



CCCECE ShoutOut! Lab School Crisis

October 25, 2011

Sent on Behalf of Joel Gordon, CCCECE President:

**IMPORTANT ISSUE TO DISCUSS AT YOUR REGIONAL MEETING:
ADDRESSING THE LAB SCHOOL CRISIS**

Folks,

Starting this Friday and continuing for the next couple of weeks a Regional CCCECE meeting will be held in your area. I hope you will plan on attending and bring a colleague. Among other issues, we'll be discussing the crisis in our lab schools and practicum sites. As you are probably aware many lab schools are feeling impacted by the cuts that have come from CDD and their own district support has been eliminated or is waning. Anecdotally, we've heard of many programs that have shortened hours, cut days of operation, closed classrooms (especially precious infant/toddler rooms), or they have been closed entirely. This past week I received a call from one of our colleagues asking about upcoming budget cuts, and we talked about how this would put his program on the brink. He also told me of two programs at other community colleges that appeared to be about to close. As many of you know it's entirely possible we'll receive another cut from CDD in January if the state fails to meet the budget triggers. At the same time we're hearing from a number of sources at the state level how critical the supervised field experience is for new teachers.

Your organization, CCCECE, is trying to do something about this. Our first step is to find out what is going on at every campus with a lab school/children's center. We're going to begin preparing a survey that will let us know the status of your program and we'll try to get a sense of how practicum classes are structured. Please come to our meeting prepared, not only to discuss what's happening in your district, but also with some questions or issues that you would like the survey to answer regarding practicum classes. I've asked the regional catalysts to forward that information to me and we'll develop a survey that will give us the information we need to help counter this trend that is harming our practicum classes and lab schools.

See attached list for regional meeting dates and times.

Thanks,

Joel Gordon
President, CCCECE