



AHSI Network News
July 1, 2010

AHSI NEWS & EVENTS

AHSI SUCCESSFULLY ENDS A MILESTONE YEAR

On June 30th, AHSI ended a milestone year in which nine AHSI Founding Member organizations launched the network as a new enterprise in October 2009 with a renewed commitment to create pathways and expand options to future success for all youth. As the Association for High School Innovation, the network has advanced several strategies outlined in a business plan to become fiscally sustainable by 2014. Highlights of AHSI's progress over the past quarter (April, May, June 2010) are below listed.

1. Creating a transitional capital base requiring support of \$1.6 million over the five-year strategic period
 - AHSI has cultivated relationships with national and regional funders committed to addressing the dropout crisis, increasing high school graduation, and promoting college and career success. An effort will be made to convene interested funders in Fall 2010.
 - AHSI was included as an official or unofficial partner in Investing in Innovation Fund grant applications submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by Big Picture Learning, Communities in Schools of Georgia, Diploma Plus, and EdVisions Schools.
 - AHSI's proposal was included in New Hampshire's Race to the Top application, and AHSI has contacted 16 Race to the Top Phase 1 finalists in states with AHSI schools and programs. A few states have responded indicating interest in AHSI, namely CO, NY, TN, and MN.

2. Defining and implementing a fee-based membership enterprise that generates benefits and responsibilities among members
 - All nine of AHSI's Founding Member organizations remitted annual membership fees for Year 1 by June 1st. These fees will sustain AHSI through September 30, 2010, enabling time for additional fund raising.
 - AHSI welcomed its first new member organization, Our Piece of the Pie®, in June following a rigorous application and review process conducted in April-May, a year sooner than projected.

3. Delivering two major convening events each year – an annual members' meeting for conducting business and a major national alternative high school conference designed to assemble innovators dedicated to educating all youth
 - AHSI Advisory Board members will convene this coming fall in Henderson, MN, co-hosted by EdVisions Schools, on September 28-30, 2010.
 - The AHSI Advisory Board decided not to host the National Conference tentatively scheduled to be held in Washington, D.C., on April 14-16, 2011, for several reasons. Top among them were a lack of funds on

hand to secure a venue for 500+ attendees and anticipation of new projects with districts and other partners that will become a priority.

4. Updating and expanding the place-based partnership model to reach more cities, states, school districts, and other customers with a range of effective, high quality secondary schools and programs that expand pathways to graduation
 - AHSI Partnerships in Indianapolis, IN, Nashville, TN, and Newark, NJ have opened new schools and graduated students as planned. As NLC's facilitation of AHSI Partnerships concludes this August, partners will continue to be involved with AHSI's new enterprise.
 - In May, AHSI was invited by South Bend Community Schools Corporation (SBCSC) to serve as a partner in its proposal to the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) for School Improvement Grant funds to transform Bendix High School, the district's sole alternative high school. SBCSC will be notified by IDOE regarding this three-year award in July. AHSI's proposal was for \$2.2 million.
 - AHSI responded in May to a Request for Information issued by IDOE to identify potential Turnaround Management Organizations for its Fast Forward Initiative. AHSI proposed to serve as a TMO for five to seven high schools, including Indianapolis and a few districts north and west, for \$9 million. IDOE has not yet announced the Request for Proposals.
 - AHSI will support EdVisions Schools in its application for federal funding under the U.S. Department of Education's Charter School Program, Grants for Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools.
 - AHSI will respond to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education program, the High School Graduation Initiative (HSGI) in July.
5. Promoting best practices and developing network initiatives
 - AHSI was invited by The Corps Network to partner on education strategies the Civic Justice Corps will use in implementing a 2.5-year \$10 million grant from U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration to engage young offenders in completing high school and preparing for college and careers. AHSI's role in this initiative will be covered for \$141,000.
 - AHSI approached the National Student Clearinghouse and negotiated a reduced rate for member organizations to join NSC, enabling AHSI schools and programs to contribute to and access the largest national repository of data on high school to college transition.
 - AHSI continues to engage with See Forever Foundation & Maya Angelou Public Charter School in Washington, D.C., to advance policy and practice.
 - AHSI met with the National College Access Network in June to explore opportunities for collaboration.
6. Building capacity for practitioners to advocate policy at the federal level
 - AHSI officially joined America's Promise Alliance, GradNation, and the Linked Learning Alliance (convened by ConnectEd in California).
 - AHSI conducted Washington, D.C. visits in June to continue coordinating efforts with the American Youth Policy Forum, Council of Chief State School Officers, Jobs for the Future, National Governors' Association, National Youth Employment Coalition, U.S. Department of

