



**NATIONAL NETWORK OF PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY**

October 27, 2011

To: Key Contacts for Districts, States, and Organizations in the
National Network of Partnership Schools

From: Darcy Hutchins, Sr. Program Facilitator
Marsha Greenfeld, Sr. Program Facilitator
Brenda Thomas, Sr. Program Facilitator

Re: National Network of Partnership Schools October E-Brief

October Wishes

Halloween fun is just around the corner but don't fear,
With NNPS treats, no tricks will make it a good year.
Your team should be up and running - going along,
With all the good things that make a partnership program strong!

NNPS Leadership Development Conference—A HUGE Success!

The NNPS Leadership Development Conference, held October 20-21, brought over 160 people from 22 states across the country and Canada together in Baltimore. We were excited to share our 15th year anniversary with participants. A special 'Thank You' goes to award winners Loree Smith, John Adiletto, and Marie Miller for sharing their good work to help others be award winning sites.

The glowing evaluations indicate the potential that the participants see for increasing student achievement through partnerships. Attendee comments include:

- "The speakers and research were phenomenal! I can't wait to share the resources with my district!"
- "This is my second conference and I find it grounding – it helps me to focus on our tasks at hand!"
- "Networking is one of my favorite things to do. I learn so much by meeting people, having round tables and listening to other people's ideas. People have so many great ideas that need to be shared!"

The NNPS staff was equally energized and inspired by the work that all of the participants are doing in the field. We hope to see all of you at our next Leadership Development Conference on October 11-12, 2012 in Baltimore.

2011 Award Winners are Now On-Line

The 2011 award winners are now on-line. You can read their inspiring stories at <http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/awards/2011/index.htm>. This year 29 sites are award winners: 19 schools, 5 districts and 5 organizations. We are pleased to report that 8 of the winners are middle and high schools—our highest number ever!

This is a good time to talk to your team members about working to be an award winning site for the 2011-12 school year. NNPS members that have been doing this for at least two years and that are “scaling up” their programs are eligible for consideration. See additional requirements for applying to be an award winning program on our website.

Coming February 2012 –*Multicultural Partnerships Involve All Families*

NNPS is pleased to announce a new book, available in February 2012, entitled *Multicultural Partnerships Involve All Families*. Written by Darcy Hutchins, Marsha Greenfeld, Joyce Epstein, Mavis Sanders, and Claudia Galindo, the book includes research-based practices to involve more families and community partners for student success. The chapters are divided into three sections: Multicultural Family Nights, Workshops for Parents, and Curriculum Connections. Each chapter includes reproducibles in both English and Spanish. The publisher, Eye on Education, is offering NNPS members an opportunity to receive updates about this book and a pre-publication discount. To receive more information, go to <http://bit.ly/q4vZIR>.

Additional District-Level Promising Partnership Practice

We will continue to highlight Promising Partnership Practices (PPPs) that we were unable to include in the 2011 edition due to size limitations.

Working Together for Family Involvement in Student Achievement Submitted by Leon County Title I Schools (LCS) in Tallahassee, FL and Florida Parental Involvement Resource Center (FL PIRC)

LCS and the Florida PIRC provided schools’ Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs) technical assistance, information, and training to meet Title I requirements for parent involvement. The District’s Parent Involvement Committee meets quarterly to plan activities to increase family and community participation.

LCS uses the NNPS approach to increase family and community involvement and all Title I schools are NNPS members. Each Title I school has an Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) that meets monthly to discuss and plan school-based involvement activities and make decisions about the parent involvement budget.

Which District Leadership Strategies are being used?

- Create Awareness
- Guide Learning and Program Development
- Share Knowledge
- Celebrate Milestones
- Align Program and Policy
- Document Progress and Evaluate Outcomes

Answer: Guide Learning and Program Development
 Align Program and Policy
 Share Knowledge

Additional School-Level Promising Partnership Practices

Parent Forum – Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters Francis Howell Middle School, St. Charles, MO

In an effort to reach out to fathers of daughters, strengthen parenting skills, and discuss fathers’ experiences and concerns about raising daughters -- especially teenage daughters -- Francis Howell Middle School organized a Parent Book Study. The book *Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters* by Meg Meeker was used as the topic for the book study. Fathers from Francis Howell and other middle and elementary schools in the district were invited to attend. The event was widely publicized in a variety of ways. One father

noted: “I found the conversation very helpful. I found a lot of us fathers have the same challenges and a lot in common. ... the overall awareness that I have now has helped me reinforce the importance of the little things that mean more than you realize.”

Kindergarten Family Home Projects

Parkway Elementary School, Virginia Beach, VA

To develop the kindergarteners’ speaking, listening, and questioning skills, Parkway Elementary School implemented *Kindergarten Family Home Projects*. Each month a new family project goes home such as: Create a Snowman (January), Valentine Containers (February), and End of the Rainbow Scenery (March). Each project goes home with instructions and is due back one week later. Students present their projects orally to their classmates. Children are able to express themselves in many different ways. One teacher said: “I love it! It really brings out each child’s individuality.”

Another Update on UPDATE—It’s not too late!

Thank you to all NNPS members who returned the 2011 UPDATE! More UPDATE surveys came in this year on time than ever before! If you were delayed, it’s not too late to renew your membership! Send us your UPDATE survey and \$200 renewal fee as soon as possible to receive your copy of *Promising Partnership Practices 2011*.

Built-In Opportunities

Activities occurring in the fall, such as Education Week and Parent-Teacher Conferences, offer an opportunity to meet many new families and provide them with information about your partnership program. Consider distributing volunteer surveys to see how families can most comfortably participate. Ask families what help they need to support their children. For ideas, visit past collections of PPPs on our website or contact Marsha, Darcy, or Brenda.

Funding Opportunities

Campell's: Labels for Education

The Campell's, Inc. Labels for Education Program gives schools free educational equipment in exchange for labels from Campbell products.

Maximum Award: varies.

Eligibility: Schools or parents coordinate label drives to raise resources for schools.

Deadline: N/A.

<http://www.labelsforeducation.com/About-the-Program/about-the-program>

Comcast Grants for Diversity-Oriented Programs

The Comcast Foundation is awarding grants to maximize the impact of community investments so they yield tangible, measurable benefits to the neighborhoods Comcast serves and the people who live there. The Foundation's primary focus is in funding diversity-oriented programs that address literacy, volunteerism, and youth leadership development.

Maximum Award: \$500,000.

Eligibility: 501(c)3 organizations operating within communities that Comcast serves.

Deadline: N/A.

<http://www.comcast.com/foundation>

The Public Education Network publishes several funding opportunities that may be useful for you to fund activities from your One-Year Action Plan for Partnerships. For a complete list of grants and awards, please visit:

http://www.publiceducation.org/newsblast_grants.asp

Many parent involvement grants and funding opportunities exist in your states and local communities. Type “Parent Involvement Funding [INSERT YOUR STATE NAME]” into Google and multiple options should appear.

In Partnership,

Darcy, Marsha & Brenda

The NNPS E-Brief is disseminated once a month during the school year. The E-Brief is intended to:

1. Offer timely information to support your efforts to build comprehensive school, family, and community partnership programs;
2. Update you on available research, tools, materials, services, and training opportunities from the National Network of Partnership Schools; and
3. Provide you with a vehicle to exchange ideas with, ask questions of, and share resources with other NNPS members and the NNPS staff.

To respond to NNPS about an E-Brief, click “Reply” and you will send your e-mail only to me, Marsha Greenfeld.

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NNPS gratefully acknowledges **MetLife Foundation** for its support.