



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2014

RECLAIMING THE DREAM 2014

February 13-14, 2014

The 2014 Reclaiming the Dream Conference is right around the corner! If you haven't already registered, there is still plenty of time. This year's conference has two exciting keynote speakers, Manny Scott and Sam Glenn, as well as numerous experts in the scheduled break-out sessions. All of the information about this year's conference is available on our website, narenwich.org.

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**AWARDS – REGIONAL AND STATE**

January 15 is the deadline for submitting any nominations for our regional and state level advocacy awards. We want to be able to recognize at least one educator from each region this year at our conference. Contact your region's representative if you would like to nominate someone for one of these awards.

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NAREN – UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP

As you all learned at last year's annual conference, Tony Dallmann-Jones has turned over the reins of NAREN, our national affiliate, to Frank Kros of the Upside Down Organization. The national conference this year will be held April 23-25, 2014, in Baltimore, Maryland. You can find more information about this at: www.atriskeducation.net.

Frank will be attending our 2014 conference and will be available to answer questions during our membership meeting. He will also be presenting a breakout session about brain-based learning.

Frank is an energetic speaker and a strong advocate for at-risk youth. He is very interested in strengthening our partnership with NAREN and we are looking forward to working with him.

SUCCESS STORY FROM THE TRENCHES

As we start the new year, I thought it would be nice to share a success story from our school. We started working with a fifth year senior last year who needed 8.0 credits to graduate. This young woman is a single mom, living away from her family, and raising three children under the age of 4. She was determined to earn her high school diploma, but fell short despite taking a summer school course. Over the summer, she made some bad choices and ended up in county jail for several weeks and lost custody of her children.

Where is the inspiration in this story, you ask? Well, at the start of the fall semester, when she was released from jail, when she had nowhere to live and no one to call, she came back to us and asked for help. We were able to reconnect her with a social worker and get her back enrolled with us. Last month, she finished her requirements and received her diploma! She's now working toward finding a full time CNA job and getting back custody of her children. She never gave up hope and accomplished this milestone in her life!

Do you have a success story to share with our members? Please send it to me at khoffmann@cesa7.org and I'll do my best to include one story in every edition of the newsletter.

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**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

Check out our blog at <http://narenwich.blogspot.com> and leave your comments about topics important to at-risk education. If you have a suggestion or question to start a new thread, email Anthony Pizzo at [apizzo41@gmail.com](mailto:apizzo41@gmail.com).

**Keep making a difference every day!!**