- Education, and others addressing the dropout crisis, high school graduation, and postsecondary success.
- AHSI was featured in an American Youth Policy luncheon seminar on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. on June 11, and received highly positive inquiries and responses.
 - AHSI submitted written comments to the U.S. Department of Education on the Investing in Innovation Fund, Race to the Top, and reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
7. Framing and supporting next generation learning solutions for our youth.
- AHSI staff members identified "service learning" as a potential area for future collaboration among member organizations based on interest expressed by members of the High School to Career & College Transition Work Group (May 2010).
 - AHSI will begin to explore the role of career technical education and its models (e.g., academies, etc.) through coordinated efforts with the National Academy Foundation, ConnectEd, and other members of the Linked Learning Alliance.

AHSI remains housed with Big Picture Learning as of July 1st through September 30, 2010. However, AHSI is exploring opportunities for fiscal sponsorship with Third Sector New England based in Boston, MA, and the Tides Center based in San Francisco, CA. Affiliating with a neutral, third party fiscal sponsor for the mid-term would enable AHSI to apply for status as an independent nonprofit organization in the longer term. AHSI also continues exploring opportunities to collaborate with the KnowledgeWorks Foundation.

In the meantime, AHSI is excited by these developments and looks forward to working with new partners to advance our common commitment to ensuring that all young people graduate high school prepared for college and careers.

AHSI WELCOMES NEWEST MEMBER – OUR PIECE OF THE PIE®

We are excited and pleased to welcome Our Piece of the Pie® as a new member of our network! Our Piece of the Pie (OPP®) (<http://www.opp.org>) is "a leading youth development agency that helps urban young people ages 14-24 become successful adults by effectively collaborating and partnering with schools, colleges, community agencies and businesses to promote independence and economic success." OPP is based in Hartford, CT and is an active member of the National Youth Employment Coalition.



OPP's programs include youth businesses, education services, employment services, Hartford Americorps, and Pathways to Success in Schools. OPP runs Opportunity High School in Hartford, the first partnership school in Connecticut. Opportunity High Schools is a small, academically rigorous diploma-granting high school that combines the unique skills and expertise of OPP and Hartford Public Schools, the two partners. Programming draws from the Good Shepherd Services model in New York City and the New York Department of Education. This and other programs OPP offers are stellar examples of high quality alternatives to traditional high school that enable students who have been struggling academically to graduate high school prepared for college, careers, and promising futures.

AHSI AMERICAN YOUTH POLICY FORUM LUNCHEON A SUCCESS!

Our "new" Association for High School Innovation (AHSI) presentation during the American Youth Policy Forum luncheon on Capitol Hill Friday, June 11th was "excellent" according to Jennifer Lerner, Senior Director, AYPF, who moderated this session. A standing room only crowd filled the Rayburn House Office Building venue, and



participants were highly engaged throughout the session, posing several questions and asking for additional information about AHSI. The forum entitled, "Building a Portfolio of Options to Ensure All Students Graduate," featured an overview of AHSI by Talmira Hill and presentations on Big Picture Learning by Elliot Washor, Gateway to College by Nick Mathern, and the Newark-AHSI Partnership by Dr. Vincent Mays, Director of Alternative Schools for Newark Public Schools. Learn more about the forum and view presentations at

<http://www.aypf.org/forumbriefs/2010/fb061110.htm#overview>.

AHSI has been invited to engage directly with additional D.C.-based organizations, including the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National College Access Network, and the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education for the High School Graduation Initiative, among others.

CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU to everyone involved from AHSI, NLC, and AYPF!

AYPF and AHSI will host a webinar to follow-up with Congressional staff members and others who attend the AYPF forum or are unable to join us on June 11. This will be held in late July, final details will be circulated in the coming weeks.

