

The cover features a decorative border with a repeating pattern of white stars and stylized human figures with arms raised, set against a black background. The figures are positioned in the corners and between the stars, creating a rhythmic visual structure.

National Dropout Prevention Network

2005-2006

Annual Report

2005-2006 NDPN ANNUAL REPORT

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THE NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION CENTER/NETWORK

The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network (NDPC/N) at Clemson University was founded in 1986 to serve as a clearinghouse for information on issues related to school improvement and dropout prevention and to offer strategies that increase the graduation rate in America's schools. The NDPC/N is a well-established national and international resource for sharing solutions for student success. It does so through its clearinghouse function, active research projects and publications, and through a variety of professional development activities. In addition, the NDPC/N conducts a vast array of third party evaluations of school-based and community-based dropout prevention projects. Another specialized service is the Program Assessment and Review (PAR). During PAR, the guided program review and evaluation gives schools and communities the opportunity to develop the capacity for self-directed, continuous school improvement. The process is tailored to meet the needs of the local school, school district, or community-based organization. By promoting awareness of successful programs and policies related to dropout prevention, the work of NDPC/N and its members has made an impact on education from the local to the national level.

MISSION

The mission of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network is to serve as a research center and resource network for practitioners, researchers, and policymakers to reshape school and community environments to meet the needs of youth in at-risk situations so these students receive the quality education and services necessary to succeed academically and graduate from high school.

PHILOSOPHY

We believe:

- * in the efficacy of public education for all children, youth, and adults;
- * that the strength of our society is predicated upon the strength of our public education system;
- * that the intellectual growth and development of every individual is the mission of public education;
- * that the public education system must be responsive to the full range of needs, abilities, and interests of children, youth, and adults;
- * that in order to be responsive to those needs, abilities, and interests, the public education system must be flexible, individualized, and accountable;
- * that public schools need to be restructured to meet the needs of high-risk youth;
- * that the needs of children, youth, and adults can best be met through a strong cooperative linking of education, government, business, labor, and other community institutions;
- * that at-risk youth in today's society must be a priority item in all educational and political activities;
- * that everyone has the potential to be successful;
- * that education is the basis for individual success;
- * that every individual has the right to an education that is responsive to his/her needs;
- * that the range of individual needs mandates an educational system that is flexible and varied;
- * that the flexibility and variability in the educational system is a function of the quality of its personnel;
- * that the personal qualities of caring, consistency, and cooperation are essential to providing a positive experience for each student.

NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To collaborate, through a networking process, in the development of a national dropout prevention agenda with strong policies, linkages, and strategies.

Objective 1: Share Center/Network information with other individuals and organizations concerned with dropout prevention and encourage active participation in partnership activities.

Objective 2: Build awareness and support, through the resolution process, for policies and practices that have national implications.

Objective 3: Encourage members to be active in various committees and the work of the National Dropout Prevention Network (NDPN).

2. To provide technical assistance to school and community partnership efforts that encourage school reform and systemic change which address the needs of youth in at-risk situations.

Objective 1: Disseminate relevant program information and ideas through multiple approaches.

Objective 2: Advocate and encourage strong collaboration efforts between schools and communities to plan and implement comprehensive dropout prevention programs.

Objective 3: Recognize and promote successful educational reform and restructuring programs that increase the skills and graduation rates of students.

3. To disseminate information about dropout prevention, practices, and resources.

Objective 1: Inform members and others concerned with dropout issues about the products and services provided by the Center/Network.

Objective 2: Encourage members to be contributors to the various Center/Network publications through articles, opinion pieces, letters to the editor, and resolutions.

Objective 3: Sponsor an annual national conference that is rotated geographically and that utilizes local organizations for conference planning and implementation.

4. To support research activities that address the issues and outcomes of dropout prevention efforts and that directly link to practice.

Objective 1: Publish *The Journal of At-Risk Issues* as the outstanding academic journal in relevant areas of policies, practices, resources, and research for those dealing with youth in at-risk situations.

Objective 2: Publish *The International Journal on School Disaffection* in order to promote the international work of the Network by sharing research and program ideas from around the world.

Objective 3: Publish the *Effective Strategies for School Improvement* series, research-based practitioner guides on the 15 effective strategies.

NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION CENTER/NETWORK

The National Dropout Prevention Network (NDPN) is a membership organization of teachers, counselors, school administrators, state department of education staff, and business and community leaders who are concerned with dropout issues. The Network is guided by a Board of Directors consisting of national leaders representing educators; policymakers; community, business, and labor groups; parents; and other concerned persons. The National Dropout Prevention Center, a major partner with the Network, functions as the Network's fiscal agent, providing information services and technical assistance to members located in all 50 states and several foreign countries.

The National Dropout Prevention Center (NDPC) is a partnership of concerned leaders—representing business, educational and policy interests, and Clemson University—created to significantly reduce America's dropout rate. NDPC is committed to meeting the needs of youth in at-risk situations by shaping school environments which ensure that all youth receive the quality education to which they are entitled.

The Center provides Network members with information searches and free access to the Center's toll-free telephone number. In turn, this established network of people and programs throughout the United States provides information which keeps Center staff and the Web site up-to-date on program activities and school reform issues.

Both influenced by and seeking to influence research, practice, policy, and perceptions, NDPC provides technical assistance to develop, demonstrate, and evaluate dropout prevention efforts; conducts action research; and collects, analyzes, and disseminates information about efforts to improve the schooling process.

NDPC uses a comprehensive, systemic approach that embraces efforts in the following four areas related to public policy and educational practice:

RESTRUCTURING SCHOOLING PROCESSES including school governance policies, regulations, and decision making; curricular and instructional practices; program standards; and supportive nutritional and health care efforts.

INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT for all youth by developing a wider range of alternatives within our public school systems that integrate academic, occupational, and community service skills.

