



High School Graduation Rate Hits All-Time High: A Time for Celebration and Rededication

Speaking on October 17 at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School in Washington, D.C., President Barack Obama announced that the nation's high school graduation rate reached a new all-time high of 83.2 percent for the class of 2015, up from 82.3 percent last year and 79 percent for the class of 2011. Even with the progress, Obama acknowledged that more work was necessary.

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Expanding College Access for Traditionally Underserved Students

Ninety-nine percent of the jobs created since the Great Recession have gone to workers with at least some postsecondary education. Despite this growing demand for workers with education and training beyond high school, the percentage of high school graduates enrolling directly in postsecondary education has declined, particularly among high school graduates from low-income families, according to a new analysis from the Education Commission of the States (ECS).

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Understanding How Community Violence and Trauma Impact Teens

Exposure to and fear of violence, such as gun violence, domestic violence, or physical bullying, can traumatize individuals and impact the social and emotional behavior of students at home and in school. To ensure that students who have experienced or witnessed traumatic events receive appropriate academic support and counseling, parents, caregivers, and school personnel must understand how to recognize the effects of trauma in adolescent students and collaborate with each other to assist the student in his or her healing.

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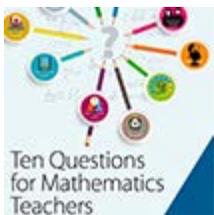


Can the Science of Learning Close the Achievement Gap for Students from Low-Income Families?

Michele Tine, an associate professor of education at Dartmouth College, talks about Dartmouth's Poverty and Learning Lab and her efforts to make teaching more effective for historically underserved young people.

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Deeper Learning and Mathematics Instruction

A new report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), *Ten Questions for Mathematics Teachers... and How PISA Can Help Answer Them*, organizes key findings from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2012 and the Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) 2013 into a set of questions teachers can use to guide their instruction and move students to deeper learning.

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In Case You Missed It



A Sneak Preview of PISA 2015

Bob Wise, president of the Alliance and former governor of West Virginia, and Andreas Schleicher, director for education and skills and special advisor on education policy to the Secretary-General for the OECD, discuss the PISA assessment during this webinar. While the 2015 PISA data will not be released until December 6, Wise and Schleicher share sample questions from PISA and discuss how PISA can impact education policy around the world.

[Watch the Discussion](#)

Alliance in the News

During the annual State Education Technology Directors Association (SETDA), Alliance President Governor Bob Wise shared that in his experience of surveying school districts, school administrators appear totally on board in supporting technology in the classroom, but conceded teachers don't experience the same level of support

[Read more in EdScoop](#)

New Faces at the Alliance

Shawn Stern

Policy and Advocacy Intern

Shawn Stern joined the Alliance in August 2016 as a policy and advocacy intern working on deeper learning, Programme for International Assessment (PISA) Day, and various communications projects. A first-year graduate student studying public policy at American University, Mr. Stern has experience as a secondary school English teacher in the Mississippi Delta and a teacher's aide for students with disabilities, and he has worked on operations and fundraising for educational organizations, including Teach for America and the Generation Project. Mr. Stern received a bachelor of arts degree in political science and communications, arts and sciences from Pennsylvania State University.

Jennifer Reyes-Cuevas

Policy and Advocacy Intern

Jennifer Reyes-Cuevas joined the Alliance in August 2016 as a policy and advocacy intern. Originally from Los Angeles, Ms. Reyes-Cuevas is a senior at American University studying political science.

Ms. Reyes-Cuevas previously interned at the U.S. Department of Education in the Office of the Secretary where she focused primarily on diversity in education and K-12 education policy.

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