DOL AWARDS THE CORPS NETWORK \$10M TO TRANSITION YOUNG ADULT OFFENDERS TO WORK THROUGH SERVICE – AHSI NAMED AS PARTNER

For Immediate Release: June 18, 2010

Washington, D.C. – United States Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis announced today that a total of \$10 million in funding will be granted to The

Corps Network to run its Civic Justice Corps (CJC) program in six high-poverty, high-crime communities. This successful re-entry model will enable Service and Conservation Corps to engage an additional 600 young adult offenders and high school drop-outs in energy efficiency and other conservation-based service projects.

The Corps Network's grant is one of two totaling \$20 million, with a \$10M grant awarded to YouthBuild USA. Both grants will be administered through the Department's Employment and Training Administration.

Solis said, "The \$20 million is, I hope, the beginning of an investment. It takes many to lift our communities up, and I'm proud to be a part of it."

CJC is a service-based reentry model whose innovative methods have resulted in dramatically lowered rates of re-incarceration and success in employment and education.

Since 2006, 21 CJC pilots have engaged 2,238 CJC Corpsmembers, virtually all of them poor minorities, ages 16 – 24, connecting them with service opportunities where they learned job skills with real workforce value while developing the attitudes and behaviors necessary to succeed in the workplace and sustain employment over time.

“Before the Corps I felt I was alone in this world. I joined a gang and got locked up. But then I joined the Corps and committed myself to helping my community, found strength, and became a better person. The growth of Civic Justice Corps can give a chance to others looking to restart their lives,” said Cop Lieu, former Corpsmember and now Community Services Supervisor at New Jersey Youth Corps of Camden County/The Work Group.

Opportunity Grows through Partnerships

With the grant, The Corps Network will partner with Open Society Institute and other national partners including The Alliance to Save Energy, The Council of State Governments, the Association for High School Innovation, David Muhammad, former Executive Director of The Mentoring Center in Oakland, and Linda Harris, Director of Youth Policy at the Center for Law and Social Policy, and multiple local partners. Bringing the national partners as technical assistance providers to strong Corps across the nation will help The Corps Network fully integrate best practices in education and workforce development, and standardize and more fully test the efficacy of this innovative model for re-entry reform.

The program’s greatest asset is its strong ties to the local communities. Harris said, “Through rich local partnerships, CJC will build local capacity, reconnecting young people so that they can learn, work and thrive.”

Talmira Hill of the Association for High School initiatives[sic] applauded the award. “In CJsCs, students engage in authentic, real-world, hands-on learning experiences that enable them to develop academic competencies in meaningful ways.”

The Corps Network is the voice of the nation’s 143 Service and Conservation Corps. Currently operating in 45 states and the District of Columbia, Corps annually enroll more than 30,000 young men and women in service every year. Corps mobilize approximately 226,000 community volunteers who in conjunction with Corpsmembers generate 21.3 million hours of service every year. For more information, visit www.corpsnetwork.org or contact Sarah Stankorb at sstankorb@corpsnetwork.org.

AHSI NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

INDIANAPOLIS MET STUDENT NAMED GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLAR!

Congratulations to Indianapolis Met Senior William Sprowl who has been named a Gates Millennium Scholar! This scholarship covers the academic costs at any university, for any major, for as many years as it takes to graduate. William will attend Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology this fall. In addition to the Gates honor, William has been named a Lilly Scholar. He will receive a full scholarship for tuition, room and board, books and a monthly stipend. He also is a national winner of a Coca-Cola scholarship worth \$20,000 to be used in graduate school. Congratulations William!



GATEWAY TO COLLEGE 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Gateway to College was originally developed at Portland Community College (PCC) in 2000. To mark the 10 year anniversary of Gateway to College and related PCC Prep alternative programs, PCC held a celebration on June 4th at its Cascade Campus. The event kicked off with a barbecue, music, and dance performances, and was followed by a

formal program featuring student speakers and remarks from PCC President Preston Pulliams, Nan Poppe (retired president of PCC's Extended Learning Campus), and Portland Public Schools Superintendent Carole Smith. A graduation ceremony recognizing the 2009/2010 academic year graduates from PCC Prep programs capped off the evening.