FORMING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS to address the problems of youth in at-risk situations by combining the resources and efforts of schools, businesses, higher education, social services and youth agencies, and the community at large.

INCREASING AWARENESS AND DEVELOPING SKILLS by providing professional development and training to policymakers, business leaders, and community members as well as to school administrators, teachers, counselors, and parents.

As part of the Center/Network outreach effort, a quarterly membership packet is disseminated to all Network members. This packet includes a newsletter covering current dropout prevention strategies, as well as copies of other Center/Network research publications. In addition, Network members receive a monthly electronic newsletter with pertinent information about school improvement and dropout prevention strategies.

The Center/Network jointly publishes the nationally refereed *Journal of At-Risk Issues* and the internationally refereed *International Journal on School Disaffection*. In addition, staff work with a local coordinating agency to cosponsor the annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference. The conference offers networking and program sharing opportunities for members and other participants representing related areas such as health and human services, alcohol and drug abuse, youth agencies, mental health, and family services.

NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION CENTER/NETWORK FUNCTIONS

INFORMATION SERVICES—The Center/Network partnership has emerged as a highly visible national resource on dropout issues and has been consulted by local, national, and international media, organizations, policymakers, and others. Databases located on the NDPC/N's Web site (www.dropoutprevention.org) provide users with needed information and referrals on resources and model programs specific to dropout prevention. Center staff also develops and disseminates periodic research-based monographs, videotapes, games, *Linking Learning With Life* series featuring service-learning as a teaching/learning method for all students, an *Effective Strategies for School Improvement* series that includes research-based practitioner guidebooks based on the 15 most effective strategies for dropout prevention, and numerous other publications.

As part of the Center/Network outreach effort, a quarterly membership packet is disseminated to all Network members. This packet includes:

- Quarterly thematic issues of the *National Dropout Prevention Newsletter* which provides information about current programs and resources that can enhance and support dropout prevention efforts.
- *Dropout Prevention Update*, an electronic monthly newsletter containing links to the latest information on grants, policies, the 15 effective strategies, and resources related to at-risk youth.
- *The Journal of At-Risk Issues*, an arena for scholars to share their research and application about issues related to youth from at-risk situations.
- *The International Journal on School Disaffection*, a forum for analyzing the roots of disaffection in the myriad context in which it is found, exploring the commonalities that exist in systems across the globe.
- One complimentary copy of each of the latest NDPC/N publications—whether a book, research report, or practical guidebook offering professional insights into a variety of dropout prevention strategies.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT—The NDPC/N sponsors two major conferences each year as well as regional events for practitioners in the fields of education, youth programs, social services, health and mental health services, juvenile justice, and law enforcement.

- The National Dropout Prevention Network Conference, held each year in a different location in the fall, is designed to provide opportunities for successful practitioners, policymakers, and researchers to share their school improvement and dropout prevention strategies with their peers from across the nation and around the world.
- The NDPC/N also collaborated with the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities (NDPC-SD) to offer technical assistance to state education agencies and selected local school districts.
- The America's At-Risk Youth National FORUM, held every February in Myrtle Beach, SC, offers another opportunity for sharing strategies and increasing knowledge that will enable practitioners to help all children, and especially those from at-risk situations, reach success. NDPC-SD presents a students with disabilities strand.
- At least one regional Effective Strategies Institute is held each year in a different location in the spring. The Institutes feature such topics as alternative education, violence prevention, No Child Left Behind, and service-learning in collaboration with state departments of education and other youth-related organizations.
- Customized staff development activities are provided to give school staff and other youth-serving professionals the knowledge and skills needed to implement the program changes that enable all students to graduate.

ACTION RESEARCH—NDPC/N partners with school districts, community-based organizations, and national organizations that serve youth from across the country while implementing and evaluating a variety of administrative and instructional practices to increase students' success in school. Collaborations are formed with colleges and universities, businesses, corporations, and community-based organizations. Based on our research experience, a thorough understanding of the literature, and a decade of monitoring hundreds of successful school improvement initiatives and dropout prevention programs, the NDPC/N has identified 15 effective strategies that have proven successful in keeping young people in school, engaging them in their education, and giving them an enhanced opportunity for securing a place in the workforce or progressing into postsecondary education.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE—The Center provides technical assistance in developing and submitting proposals, planning and implementing staff development activities, program planning and evaluation, setting up mentoring and service-learning programs, and broadening collaborative networks. The Center serves as an information and regional technical assistance center for the National Service-Learning Exchange.

NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION CENTER/NETWORK

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2005-2006

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK CONFERENCE

The Seventeenth Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference was held at the Santa Clara Marriott, Santa Clara, CA, October 15 - 19, 2005. The Conference theme was "Helping Students Survive and Thrive." Cosponsors for the Conference included the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities and the CA EduAlliance Network. Eighteen hundred eighty two (1,882) participants from 42 states and several foreign countries attended the conference. Conference strands included topics in the following areas: safe environments for success, dropout prevention strategies, resiliency, teacher support, collaboration, and students with disabilities. The conference provided 14 pre-conference workshops, 73 seminar sessions, and 29 carousel sessions. Keynote speakers for the Conference were Ernest Mendes, Mendes Training and Consulting, Carlsbad, CA; and Ray Golarz, Superintendent and author, Richmond, IN.

2006 EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES INSTITUTE—DES MOINES, IOWA

A 2006 Effective Strategies Institute was held at the Marriott Downtown Hotel, Des Moines, IA, April 1-4, 2006. The Institute's theme was "Alternative Programs for Everyone: Pathways for Success." Cosponsors for the Institute were The Iowa Association of Alternative Education, Iowa Department of Education, Minnesota Department of Education, and the Midwest Equity Center. Three hundred six (306) participants from 18 states attended the Institute. Institute strands included a variety of topics highlighting successful practices aimed at working with youth in at-risk situations. The Institute provided three pre-institute workshops, 35 concurrent sessions, and 19 carousel sessions. Keynote speakers for the Institute were Dr. Crystal Kuykendall, Creative & Innovative Resources for Kids; Dr. Robert Barr and Dr. William Parrett, Boise State University, Boise, IA; and Ms. Deandre Stanton, Creative Communications, Mason City, IA.

