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News From ED

SECRETARY DEVOS VISITS OKLAHOMA AND COLORADO HIGHLIGHTING RETHINKING EDUCATION AND EDUCATION FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIPS

During the week of June 24, Secretary DeVos traveled to Oklahoma and Colorado, highlighting the Department’s commitment to rethinking education for all students and promoting education freedom.

In [Colorado Springs](#), the Secretary offered remarks which included information about [Education Freedom Scholarships](#) and participated in a panel discussion titled “Why Choice Matters” at the Parents Challenge 20th Anniversary Celebration. Parents Challenge provides scholarships for local students to attend public and private schools ([photos](#) and [video](#)).

In [Hominy](#), she delivered [remarks](#) at the 2019 Tulsa Community College Second Chance Commencement, celebrating more than 70 incarcerated students who graduated with a degree or certificate from the school. These schools are participants in the Department’s [Second Chance Pell Experiment](#). This [pilot](#) provides

need-based Pell Grants to incarcerated individuals in state and federal prisons so that they can enroll in postsecondary programs offered by local colleges and universities (photos [1](#) and [2](#) and videos [1](#) and [2](#)).

SECRETARY DEVOS ADVANCES HIGHER ED REFORM

U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos [announced the publication of proposed regulations](#) to rethink higher education. Developed by consensus from a diverse negotiated rulemaking committee, these regulations seek to reduce the unnecessary regulatory burden associated with accreditor oversight of the nation's higher education institutions and to streamline state authorization for distance or correspondence education. The goals of these reforms are to promote innovation and protect students while ensuring they have access to the higher education options that best meet their needs. The [proposed rules](#) are open for public comment until July 12.

The Department will publish proposed rules that capture the consensus agreements on topics related to distance education and innovation, as well as faith-based institutions and [TEACH grants](#).

SECRETARY ATTENDS WALL STREET JOURNAL'S CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER NETWORK ANNUAL MEETING

On June 11, Secretary DeVos attended the *Wall Street Journal's* Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Network Annual Meeting, where she asserted that students should have access to career pathways other than through bachelor's degrees and that more businesses should be willing to hire those with alternative credentials ([tweet](#) and [video](#)).

PRESIDENT'S EDUCATION AWARDS

Since 1983, the [President's Education Awards Program](#) (PEAP) has bestowed individual recognition from the president to students whose outstanding efforts have enabled them to meet challenging standards of excellence. School principals determine the number of qualifying students based on [selection criteria](#) and verify [orders for awards](#). This year, nearly 2.25 million elementary, middle, and high school students, from more than 25,000 schools, were recognized under PEAP ([press release](#)). (Note: A list of [PEAP participating schools, by state and year](#), is posted online.)

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES COMPETITIVENESS SCHOLARS

The [White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#) named 44 students from 34 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) as 2019 [HBCU Competitiveness Scholars](#). Competitiveness Scholars were selected by their institutions' presidents based on academic achievement, campus and civic involvement, and entrepreneurial ethos or "go-getter" spirit.

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the 2019 [Historically Black Colleges and Universities \(HBCU\) Week Conference](#), which will take place Sept. 8–10 in Washington, D.C. Presidents and other representatives from HBCUs, federal agencies, corporations, and foundations will participate in discussions on significant issues of interest to the HBCU community.

PREVENTING THE SUMMER SLIDE — TIPS FOR PARENTS

Back-to-back Homeroom blog posts offer tips to stem the "[summer slide](#)," the decline in reading ability and other academic skills that can occur over the summer months when school is not in session. "[7 Tips to Help Parents Make Summer Reading Fun](#)," penned by a rural elementary school librarian, presents many recommendations for parents and caregivers to keep children engaged in reading over the summer. "[Parent Like a Pro: Slowing the Summer Slide](#)," from school ambassador fellow Cynthia O'Brien, provides five suggestions to keep children learning and having fun throughout the summer months.

College and Career Ready

INFORMATION ON FEDERAL LOANS

New from the [Information for Financial Aid Professionals website](#): [variable interest rates](#) applicable to federal loans for the period of July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020; a [question-and-answer document](#) with additional guidance for institutions about the Borrower Defense to Repayment final regulations; and [answers to common questions](#) regarding the 2019 Gainful Employment Disclosure Template. (Note: A separate Homeroom blog post covers [Direct PLUS Loan basics for parents](#).)

Announcements and Resources for Families and Communities

PARENTCAMPCHAT KICKS OFF

On Wednesday, June 19, the @ParentCamp crew launched its first weekly #ParentCampChat, at 9:30 p.m. ET/8:30 p.m. CT, on Twitter. Join parents, grandparents, educators, and community members to talk about family-school-community engagement and integration every Wednesday—same time, same place. Tag a friend and join the 30-minute chat!

#ParentCampChat, #BuildingRelationships, #ParentCamp, #BuildingCapacity, #FACE, #FamilySchoolCommunityEngagement, #FCE, #BetterTogether, #Conversations.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF BLACK SCHOOL EDUCATORS PARENT SUMMIT

The National Alliance of Black School Educators will host its 13th Annual Parent Summit on Nov. 13, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency in Dallas, Texas. The Parent Summit is part of NABSE's 47th Annual Conference, with an expected attendance of more than 2,000 superintendents, principals, school board members, deans, professors, department heads, administrative and education support staff, teachers, parents, students, and others from across North America. To register, email Betty Maceo, chair of the Parent Summit, at bjmaceo@yahoo.com.

2019 NATIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR

The [Military Child Education Coalition](#) (MCEC) will be having its 21st National Training Seminar July 23–25, 2019, in Washington, D.C. The conference provides professional development opportunities for everyone interested in serving and supporting military-connected children. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

FREE PARENT WEBINARS

The [Military Child Education Coalition](#) (MCEC) provides free [webinars](#) to parents on such topics as “Staying Connected During Deployment” (July 10), “Reintegration After Deployment” (July 17), and “LIVE from the MCEC National Training Seminar” (July 24–25). Visit [For the Sake of the Child](#) to find a topic that fits your needs. Registration is required either to participate in an upcoming webinar or to receive a link to view the webinar after it has been held.

The Office of Communications and Outreach works with state and local education agencies to empower parents with information to help them be full partners in the education and academic progress of their children. For more information, please contact Carrie Jasper at carrie.jasper@ed.gov, or call 202-401-1524.

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Family, School and Community Engagement can be found online

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