, integrate, and streamline the draft competencies into a unified entry-level competencies document.

This work and the resulting competencies has the potential to impact both secondary and postsecondary education across the state of Missouri. Ensuring that all have a chance to have their voice heard will help to create better competencies documents, stronger policy, and clearer pathways for Missouri students interested in pursuing postsecondary education.

CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS OF NOTE:

A. PATHWAYS CONFERENCE

The twenty-second annual Pathways Conference will be held March 1-3, 2009 at Tan Tar A. The conference is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in collaboration with other state agencies and institutions that work with children in crisis or at-risk. For information about the conference in the future, go to <http://dese.mo.gov/divteachqual/leadership/>