INFORMATION SERVICES

The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network (NDPC/N) and the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities (NDPC-SD) Web sites are the premier source of information on issues related to dropout prevention and working with at-risk youth. The NDPC/N site is in the process of being upgraded to meet Web accessibility standards. The NDPC-SD site has moved to a new address <http://www.ndpd-sd.org> and is undergoing a complete redesign. There is still a portal page that provides links to both sites.

The sites provide a wealth of information, including the 15 Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention, model programs, membership information with online forms, a library resource database, statistical information, publications and online order forms, conference information, and links to related Web sites. The NDPC-SD site is also available in Spanish. NDPC-SD had telephone seminars in December and February, and a Web seminar in May.

NDPC/N received more than 500 requests for information, most of them via email. Over 60 inquiries were received for NDPC-SD. Inquiries came from 47 states, the District of Columbia, and seven countries. The library resource and model programs databases continue to be updated. The library database was inventoried and 425 obsolete and/or missing items were deleted, 82 new items were added, and 30 new programs were added to the model programs database.

The Dropout Prevention Update, an electronic monthly newsletter, is in its sixth year of publication. It is disseminated to over 500 people, but the circulation is at least double that because many people share it with their colleagues. Feedback continues to be very positive and NDPC-SD partners have inquired about their clientele receiving it. *Big IDEAs*, the quarterly electronic newsletter for NDPC-SD has over 400 subscribers and has received positive comments from its readers. Mary Reimer, Information Resource Consultant, will retire on November 2, 2006.

THE JOURNAL OF AT-RISK ISSUES

The Journal of At-Risk Issues was first published in 1992. It includes research-based articles on topics related to children, families, and communities in at-risk situations. Two issues were published during the 2005-2006 academic year (Volume 11, No. 2 and Volume 12, No. 1). The current editors of the *Journal* are Dr. Rebecca Robles-Piña of Sam Houston State University, who serves as Editor, and Dr. Joseph B. Ryan of Clemson University, who serves as Associate Editor.

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL ON SCHOOL DISAFFECTION

The International Journal on School Disaffection, edited by Ms. Reva Klein, is in its fourth year of publication, in partnership with Trentham Books of the United Kingdom. In addition to research-based articles on topics related to school disaffection, the *Journal* also includes pieces by practitioners working in the field. The two issues from Volume 3, No. 2 and Volume 4, No. 1, included articles from Australia, UK, US/Hispanic, Lebanon, Italy, South Africa, and the Netherlands.

THE NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NEWSLETTER

The *National Dropout Prevention Newsletter* continues its tradition of providing readers with a wealth of information on specific dropout prevention initiatives. This year, the themes for the quarterly newsletter were:

Summer 2005, Gender Equity, edited by Guest Editor, Dr. Mary Reimer
Fall 2005, Middle College, edited by Guest Editor, Dr. Terry Cash
Winter 2006, Truancy Prevention, edited by Marty Duckenfield
Spring 2006, Dropout Recovery, edited by Marty Duckenfield

The newsletter continues to include Program Profiles, Viewpoint, Book Reviews, Resources, Research, and Network Notes that keep members informed of Network news and events.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- *Closing the Gaps: A Comprehensive Dropout Prevention Plan in a Rural School District*—Effective Strategies for School Improvement series
- *The High Performance Workforce and the At-Risk Student*—Effective Strategies for School Improvement series
- *Realmente Quieres Dejar de Asistir a la Escuela? Debes conocer los hechos!*—Translated booklet for students.
- A new four-Part Truancy Prevention in Action series:
 - Legal and Economic Implications of Truancy
 - Best Practices and Model Truancy Programs
 - Planning, Collaboration, and Implementation for Truancy Programs
 - Guidelines for Evaluating Truancy Programs
- *Information About the School Dropout Issues: Selected Facts & Statistics*—A Research Report

AWARDS

Crystal Star Awards of Excellence in Dropout Recovery, Intervention, and Prevention.— The winners for 2006 are

Program Awards

The Academy of Creative Education (ACE),
San Antonio, TX
Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Academy of Excellence,
Lexington, KY
Providing Hope, South Sioux City, NE

Individual Awards

Dr. Patricia Cloud Duttweiler,
San Antonio, TX
Dr. Maria "Cuca" Robledo Montecel,
San Antonio, TX
Ms. Valerie A. Woodruff, Dover, DE

Students with Disabilities Individual Award

Ms. Suana Wessendorf, Des Moines, IA

Distinguished Leadership and Service Award

Dr. Jay Smink, Clemson, SC

NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK MEMBERSHIP REPORT

MEMBERSHIP STATUS—INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

The National Dropout Prevention Network ended the year with 375 individual members. These members were located in 32 states and Canada. One member was located in Canada.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS—INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

The National Dropout Prevention Network ended the year with 88 Institutional Members. These members were located in 32 states and Canada.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS—STUDENT MEMBERS

The National Dropout Prevention Network ended the year with seven Student Members.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

During the 2005-2006 school year, National Dropout Prevention Members received quarterly packets of research information containing the *National Dropout Prevention Newsletter* and numerous publications dealing with dropout prevention strategies. Information provided to Network Members during the school year included the Center's newest publications, *So You Want to Dropout Hispanic Version* and *Legal and Economic Implications of Truancy*.

NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK
FINANCIAL REPORT
JUNE 30, 2006

BALANCE FORWARD—JULY 1, 2005 \$ 37,336.24

REVENUE

Corporate Donations	54,350.00	
Registration Fees	37,890.62	
Exhibit Booth Rentals	19,050.00	
Individual Memberships	17,945.00	
Institutional Memberships	20,545.00	
Miscellaneous Income	15,031.29	
<i>Journal</i> Subscriptions	4,446.00	
Investments	<u>192.49</u>	
TOTAL REVENUE		\$ 169,450.40

EXPENSES

Contractual Services	59,921.12
Printing	24,940.10
Supplies	16,206.92
Travel	10,361.02
Postage	7,307.91
Other Services	6,492.67
Rent	6,240.00
Professional Fees	6,195.00
Telephone	5,503.84
Awards	2,210.12
Computer Services	1,967.13
Insurance	1,769.00
Program Services	1,040.40
Freight	738.23
Refunds	600.00
Registration Fees and Training	568.68
Bank Charges	180.31
Taxes and License Fees	<u>50.00</u>

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$ 152,292.45

ENDING BALANCE—JUNE 30, 2006 \$ 54,494.19

**NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
As of June 30, 2006**

	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Institutional</u>		<u>Individual</u>	<u>Institutional</u>
Alabama	5	1	New Hampshire	1	1
Alaska	1	1	New Jersey	7	3
Arizona	7	2	New Mexico	5	0
Arkansas	1	0	New York	14	7
California	38	6	North Carolina	20	5
Colorado	6	0	North Dakota	1	1
Connecticut	1	1	Ohio	6	5
District of Columbia	4	1	Oklahoma	3	2
Delaware	2	0	Oregon	1	1
Florida	27	2	Pennsylvania	11	2
Georgia	16	5	Rhode Island	0	0
Hawaii	0	0	South Carolina	53	5
Idaho	1	0	South Dakota	1	0
Illinois	5	0	Tennessee	7	3
Indiana	8	3	Texas	22	11
Iowa	8	2	Utah	2	0
Kansas	3	0	Vermont	1	0
Kentucky	13	3	Virginia	12	2
Louisiana	3	0	Washington	5	1
Maine	1	0	West Virginia	1	1
Maryland	13	2	Wisconsin	0	0
Massachusetts	5	0	Wyoming	3	1
Michigan	4	0	Canada	3	1
Minnesota	6	1	Puerto Rico	0	0
Mississippi	5	3	Virgin Islands	1	0
Missouri	6	2	Guam	0	0
Montana	2	1	England	1	0
Nebraska	1	0	Other Locations	1	0
Nevada	1	0	TOTAL	375	88

NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Directors Meeting February 19, 2006

The Board of Directors of the National Dropout Prevention Network held a meeting in conjunction with the Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM in Myrtle Beach, SC, on February 19, 2006. Members present: Arthur Stellar, Jay Smink, Edward Bates, Robin Case, Elaine Craft, Wanda Creel, Steve Edwards, Arthur Griffin, Audwin Helton, Eurmon Hervey, Jr., Mary Jo McLaughlin, John Murray, and Norm Shearin.

Dr. Stellar called the meeting to order and invited staff and Board members to introduce themselves and share any new developments in their work and/or lives. The minutes from the October 16-17, 2005, meeting were approved as read, and the Treasurer's report was submitted and accepted. Dr. Smink reviewed Center/Network activities for the Board, and stated there are several high visibility projects—four monographs on truancy, a three-year evaluation for two National State Education Agency vocational dropout programs – New Hampshire and Minnesota, NSF grant in partnership with the Florence-Darlington Technical College Advance Technological Education (ATE) National Resource Center, two contracts being pursued with corporations, and a major Communities In Schools (CIS) study on at-risk factors and after-school programs. Dr. Smink's general feeling was that the Center/Network's reputation is at an all-time high. Dr. Stellar reviewed the newly appointed members to the Board and invited Board members to suggest others for appointment

Task Force Reports. *Network Membership and Board Development:* A targeted marketing piece is to be developed and sent to large districts. *Programs and Special Activities:* Dr. Stellar reminded the Board that the white paper project on the national dropout issue is part of this committee's activities. The Large City School Superintendents' organization has agreed to sponsor a survey of dropout prevention policies to contribute to this paper. He suggested that the paper should spark national dialogue that results in some action. John Murray agreed to talk with some sources about funding. The time line for the paper is: corporate sponsors will be contacted by March 31; a third draft will be written by March 15 (one-pager), pending sponsorship; and an author(s) will be selected to write the paper by April 30. *Partnership Development:* Dr. Stellar recommended that staff review the list of organizations and narrow it to two to three potential partners in each category, then share it with the Board. Dr. Smink asked that the Board assist in identifying five or six organizations, for the Center to use a "test and refine" approach to strategic partnership development.

Network Goals and Structure of Task Forces. Dr. Stellar suggested that the Board take the engagement activities that Dr. Smink generated from previous Board discussions and shape four or five of these activities into major goals for the network and form task forces. A NDPC/N staff member should be assigned to each task force to assure continuity of work. The next Board meeting will be in San Antonio during the National Conference October 21-25, 2006.

Board of Directors Meeting October 16-17, 2005

The Board of Directors of the National Dropout Prevention Network held a meeting in conjunction with the annual national conference in Santa Clara, CA, on October 16-17, 2005. Members present: Art Stellar, Jay Smink, Elaine Craft, Lois L. Gracey, Mary Jo McLaughlin, Rene Martinez, Roger D. Rohwedder, Norman Shearin, Jr., and Mark Thimmig.

Chairman Dr. Art Stellar called the meeting to order. The minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer's report were submitted and approved. The transition to Cvent online registration and payment process for all future conference events was announced. Credit card payments, data analysis capabilities, and seamless interface with the NDPC Web site are features of the new Cvent system.

NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Task Force Reports. *Network Membership and Board Development:* A nominations committee was appointed to fill vacant slots on the Board: Jay Smink, Art Stellar, Lois Gracey, and Rene Martinez. *Network Program and Special Activities.* Five goals were consolidated and addressed by the following two action items: (1) The NDPC was asked to prepare a white paper to inform a national dialogue on issues that need to be addressed relative to counting dropouts and in creating a common definition of dropouts. Target release date is October 22-25, 2006, at the NDPN Board Meeting in San Antonio. (2) The NDPC, in collaboration with Dr. Stellar, will survey all large city school superintendents to collect data about the best practices in school district policies on dropouts and related issues. An analysis will be conducted of these policies and a survey report and “model” draft policy will be shared with the large city superintendents at their annual meeting in Florida. *Public Relations and Publication:* Dr. Rene Martinez offered to guest edit a newsletter on mentoring. It was agreed that before any action is taken that the Network “branding image” would be reviewed for currency. Mark Thimmig offered the expertise of his staff to assist with this task. *Partnership Development:* The committee drafted partnership documents for the Board’s review. The documents will be used as a basis for developing a formal process at the February meeting.

Dr. Smink and Dr. Reimer led the Board in a professional growth discussion on the topic of Truancy. Dr. Smink made some introductory remarks about the Center’s activities in the area of truancy and introduced a new series of four monographs. An informative discussion was held by the Board members on this issue. Rene Martinez commented that the important issue of school climate seemed to be missing, and Mark Thimmig supported these remarks. Additional research is ongoing and strong consideration will be given this issue in the future.

Professional Growth Discussions. The Board decided that it would be beneficial to initiate a more formal process for Board members to share information to broaden understanding of related initiatives. It was decided that one or two Board members would be asked to discuss their work at each meeting. Additionally, Center staff will prepare an informal, brief, monthly Board email update. This monthly update will include information from all Board members collected through contact by a NDPC staff member. The next Board of Directors meeting will be February 19, 2006, at the Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Annual Business Meeting October 17, 2005

The Annual Business Meeting of the National Dropout Prevention Network (NDPN) membership was held at The Marriott Hotel, Santa Clara, California, on the first full day of the Seventeenth Annual Dropout Prevention Network Conference. Dr. Art Stellar, Chair of the National Dropout Prevention Network Board of Directors, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. The minutes of the meeting held on November 1, 2004, in conjunction with the Sixteenth Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference in Orlando, Florida, were approved as presented. The Treasurer’s report was approved as presented. NDPN Board members and NDPC/N staff introduced themselves.

There being no further business, Dr. Stellar adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK BYLAWS

SECTION I. TITLE AND SERVICE AREA

ARTICLE 1.01. TITLE

The title or name of the organization shall be the National Dropout Prevention Network, hereafter referred to as the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network (Center/Network or NDPC/N).

SECTION II. PURPOSE AND SERVICES

ARTICLE 2.01. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Center/Network shall be to provide, on a membership basis, information and professional experiences for educators and other interested individuals involved in efforts to reduce America's school dropout rate.

ARTICLE 2.02. SERVICES

Activities and services provided by the Center/Network shall include, but not be limited to:

- periodic publications dealing with topics of interest and relevance to school dropout prevention efforts such as systemic changes in schools, innovative and successful school dropout prevention programs, opinions by leaders in the field, legislative initiatives, activities of related organizations, and upcoming events.
- workshops, institutes, and conferences, including one national conference per year.

SECTION III. MEMBERSHIP

The Center/Network members shall be guided by:

ARTICLE 3.01. ELIGIBILITY

Membership will be open to any individual or organization interested in dropout prevention.

ARTICLE 3.02. FEES

Levels of membership, membership fees, and benefits of membership shall be established by the Network Board.

SECTION IV. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 4.01. BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

The Board shall consist of not less than 25 members, representing groups listed in the Mission Statement, shall be appointed by the Network Board. Board members shall serve a term of three (3) years. Terms of office shall commence on January 1 following election. The Executive Director of the National Dropout Prevention Center shall serve as a member of the Board.

The Board shall elect from its membership the following officers to serve terms of two (2) years: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The immediate past Chair of the Board shall serve as a member of the Board. The officers, past Chair, and Executive Director shall constitute the Center/Network Executive Committee.

BYLAWS (Continued)

Should a vacancy occur on the Board, the Board may invite a Network member to serve in that vacancy.

The Board shall be empowered by the Network to conduct business on behalf of the Network and the officers may conduct official Center/Network business when assigned by the Chair.

ARTICLE 4.02. STANDING COMMITTEES

Committees shall be appointed by the Chair and shall include a Nominating Committee and an Audit Committee.

ARTICLE 4.03. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Special committees may be appointed by the Chair as needed.

***SECTION V. POWERS OF BOARD AND
DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES***

All of the powers, duties, and objectives of the Center/Network shall be possessed and may be exercised by the Board or the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 5.01. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

It shall be the duty of the Chair to serve as the principal officer of the Center/Network, to preside at all meetings, to appoint and charge all standing and special committees, to represent the Center/Network to the public and various organizations and agencies, to prepare meeting agendas, and to perform other related duties as may be assigned by the Board.

It shall be the duty of the Vice Chair to assist the Chair in fulfilling the responsibilities of that office and to serve as Chair in absence of the Chair.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to review and certify the minutes of meetings of the Board and the Network. The official records of the Network will be maintained by the Executive Director.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to review the preliminary annual budget of the Network prepared by the Executive Director and to chair the Audit Committee.

SECTION VI. MEETINGS

ARTICLE 6.01. MEETING OF THE NETWORK

The Center/Network shall hold an Annual Business Meeting each year, and on a date and at a place selected by the Board, for the announcement of members of the Board, and for organizational purposes.

