



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE EDUCATION OF
HOMELESS CHILDREN
AND YOUTH

20 years of McKinney-Vento... *Making Our Commitment Crystal Clear* Professional Development Opportunities

The 20th Annual Conference will be held in Washington, DC at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, October 31 – November 3, 2008. The conference theme is *Making It Crystal Clear: Educating All Our Children and Youth* and promises 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.

A tentative conference agenda, registration details, and more information about the conference location and speakers can be found at www.naehcy.org/conf/conf_2008.html. Below are highlights of what to expect at this high quality professional development event.

Our location in DC gives us special access to experts from federal agencies and Congressional offices. On Monday morning, we will hold a federal policy panel with staff from the US Departments of Education and Health and Human Services. In addition, staff representing Senator Patty Murray and Education Chairman George Miller will be present for a "View from the Hill" session. Other presentations will include these topics among many others:

- Child Welfare Track
- Developing a Comprehensive Homeless Education Program
 - Replicable examples from around the country
- Using Positive Behavior Support to Improve Student Outcomes - In School and Community Settings
- Addressing the Early Education and Child Care Needs of Young Children Without Homes
- Unaccompanied Youth: Understanding Legal, Educational, Social, and Emotional Issues
- Special Education and Homeless Students: Implementing IDEA 2004
- Parent Involvement: Research and Strategies
- Mental Health Needs of Homeless Children
- Identifying, Tracking, and Reporting Homeless Student Data for Program Improvement
- Program Evaluation Strategies
- Legislative and Policy Updates and Next Steps:
 - Head Start Implementation
 - Housing and Foreclosure
 - ED and HUD McKinney-Vento Reauthorization

Preconference Sessions Provide Special Emphasis on Complicated Topics

On Friday, October 31, NAEHCY will offer 11 in-depth workshops on serving special populations or dealing with particular issues. This format enables experts and those working in the field to explore ideas, policies, and practices at a deeper level, leading to a greater understanding. Sessions will cover:

- Serving Homeless Children Through Head Start
- Accessing Early Childhood Education: Learning Blocks and Practical Strategies
- Strategies for Meeting the Educational Needs of Unaccompanied Youth
- Beyond School Enrollment: Helping Unaccompanied Youth Access Needed Services
- Working With Children in Out-of-Home Care: Awaiting Foster Care and Beyond
- McKinney-Vento and IDEA: Working Together to Support Students With Disabilities Experiencing Homelessness
- Bienvenidos, Byenvini, Willkommen: Welcoming Immigrant, Refugee, and Migrant Students
- One Trauma After Another: The Impact of Homelessness Upon Children's Mental Health
- Beyond School Enrollment: Helping Unaccompanied Youth Access Needed Services
- Complying With the McKinney-Vento Act
- McKinney-Vento in the Real World

A full listing of the preconferences, including descriptions, presenters, and times that they are offered can be found on the NAEHCY conference page of the web site: http://www.naehcy.org/conf/conf_2008.html.

Continuing Education Credits

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 For Homeless Students

The Class of 2008 LeTendre Scholars will be honored in a reception on November 1, 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."

The LeTendre Education Fund provides scholarships for students who apply and meet the criteria. Top tier award winners receive a trip to the annual conference, where they engage with other students who have experienced homelessness and participate in conference events, including presentations. This year, the LeTendre program has hired a LeTendre Scholar Support Specialist to expand outreach and assistance to scholars beyond the scholarship award, throughout their college careers. Learn more about the Fund and

download the application at www.naehcy.org/letendre_ab.html. The deadline for this session is September 12, 2008. To date, the fund has honored over 100 students. The 2008 winners will be announced in October.

Keynote Speakers Make Commitment Crystal Clear

All three of the 2008 keynote speakers have distinguished themselves by creating or expanding resources for people from disadvantaged backgrounds or those living in high poverty. Read more about these speakers at the NAEHCY conference web page. Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch will address the conference on November 1. She is a community leader and founder of Educational Achievement Services, an organization that reaches out to empower children and families from impoverished areas. Kickbusch, born and raised in a tiny barrio in Laredo, Texas, overcame the challenges of poverty, discrimination, and illiteracy to become the highest-ranking Hispanic woman in the Combat Support Field of the United States Army.

Reverend Romal Tune is founder and CEO of Clergy Strategic Alliances, dedicated to helping people of faith address critical social and cultural issues facing their communities. Tune's outreach empowers communities to build justice ministries and effective national and local coalitions. He grew up in neighborhoods plagued with crime, which he escaped by serving in the United States Army and Desert Storm from 1989-1992. He will bring his passion for community preservation and social justice to the NAEHCY conference.

Educator Steven Constantino, EdD, is former Principal of Stonewall Jackson High School in Prince William County, Virginia, Time Magazine's High School of the Year in 2001. During Dr. Constantino's tenure at Stonewall Jackson, student achievement consistently improved and the school became one of the largest and most successful International Baccalaureate Schools in the world, with 87% of the students scoring at or above the world mean on IB examinations. He is the founder and CEO of Family Friendly Schools, a student achievement program that offers a measurable family engagement process. Dr. Constantino is currently Associate Superintendent for Leadership and Learning in the Cobb County, GA School District.

Annual Awards Honor Excellence in Education

On November 2, NAEHCY will present the Annual Awards to leaders, teachers, administrators, and students who have made significant contributions to homeless education in their communities and to the field as a whole. Awards are offered in categories for Outstanding School-Based Program, Administrator, Staff /Non-Instructional, Teacher/Instructional, Distinguished Service and Leadership, Outstanding Student or Class, Outstanding Media Presentation, and the Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award.

You still have time to nominate your deserving colleagues. The deadline is September 5!

Conference Logistics

The Hyatt Regency will serve as the central location for conference events, with some breakout sessions across the street at the Courtyard Marriott. The hotels are accessible from National Airport and the Metro. See the NAEHCY web site for air, ground, and hotel details, as well as DC metro travel information. The registration

rate of \$440 per person for the Full Conference includes conference materials, meals, top-notch training and networking opportunities, as well as CEU credits!

Don't forget to enjoy all that DC has to offer – awe inspiring monuments and museums, award winning musical and theatrical performances, delectable dining from every corner of the globe!

Election Day

November 4 is a pivotal election for the offices of President, Vice President, Congressional seats, as well as many state level posts. If your travel plans have you flying or traveling home on that day, please be sure to vote absentee. Contact your local voter registrar for paperwork to vote absentee and ensure that you have filed in time to have your vote count. If you will return home in time to vote at the polls, we thank you for fulfilling this important civic duty.