



The Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives' Highlights

Partners and Friends,

We recognize that faith and community leaders are essential partners. Every few weeks, the Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives (CFOI) at the U.S. Department of Education will highlight events, news, issues, information, resources, meetings, grants, and announcements relevant to the faith-based community. It is with joy that these highlights are sent as a part of making impactful differences in the lives of students. We welcome your feedback and questions.



ED NEWS



National School Choice Week

[National School Choice Week](#) (NSCW) is January 20-26, and schools across the country are gearing up to celebrate opportunity in education. The effort recognizes all K-12 options, including traditional public schools, charter schools, magnet schools, private schools, online

academies, and homeschooling. Founded in 2011, NSCW has grown from 150 events in 2011 to 32,240 events last year in the U.S. and around the world.



Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education Scott Stump (sitting far left) moderating one of panels at the RETHINK CTE Summit

RETHINK CTE Summit

Over 100 stakeholders gathered at the U. S. Department of Education Department on December 14 to collaborate on ways to rethink career and technical education (CTE). The [Rethink CTE Summit](#) expanded on Secretary DeVos' Rethink Education initiative and served as an implementation launch of the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act*, commonly known as [Perkins V](#). Secretary DeVos and Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education Scott Stump encouraged those in attendance to take advantage of the new law and collaborate with state and local education agencies on ways to rethink CTE through the development of each state's Perkins V plan.

“Too many students are unprepared for successful careers today, and beyond,” the Secretary explained. “And too many are treated more like commodities instead of as the individuals they are, each with unique abilities and aspirations. As innovators in education and business, you are in a position to help students get ready -- for life and careers -- with out-of-the-box learning opportunities. You are in a position to rethink education.”

To learn more about the summit, see the [press release](#) and [blog post](#). Also, the event web page includes biographies of [speakers and panelists](#), a full [participant list](#), and a number of [presentations and handouts](#).

English Learners and STEM

Several [federal reports and resources](#) on English Learner (EL) education related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) have recently been released. First, the Department's Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) released its third [data story](#) about ELs in U.S. schools. This story, which builds upon two previously released stories about the [characteristics](#) and [educational experiences](#) of ELs, focuses on EL's performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and high school graduation rates, showing some progress but also persistent challenges. Second, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine released "[English Learners in STEM Subjects: Transforming Classrooms, Schools, and Lives](#)." This report examines what is known about EL's learning, teaching, and assessment in STEM fields and provides guidance on how to improve STEM outcomes for these students. Third, highlighted in an earlier issue, the Department's Office of Educational Technology (OET) developed two new toolkits: [for educators](#) and [for educational technology developers](#). Each toolkit is organized around five guiding principles to help the targeted group approach educational technology with EL's needs in mind.

OTHER CENTERS' NEWS

Second Annual Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiative Information Roundtable

Faith leaders are invited to attend the Second Annual "CFOI Information Roundtable" on February 26, 2019 at the Department of Veterans Affairs, hosted by the VA's Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiative (CFOI), located at 810 Vermont Ave, Washington DC, 20420, VACO, Sonny Montgomery, Rm #230. The purpose of this roundtable is to educate ecumenical clergy leaders regarding the services and resources for our nation's Veterans, families and beneficiaries. There will be high-level presentations as listed below.

PRESENTATIONS:

- VA Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiative
- Veterans Benefits Administration
- VA Voluntary Services
- VA Center for Women Veterans
- Suicide prevention
- Moral Injury
- VA Center for Minority Veterans
- Homeless programs
- National Cemetery Administration
- Veterans Justice Outreach

Please RSVP no later than February 8th, 2019 to the Outreach Coordinator, Ms. Trulesta "Tru" Pauling at Trulesta.Pauling@va.gov.

Preschool Development Grants

The Department of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Department of Education, has announced initial grants to 45 states and territories under the [Preschool](#)

[Development Grant Birth through Five \(PDG B-5\) Program](#). These grants, which differ significantly from the previous Preschool Development Grants, are designed to fund states to conduct a comprehensive, statewide, birth-through-kindergarten needs assessment, followed by in-depth strategic planning, while enhancing parent choice and expanding the current mixed delivery system (consisting of a range of provider types and settings, including child care centers and home-based child care providers, Head Start and Early Head Start, state pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, and home visiting service providers across the public, private, and faith-based sectors). Awards ranged between \$538,000 and \$10.6 million, based on the proposed plan.

States were invited to be innovative in planning, designing, enhancing, and evaluating their mixed delivery systems. They were also encouraged to develop their plans with the full array of early childhood stakeholders, including parents and community partners. The goal was to ensure a system design and development that best meets the needs of children and their families, particularly low-income and disadvantaged children.

The grant performance period runs from December 31, 2018, through December 30, 2019, and states and territories will be given the opportunity to apply for renewal grants prior to the end of 2019.

[“Talk. They Hear You.” App!](#)

Share this app with parents in your community so that they can prepare for one of the most important conversations they may ever have with their kids about underage drinking. [Watch this quick video](#) to see how SAMHSA’s “Talk. They Hear You” works!

A LOOK AT THE CENTER FOR FAITH AND OPPORTUNITY INITIATIVES



JANUARY OBSERVANCES:

During the month of January, the following have been designated to observe: [National Mentoring Month](#), [Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday](#) (January 21), [National School Choice Week](#) (January 20-26) and [National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week](#), (January 22-27).

SHARE AND CONNECT:

Know of Colleagues or Friends who would be interested in receiving these highlights? They can be added to our communication list by sending the following information (name, e-mail, and organization (if applicable)) to EdPartners@Ed.Gov.

With future generations in mind,
Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives
U.S. Department of Education