Special meetings of the Center/Network for stated purposes may be called by the Chair or by the Executive Director. The Board Chair shall mail or deliver written notice of each annual or special meeting to each Network member not less than 30 days prior to each meeting. Notices of special meetings shall state the purpose and by whose authority the meeting was called.

BYLAWS (Continued)

ARTICLE 6.02. MEETING OF BOARD

The Board shall provide by its own rule for any regular or special meeting it deems necessary. The Board Chair shall mail or deliver written notices of any regular meeting of the Board or Officers at least seven (7) days prior to said meeting.

ARTICLE 6.03. QUORUM

A quorum for any meeting of the Center/Network shall be a majority of the members present and voting. For the Board a quorum shall be no less than nine (9).

ARTICLE 6.04. RULES OF ORDER

The rules contained in *Roberts Rules of Order* Revised shall govern in all meetings where they are consistent with these Bylaws and the intent and objectives of the Center/Network.

SECTION VII. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

The Network is affiliated with the National Dropout Prevention Center, located at Clemson University. All Network funds will be placed in the operating fund of the National Dropout Prevention Network and disbursed in accordance with the Center/Network annual agreement approved by the Network Board.

The Executive Director of the National Dropout Prevention Center shall provide the Chair and Treasurer with an annual summary of Network activities. An annual budget shall be approved by the Board. A yearly financial summary shall be provided and a financial summary shall also be provided the Center/Network membership at the annual Business Meeting of the Network.

SECTION VIII. PERSONNEL

ARTICLE 8.01. NETWORK OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

The Executive Director of the National Dropout Prevention Center shall have responsibility for the overall active business operations of the Center/Network, shall monitor the work to be done, and shall sign all reports and recommendations to be provided to the Network Chair and/or Board.

ARTICLE 8.02. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

The Board will conduct an annual review of the Network management actions performed by the Executive Director.

SECTION IX. AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

These Bylaws may be amended only in accordance with the following procedure:

ARTICLE 9.01. RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENTS

A resolution approving the form of such proposed amendment shall be adopted by the Board at least 15 days in advance of the next Business Meeting of the Center/Network.

BYLAWS (Continued)

ARTICLE 9.02. ADOPTED AMENDMENT

Such proposed amendment shall be presented at the next Business Meeting and be considered as moved and seconded for adoption. Such amendment shall be deemed adopted upon receiving the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at such meeting.

SECTION X. INCORPORATION

The National Dropout Prevention Network will be incorporated under the laws of South Carolina as an eleemosynary corporation. The purpose of the corporation as expressed in the charter will be that given in Article 2.01 of the Bylaws, but the operations of the Network will be restricted as follows:

In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the organization will be turned over to one or more organizations impacting at-risk youth which themselves are exempt as organizations described in Sections 501 (c) (3) and 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding sections of any prior or future law, or to the federal, state, and local government for exclusive public purpose.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this charter, this corporation will not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by (a) a corporation exempt from federal income tax under sections 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law or (b) a corporation, contributions of which are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or any other corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law.

Said corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law.

SECTION XI. SEVERANCE CLAUSE

These Bylaws were ratified at a meeting of the Board on June 25, 1987, at the Aspen Institute of Humanistic Studies, Wye Woods Conference Center, Queenstown, Maryland. The invalidity of any section, article, or provision of these Bylaws shall not invalidate any other section, article, or provision thereof.

Adopted June 15, 1987
Revised March 28, 1988
Revised October 17, 1988
Revised March 26, 1990
Revised April 16, 1991
Revised March 6, 1994
Revised March 18, 1995
Revised November 10, 1997
Revised October 27, 2003

**NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK
2005-2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

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NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION CONFERENCE

HISTORICAL RECORD

MAJOR SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

***NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION CENTER**
***NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK**

Past Conferences

Year: 1989
Dates: April 2-4, 1989
Location: Town & Country Hotel
San Diego, California
Cosponsors: California Association of County Superintendents of Schools
Regional Laboratories for Educational Research and Development
Association of Junior Leagues
Conference Chair: Dr. Robert Williams
California Department of Education
Theme: Dare to Dream
Featured Speakers: Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton
Mr. Frosty Troy, Editor of Oklahoma Observer
Ms. Bonnie Guiton, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
Mr. Billy Mills, 1984 Olympic Gold Medalist
Attendance: 1,000

Year: 1990
Dates: March 25-27, 1990
Location: Hyatt Regency Hotel
Nashville, Tennessee
Cosponsors: Tennessee Department of Education
Regional Laboratories for Educational Research and Development
The Center for Slow Learners
Conference Chair: Mr. Ken McCullough
Tennessee Department of Education
Theme: Breaking the Cycle
Featured Speakers: Ms. Dolly Parton, Country Western Singer
Texas State Senator Gonzalo Barrientos
Ms. Hedy White, Director of IBM Educational Systemns
Ms. Patricia Russell-McClund, Member of the National Bar Association
Attendance: 750

Year: 1991
Dates: April 14-16, 1991
Location: Tulsa Civic Center
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Cosponsor: The Tulsa County Superintendent of Schools
Conference Chair: Dr. Kara Gae Wilson
Tulsa County Superintendent of Schools
Theme: Education—Unlocking Human Potential—Key to the Future
Featured Speakers: Mr. Waylon Jennings, Country Western Singer
Mr. William Raspberry, Nationally Syndicated Columnist
Chief, Wilma Mankiller, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
Mr. Patrick Taylor, Owner of Taylor Energy Co. and Founder of "Taylor's Kids"
Mr. Zig Ziglar, Motivational Speaker
Attendance: 850

Historical Record (Continued)

Year: 1992

Dates: March 29-31, 1992

Location: David L. Lawrence Convention Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Cosponsor: Mon Valley Education Consortium

