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School Practitioner Listserv

A Weekly Community of Practice Network for Sharing and Interchange

Mental Health in Schools
UCLA Center
Program and Policy Analysis*

May 15, 2017

New ideas for summer learning
  >Involving students and families in exploring options

Invitation to Listserv Participants to Share Perspectives

Featured Set of Center Resources on
   >Out of school learning

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Please forward this to a few colleagues you think might be interested. The more who join, the more we are likely to receive to share.

For those who have been forwarded this and want to be part of the weekly exchange, send an email to Ltaylor@ucla.edu

For previous recent postings of this community of practice, see
      http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/practitioner.htm
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May is Mental Health Month – This year's theme is Risky Business.

Note: In keeping with the *National Initiative for Transforming Student & Learning Supports*,* this is being sent to and forwarded by over 114,000 school and community stakeholders concerned about (1) daily matters confronting schools, (2) promoting whole child development and positive school climate, and (3) the transformation of student and learning supports.

New ideas for summer learning

>Involving students and families in exploring options

With the end of a schools year rapidly approaching, it's time to think about opportunities for students during the summer, especially those with limited financial resources.

While many districts are planning summer programs focused mainly on remediation and credit recovery, some communities have plans for enriched learning and work experiences.

Here are couple of examples:

From West Des Moines, IA
> "Are you wondering how you're going to keep your kids busy this summer? We have many fun, enriching, and affordable learning opportunities available! Whether your children need a little extra help in reading, writing, or math, or simply a fun way to expand their knowledge in several subjects, Community Education provides a wide variety of activities to choose from. Below is a list of our Summer of Learning programs. Help your child find a program that sounds interesting, fun, or rewarding, and register today!" http://www.wdmcs.org/commed/programs/youth/summer-of-learning/

From Chicago
> "Chicago City of Learning helps you connect your child to free and affordable opportunities outside of school that match up with their interests and passions. Learning outside of school helps young people gain critical skills and experiences that prepare them to be life-long learners and to succeed in college and career."
> https://chicagocityoflearning.org/parents

From Dallas
> "Dallas City of Learning is a citywide initiative to ensure all students have access to high-quality summer learning programs that stem summer learning loss."
> http://dallascityoflearning.org/

From Los Angeles
> "HIRE Los Angeles' Youth and Mayor Eric Garcetti are committed to providing 20,000 jobs by 2020 for young people ages 14-24 who live in the City of Los Angeles. SYEP 2017 provides youth 14-24 years old with work experience for 6 weeks during the summer. A summer job is key in helping young people ages 14 to 24 learn about the workplace, find a mentor and enter a path to meaningful and lifelong employment. HIRE-LA's Youth is an investment that pays off in lives today and holds the promise of a brighter future for our city and the entire region."
> http://www.hirelayouth.com/syepapplication/intro.html

Some thoughts about how districts/schools might help identify and enhance students' summer experiences:

> >catalogue and publicize a listing of existing local opportunities

> >contact business organizations in the community (e.g., Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, etc.) to ask them to (a) work on creating additional summer jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities, (b) help encourage development of other enrichment, service learning, mentoring, and recreational opportunities throughout the community, and (c) underwrite the participation of economically disadvantaged students when fees are involved

> >contact service, cultural, and recreational organizations (e.g., hospitals, senior centers, shelters, libraries, zoo, museums, performing arts, Ys, boys and girls clubs, scouts) and encourage them to help develop additional summer opportunities and strategies to facilitate participation

>delineate ways for school staff to help publicize and encourage families to have youngsters participate in summer opportunities

>play a role in mobilizing families to facilitate children and youth participation in summer opportunities

Making it Happen

These are all activities in which to engage students, families, the PTA, volunteers from the community (including service clubs, youth groups, senior citizen organizations, colleges), etc.

For example, help create a *Leadership Group for a Healthy and Productive Summer for Youth*. Their functions are to organize and steer the initiative. This might include

>organizing a team of students (e.g., graduating seniors, student leadership, school newspaper staff) to canvas the community to create a catalogue of the summer opportunities

>asking the parent-teacher organization to outreach to the various community resources to engage them in the efforts to enhance summer opportunities and enhance equity for participation

>featuring the effort being made and the list of summer opportunities on district and school websites.

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Invitation to Listserv Participants to Share Perspectives:

Is anything special happening in your community this summer to engage students and promote learning?

Share lessons learned. Comments. Recommendations.
Send your responses to Ltaylor@ucla.edu

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Featured Set of Center Resources on

>Out of school learning resources

For more ideas from our Center and for links to other resources, see our online clearinghouse Quick Find:

>Expanded learning opportunities – http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/qf/afterschool.htm
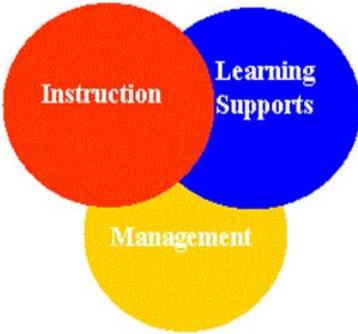
For instance, see:

>Enhancing Summer Learning http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/sumlearn.pdf

This resource provides more examples of what communities are doing to counter summer set-backs and other problems experienced by youngster over the summer and ways communities and schools have come together to create an organized and cohesive initiative that is designed to attract and benefit youngsters who are of the greatest concern.

Appended are excerpts from two major policy reports (one from the Harvard Family Research Project and one from the National Center on Time & Learning and the Education Commission of the States).

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*Information is online about the

National Initiative for Transforming Student and Learning Supports
http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/newinitiative.html

Also online is the report from the National Summit on the

Every Student Succeeds Act and
Learning Supports: Addressing Barriers to Learning and Teaching
to Enhance Equity of Opportunity –
http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/summitreport.pdf

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NEW! As a basic resource, we have developed a new work entitled: *Transforming Student and Learning Supports: Developing a Unified, Comprehensive, and Equitable System.*
From Cognella – https://titles.cognella.com/transforming-student-and-learning-supports-9781516512782.html

NEW! Also just developed is a preliminary draft of another new book entitled:
Addressing Barriers to Learning: In the Classroom and Schoolwide -- Available at this time as a free resource. Download at
http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/barriersbook.pdf

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THE MORE FOLKS SHARE, THE MORE USEFUL AND
INTERESTING THE INTERCHANGES BECOME!
For new sign-ups – email Ltaylor@ucla.edu

Also send resources ideas, requests, comments, and experiences for sharing.
We post a broad range of issues and responses to the *Net Exchange*
on our website at http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/newnetexchange.htm
and on *Facebook* (access from the Center's home page http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/)

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