

# 21 SOAR TO REACH NEW PEAKS

## Annual NAEHCY Conference

**NOVEMBER 14-17, 2009  
DENVER MARRIOTT  
CITY CENTER**

### CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS

The University of Texas at Austin is offering CEUs to conference attendees at no additional cost. Attendees will receive credits in the areas of Social Work, Counseling, Education, and Therapy that can be used to fulfill educational or professional requirements.

### LETENDRE EDUCATION FUND

The Class of 2009 LeTendre Scholars will be honored in a reception on November 15, where they will have an opportunity to share their experiences, their pursuit of excellence, and their hopes for the future. Past attendees have described this event as the grand highlight of the conference, "making real and true the work we do every day."

### NAEHCY ANNUAL AWARDS

The annual conference provides an opportunity to recognize the dedicated service and extraordinary work that people around the country do every day to improve the lives of children and youth experiencing homelessness. Nominate a colleague today!

### QUALITY TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Each year, an estimated 1.5 million children and youth experience homelessness in our nation's towns, cities and counties. Those students lack the stability and peace of mind we all hope to be able to give our children. On a regular basis, children and youth report that school is a home to them - a place where they see the same faces, sit in the same seat and can put their hearts and minds into pursuits that take their minds off their daily troubles and gain the skills needed to avoid poverty and homelessness as adults.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual NAEHCY conference is a unique showcase for best practices and services from across the country. It is the only national conference dedicated to improving the well-being of homeless children and youth. NAEHCY's conference equips educators and advocates nationwide with the knowledge, skills, information, and inspiration they need to remove barriers and help ensure that every child and youth experiencing homelessness is successful - academically, personally, and socially. Help us reach new peaks by inviting your colleagues and partners to join us in Denver!

### COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

Communities of practice develop through networking and thoughtful reflection on course content and lived experience. On Monday, November 16, the conference will offer a luncheon focused on group-directed discussion for school and community representatives to share their program challenges and strategies. Participants can use this time to make connections, gather ideas, build community, reflect on learning, and plan ways to put ideas into practice. Roundtables will be divided by district size or topic of interest. Topics include funding streams, resource development, transportation issues, collaboration with federal programs, services for special populations, and community partnerships, among many others. See the NAEHCY web site for further details.

“I think the caliber of presentations was wonderful. Topics covered were relevant to those of us who have several years of working on homeless issues as well as those who are brand new to the field. I always leave with great ideas to improve the homeless education program as well as myself.”

20<sup>th</sup> NAEHCY Conference Attendee

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## EDUCATING ALL OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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### MEET THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Chet Sisk**, an author, inspirational teacher, and empowerment systems developer, will open the conference on Sunday, November 15, 2009. Chet is the host of a syndicated television show, "Welcome to Life Part II." In his work, he challenges people to look at their lives from a different angle and ultimately to change the conversation they have with themselves about the issues they face.

**Sandra Lopez**, a clinical Social Worker with experience in diverse settings and Associate Professor at the University of Houston - Graduate College of Social Work, will address attendees on November 16. She is a widely recognized leader and trainer on many issues including suicide, grief and bereavement, cultur-

al diversity, ethics, compassion fatigue and secondary traumatic stress, and professional self care. She will present on honoring the diverse mosaic of children, families, and youth in our schools and communities.

For our final general session on Tuesday morning, November 17, we will feature an interactive workshop with **William (Bill) Potts-Datema**, Chief of Program Development and Services at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Adolescent and School Health. Mr. Potts-Datema's goal is to build strategic relationships among higher education, state government, and communities to develop initiatives that enable children and youth to lead longer, happier, and more productive lives.

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### ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

- Building and Improving Homeless Education Programs
- Confirming Eligibility for McKinney-Vento Services
- Collaboration with Federal Programs
- Head Start Implementation and Early Education
- Connecting Community and School Resources
- Academic Achievement
- Unaccompanied Youth: Issues & Solutions
- Parent Involvement
- Mental Health Needs of Homeless Children
- Data Collection & Program Evaluation
- Strategies for Working With Child Welfare
- Legislative and Policy Updates



*Building Futures Through Education*

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) is a national grassroots membership association, serving as the voice and the social conscience for the education of children and youth in homeless situations. NAEHCY connects educators, parents, advocates, researchers, and service providers to ensure school enrollment and attendance, and overall success for children and youth whose lives have been disrupted by the lack of safe, permanent, and adequate housing. NAEHCY accomplishes these goals through advocacy, partnerships, and education. Your membership in NAEHCY makes possible our work to build brighter futures for children and youth through education. Visit our website to learn more about us and to join.