Conference Chair: Dr. Linda Croushore
Mon Valley Education Consortium

Theme: Rising to the Challenge

Featured Speakers: Mr. Fred Rogers, of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" TV program
Dr. Tim Theis, Premarital and marriage consultant
Congressman Bill Goodling, Republican Representative for PA
Mr. James B. Hayes, Publisher, Fortune Magazine
Dr. Emma Rhodes, Arkansas Coordinator of Adult Education
Mr. Claude A. Mayberry, Jr., Publisher, educator, and entrepreneur
General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Attendance: 950

Year: 1993

Dates: March 21-24, 1993

Location: Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia

Cosponsor: Georgia Department of Education

Conference Chair: Dr. Marilyn Beck
Georgia Department of Education

Theme: Celebrate the Victory

Featured Speakers: Mr. Thomas A. Fleming, 1992 Teacher of the Year
Mr. James Dezell, President of EduQuest
Judge Glenda Hatchett Johnson, Presiding Judge of GA St. Court
Mr. William E. Milliken, Founder and President of Cities In Schools, Inc.

Attendance: 650

Year: 1994

Dates: March 6-9, 1994

Location: San Jose Convention Center
San Jose, California

Cosponsors: California State Consortium for Adult Education (CSCAE)
Santa Clara Unified School District - Ed. Options Division

Conference Chair: Mr. Paul Belomy
California State Consortium for Adult Education

Theme: Serious About Success

Featured Speakers: Dr. Crystal Kuykendal, President and General Counsel of K.I.R.K., Inc.
Dr. Raymond Golarz, Superintendent, Richmond, Indiana School District
Ms. Barbara Meister Vitale, international educational lecturer, business consultant, and author

Attendance: 1,400

Historical Record (Continued)

Year: 1995

Dates: March 17-21, 1995
Location: Indianapolis Convention Center
Indianapolis, Indiana
Cosponsors: Indiana State Department of Education
School of Education, West Georgia College
Conference Chair: Dr. Dennis Jackson
Indiana Department of Education
Dr. Robert C. Morris
West Georgia College
Theme: Challenges and Opportunities: Lessons from the Field
Featured Speakers: Dr. John Goodlad, Professor, College of Education, University of Washington
Ms. Sandra McBrayer, 1994 Teacher of the Year
Mr. Judson Hixson, Associate Director, Midwest Center
for Drug-Free Schools
Dr. Betty Siegel, President, Kennesaw State College
Attendance: 750

Year: 1996

Dates: March 24-27, 1996
Location: Tampa Convention Center
Tampa, Florida
Cosponsor: Institute for At-Risk Infants, Children and Youth, and Their Families
Conference Chair: Dr. Carolyn D. Lavelly, Director
Institute for At-Risk Infants, Children and Youth, and Their Families
College of Education, University of South Florida
Theme: Children and Families At Risk: Breaking the Risk Cycle Through Caring, Collaboration,
Congruence, and Continuity
Featured Speakers: Mr. Geoffrey Canada, President/CEO of Rheedlen Centers for Children and
Families, New York City
Dr. Harold Hodgkinson, Director of the Center for Demographic Policy,
Institute for Educational Leadership, Washington, DC
Mr. Shay Bilchik, Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice
Attendance: 896

Year: 1997

Dates: November 8-12, 1997
Location: Radisson Hotel
New Orleans, Louisiana
Cosponsor: Louisiana Department of Education
Conference Cochairs: Ms. Sharron Ayers
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Project
6554 Florida Boulevard, #119
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Ms. Maxcine Giles
Louisiana State Department of Education
Bureau of Student Services
P. O. Box 94064
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9061
Theme: Behind the Mask: A Child Worth Saving

Historical Record (Continued)

1997 (Continued)

Featured Speakers: The Honorable Judge Robert Downing, Louisiana District Court Judge
Dr. George J. McKenna, III, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction,
Compton, California
Mr. Lewis Duane Jackson, Managing Partner, Migliassi/Jackson &
Associates, Boston Massachusetts
Dr. Margarita Rivas, Vice President Language and Diversity, Southwest
Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL), Austin, Texas

Attendance: 854

Year: 1998

Dates: October 18-21, 1998
Location: Westin Hotel-Renaissance Center
Detroit, Michigan
Cosponsors: Detroit Public Schools
Michigan Department of Education
Conference Chair: Ms. Dolores Norman
Detroit Board of Education
5057 Woodward, Box 318
Detroit, MI 48202
Theme: Wheels in Motion: Creating Champions of Learning
Featured Speakers: Ms. Doris Biscoe, Detroit TV Host, Detroit Michigan
Mr. Clifton Davis, Actor, Singer, Composer, and Lecturer
Dr. Jerry Linenger, Astronaut and Navy Physician
Mr. Hugh B. Price, CEO of the National Urban League
Dr. Elba Santiago, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Services
and Director of Student Life at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Attendance: 856

Year: 1999

Dates: December 5-8, 1999
Location: Renaissance Austin Hotel
Austin, Texas
Cosponsor: Texas Education Agency
Conference Chair: Dr. Deborah Nance and Ms. Gloria Reid
Accountability, Development, Training and Support
Texas Education Agency
1701 N Congress Ave
Austin, TX 78701
Theme: Every Child Is A Soaring Star
Features Speakers: Dr. Peter Benson, President of Search Institute in Minneapolis, MN
Dr. Mary Montle Bacon, Consultant, Hillsboro, CA
Ms. Judy Wilson, United States Department of Agriculture, Alexandria, VA
Dr. Dudley Flood, Consultant, Raleigh, NC
Dr. Maria Robledo Montecel, Executive Director of Intercultural
Development Research Association, San Antonio, TX

Attendance: 821

Year: 2000

Dates: October 1-4, 2000
Location: Omni Inner Harbor Hotel
Baltimore, Maryland

Historical Record (Continued)

2000 (Continued)