PCC's Gateway to College program started with three partner school districts and 19 students, but has since served nearly 2,000 students in the Portland metro area through partnerships with eight districts. "We were a team of people trying to solve a student need," said program director Linda Huddle, the remaining founder at the PCC Gateway to College program. "It has been 10 years of really hard work. But then there has been all of this achievement that the students have made as they have become active private citizens. They are overcoming great challenges in order to catch up and surpass their peers."

National replication of Gateway to College began in 2003. "Thousands of young people across the country are now benefitting from the program," said Laurel Dukehart, president of Gateway to College National Network. "What started in Portland 10 years ago has blossomed into a national strategy working with well over 100 school districts in 16 states, and spawned an independent nonprofit organization to coordinate the effort."

AHSI NETWORK SUMMER CALENDAR

JUNE

- 21 – 24 EdVisions Summer Institute, Hawaii
- 22 – 24 Communities in Schools of Georgia Summer Network Training: Students First!, Atlanta GA
- 28 – 30 Mayors' Education Policy Advisors Network Spring Meeting, Washington D.C.
- 29 – Jul 1 Diploma Plus Western Summer Institute, Berkeley CA

JULY

- 12 – 15 EdVisions Summer Institute, Minnesota
- 19 – 21 Diploma Plus NYC Metro/Mid-Atlantic Leadership Institute
- 19 – 22 EdVisions Summer Institute, Wisconsin
- 20 – 22 Communities in Schools National Northeast Regional Convenings, Gettysburg PA
- 21 – 23 YouthBuild USA Instructional Leadership Institute, Boston MA
- 26 – 28 Gateway to College Peer Learning Conference, Keystone CO
- 27 – 30 StreetSchool Network Summer Conference, Denver CO

AUGUST

- 2 – 4 Communities in Schools National Western Regional Convenings, Las Vegas NV
- 2 – 6 Diploma Plus NYC Metro/Mid-Atlantic New School Orientation
- 4 – 6 Big Picture Learning Big Bang Conference, Providence RI
- 9 – 11 Diploma Plus New England Summer Leadership Institute
- 9 – 13 Diploma Plus NYC Metro/Mid-Atlantic New School Orientation

SEPTEMBER

- 27 – 29 Communities in Schools of Georgia/Youth Success Strategies Conference, Atlanta GA
- 28 – 30 AHSI Advisory Board Retreat, Henderson MN

NEW OPPORTUNITIES & STORIES OF INTEREST

DIPLOMA PLUS SEEKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Diploma Plus, a nationally recognized non-profit education organization, is seeking a dynamic, visionary, and highly-qualified Executive Director capable of leading this initiative as it deepens its work, grows to more localities, expands its funding base, and impacts significantly more youth who have been failed by traditional education.

The Executive Director serves as the Chief Executive Officer: the leader, visionary, decision-maker, manager, Board developer, and the public face of the initiative to funders and school partners.

Building on and strengthening Diploma Plus' successful track record, the Executive Director will:

- report to and support the Board of Directors, including managing the strategic planning process;
- develop and manage the annual budget;
- lead fundraising planning and implementation;
- manage the design and development of program components;
- lead successful implementation of the Diploma Plus vision, strategic plan, and program components in existing and emerging DP networks;
- market the Diploma Plus model;
- identify best practices that will support administrators and teachers on program design and small school start-up and implementation;
- represent DP with funders, policy-makers, educators, and other stakeholders;
- be a strong partner with other education projects and associations to benefit DP.

Read the full position description, including Essential Functions, Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities at <http://www.ahsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/executive-director-dp-position-posting.pdf>

Online applications are strongly encouraged. To apply, visit the employment section of TSNE's website at www.tsne.org. We accept applications by mail or fax. Send to Third Sector New England, NonProfit Center, 7th floor, Attn: Employment Manager, 89 South Street, Boston, MA 02111 or by fax to 617.523.2070.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION FOR THE NEXT AHSI NEWSLETTER, please forward it by email to Lauren Smock-Randall (lsmock-randall@bigpicturelearning.org)

Many sincere thanks!

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