

Minority Student Achievement Network MSAN Monthly, September 2016

Happy Fall MSAN Educators!

Below is more “news-you-can-use” to support your district’s equity work. You have now received several MSAN Monthly emails. Is the information getting to your educators? If so, **thanks for sharing** what we hope you and your staff have found to be timely and rich resources. If you have not forwarded our newsletters on to your team, we encourage you to please do so, as everyone who reads this may find one or two items of interest. Here’s an example of how Alexandria City Public Schools introduces the MSAN Monthly to their staff:

ACPS is a member of the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN), a national coalition of school districts that focuses on reducing disparities in education. The email below features the most recent newsletter which may have information that is of interest to you. MSAN also offers online resources that include a clearinghouse of best practices in responsive education, research briefs and resources for staff, families and students. Visit the [MSAN website](#) for more information.

MSAN STUDENT CONFERENCE

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools is very excited to be hosting the MSAN Student Conference October 12-15, 2016. **Every Step Leaves a Trail** is this year’s theme. Registration is now closed, but please take a look at the [MSAN Student Conference website](#) for an agenda, pre-conference materials, and more details.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

[Education Northwest](#), home of **Region X Equity Assistance Center**, offers services to school districts, including guidance on such issues as preventing or countering discrimination based on race, gender, and national origin; fostering family and community engagement in schools; supporting culturally competent and culturally responsive practices; addressing the structural and procedural roots of educational inequity; and strengthening instruction for English learners. In addition to registering for upcoming webinars at their website, take a look at their robust catalogue of [webinars](#) that includes such topics as:

- Making culturally responsive improvements in mathematics instruction
- Shifting toward a culturally responsive Common Core
- Supporting English Learners Through pre-, during-, and post-reading scaffolds

RESEARCH YOU CAN USE

Great Lakes Equity Center Provides Equitable Distribution of Effective Educators Toolkit

According to the Toolkit’s co-authors and researchers at the Great Lakes Equity Center, the [Equitable Distribution of Effective Educators Toolkit](#) is designed to facilitate a team in conducting an in-depth analysis of their local context and pre-planning related to the following domains of teacher efficacy:

- Definition of Effective Educator,
- Educator Recruitment,
- Educator Induction,
- Educator Professional Learning and Development,
- Educator Evaluation,
- Educator Retention, and
- Distribution of Educators.

EQUITY IN ACTION

More 2016 Election Resources

Letters to the Next President 2.0

You may have seen this project profiled in a recent Education Week article, "Students can write letters to the next president about the issue that matters most to them, and the National Writing Project and PBS member station KQED will publish the letters through Election Day." [Letters to the Next President 2.0](#) engages and connects young people, aged 13-18, as they research, write, and voice their opinions on issues that matter to them in the coming election.

Teaching Tolerance, Fall 2016

[Polarized Classrooms](#), by University of Wisconsin researcher Paula McAvoy, offers a framework for civic education in an era of political polarization. Because politics can be tricky to discuss in the classroom, teaching about ideology, partisanship and political polarization can reduce tensions students may have around political differences. The nonpartisan resources at this site can encourage students' critical thinking about politics and help jumpstart a political discourse that doesn't end when the bell rings.

LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Two MSAN Superintendents Provide Resolute Examples of Strong Equity Leadership

[The Fallacy and Failings for Kids, Especially Those of Color, in the School Ratings Game](#)

In an opinion piece for Cleveland.com, **Dr. Gregory Hutchings**, superintendent of **Shaker Heights City Schools** in Ohio, speaks about the disservice of state-level grades that are not aligned with locally-developed learning objectives, the damage of opportunity hoarding, and the call for wider civic engagement on behalf of our public schools.

[Route to Refugee Success in Schools](#)

Harrisonburg City Schools, one of three Virginia MSAN school districts, located about two hours from Washington D.C., enrolls a growing number of refugee students from many different countries, including Congo, Eritrea, and Iraq. **Dr. Scott Kizner**, superintendent in Harrisonburg, emphasizes the importance the district places on supporting students' social-emotional needs as refugee students who have often experienced trauma, have been forced to leave their homes, and are negotiating cultural and social norms as they begin new lives in the U.S.

Minority Student Achievement Network

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