Cosponsor: Maryland State Department of Education
 Conference Chairs: Mr. Walter Varner and Ms. Jane Fleming
 Maryland State Department of Education
 Division of Comp. Ed. & Support Services
 200 W Baltimore Street
 Baltimore, MD 21201-2595

Theme: Turning the Tide in the Next Millennium

Featured Speakers: Dr. Sam Springfield, Center for Social Organizations of Schools, Johns Hopkins University
 Dr. Joyce Epstein, Center for School, Family, and Community Partnerships, Johns Hopkins University
 Dr. Robert Slavin, Center for Research on the Education of Students Placed at Risk, Johns Hopkins University
 Dr. Larry Brendtro, Founder of Circle of Courage, Lennox, SD
 Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, III, President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD
 Mrs. Shirley Watkins, Under Secretary of the Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC

Attendance: 651

Year: 2001

Dates: October 28-31, 2001
 Location: The Rosen Plaza Hotel
 9700 International Drive
 Orlando, FL 32819-8114

Cosponsors: Communities In Schools of Florida, Inc.
 Florida State Department of Education

Conference Chairs: Ms. Lois Gracey
 Communities In Schools of Florida, Inc.
 2728-C Pablo Ave
 Tallahassee, FL 32308
 Ms. Mary Jo Butler
 Florida Department of Education
 Division of Public Schools and Community Education
 325 W Gaines Room 344
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Theme: Discover the Magic

Featured Speakers: Mr. John Tudor, Magician
 Mr. Wintley Phipps, Vocal Artist, Preacher, Founder and President of U.S. Dream Academy
 Ms. Jo Ann Burroughs, Teacher, Principal, and Writer
 Dr. Maria Chairez, Educator, Clark County School District
 Mr. Tony Campbell, Executive Vice President of External Affairs, Communities In Schools

Attendance: 536

Year: 2002

Dates: October 9-13, 2002
 Location: Town & Country Hotel
 500 Hotel Circle North
 San Diego, CA 92108

Historical Record (Continued)

2002 (Continued)

Cosponsors: California Dropout Prevention Network (CDPN)
California State Department of Education

Conference Chair: Ms. Claire Paul, Executive Director, California Dropout Prevention Network
122 Library Lane
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Theme: Surfing to Success

Featured Speakers: Mr. Peter Yarrow, Entertainer and Author
Dr. Alma Flora Ada, Professor of International and Multicultural Programs,
University of San Francisco
Mr. Darrick Smith, Executive Director and Founder of TryUMF Oakland, CA
Mr. Eugene Garcia, Educator and Author

Attendance: 2,543

Year:

2003

Dates: October 26-29, 2003

Location: Hyatt Regency Crown Center
2345 McGee Street
Kansas City, MO 64108

Cosponsors: MO Department of Education
KS State Department of Education
Kauffman Foundation
Hallmark Foundation
MO Alternative Schools Network Association

Conference Chairs: Mairlou Joiner
State of MO Department of Education
Kathy Jensen
University of Missouri-Kansas City
School of Education

Theme: Reaching Every Student Straight From the Heart

Featured Speakers: Dr. Carol W Tomlinson, Professor of Educational Leadership, Foundations and Policy,
University of Virginia
Dr. Rene Rochester, Founder and CEO of URBAN SET, Austin, TX
Dr. Steven Edwards, National Crime Prevention Council, Washington, DC
Mr. Darrick Smith, Founder and Director, TryUMF Program, Oakland, CA

Attendance: 437

Year:

2004

Dates: October 28-31, 2004

Location: The Rosen Plaza Hotel
9700 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819-8114

Cosponsors: Communities In Schools of Florida, Inc.

Conference Chair: Ms. Lois Gracey
Communities In Schools of Florida, Inc.
c/o Tallahassee Community College
444 Appleyard Dr
Tallahassee, FL 32304

Theme: A Student With a Dream Is a Student With a Future

Historical Record (Continued)

2004 (Continued)

Featured Speakers: Dr. Ann White, Teacher and Educator
Coach Darrell "Coach D" Andrews, Founder and President of Darrell Andrews Enterprises
Dr. Jim Knight, Researcher at Kansas University, Center on Learning
Dr. Joy Eichelberger, Consultant, Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance
Network (PATTAN)

Attendance: 465

Year: 2005
Dates: October 30 – November 3, 2005
Location: Santa Clara Marriott
Santa Clara, CA
Cosponsors: California Dropout Prevention Network (CDPN)
California State Department of Education
Education Alliance
Conference Chair: Claire Paul, Executive Director
California Dropout Prevention Network
122 Library Lane
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
Theme: Ready to Learn: Helping Students Survive & Thrive
Featured Speakers: Earnest Mendes, Mendes Training & Consulting, Carlsbad, CA
Ray Golarz, Superintendent, Richmond Indiana Schools
Attendance: 1,861

Future Conferences

Year: 2006
Dates: October 22-25, 2006
Location: Crowne Plaza Riverwalk Hotel
San Antonio, TX
Cosponsors: The Academy of Creative Education,
NE Independent School District
Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA)
Conference Chair: Dr. Mary Jo McLaughlin, Director, Principal
The Academy of Creative Education
3736 Perrin Central, Bulding No. 2
San Antonio, TX 78217
Theme: Celebrating Our Mission . . . One Miracle at a Time
Attendance: 800 Estimated

Year: 2007
Dates: October 28-31, 2007
Location: The Galt House Hotel & Suites
Louisville, KY
Cosponsors: Kentucky Department of Education
Indiana Deaprtment of Education
Jefferson County Schools
Conference Chair: Beverly Herrlinger
Jefferson County High School
900 South Floyd Street
Louisville, KY 40203
Theme: Guiding ALL Students to the Winner's Circle: Rigor, Relevance, Relationships
Attendance: 800 Estimated

NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION CENTER STAFF

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Loujeania Williams Bost, Ph.D.	Assistant Program Director
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Lucas McDaniel	Webmaster



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