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Your Voice in Action: Ask Arne Duncan

Join us for exciting open-source democracy experiment! The National Youth Summit that the Department of Education is hosting in D.C. will take place on February 26. It will bring young people from across the country together with adult leaders for an authentic exchange of ideas on education reform and what students need to finish high school ready to attend – and complete – college.

Registration for the summit filled quickly but there is still a big opportunity for young people to have a voice on these issues because we know they matter to you.

The Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, has agreed to answer the top questions chosen by you on SparkAction.org. IDRA has partnered with SparkAction.org to make sure your voice is in the mix.

WHAT: Visit <http://sparkaction.org/summit> and suggest questions that you want Secretary Duncan to answer. Check out what other young people have suggested and then use your five votes to choose your favorites – you can choose your own or others posted by the SparkAction community.

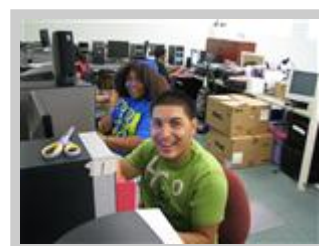
But hurry! Voting closes on February 18th. Don't miss a chance to have your voice included. For more details and full instructions, visit <http://sparkaction.org/summit>.

Please note: Secretary Duncan's participation in this contest does not imply endorsement of IDRA, SparkAction or the Forum for Youth Investment by the Secretary or the Department of Education.

Learn more about IDRA's work to amplify youth voice and leadership

Subscribe to IDRA's Graduation for All e-letter. The most recent issue, "What Student's Say," features essays by middle and high school students and a podcast interview with Youth Tekies.

Visit Youth, Technology and College Access(podcast) featuring a conversation with Hector Bojorquez on youth leadership in a community-based technology center fostered by IDRA's TECNO 2.0 project. Hector is interviewed by Aurelio Montemayor, M.Ed., director of the IDRA Texas Parent Information and Resource Center.



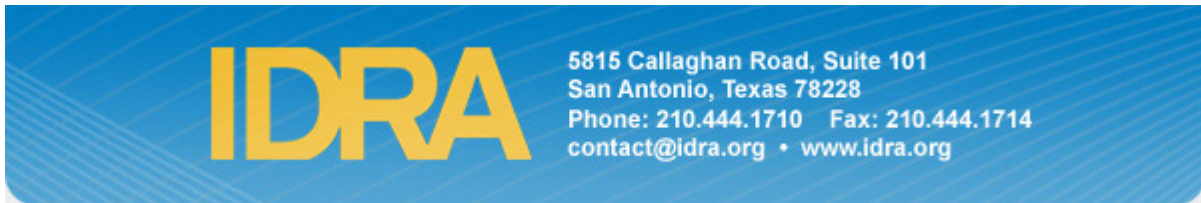
Visit Solutions to the Dropout Crisis - Radio Show: Lessons from the IDRA Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program, a National Dropout Prevention Center/Network Radio webcast featuring a conversation with IDRA's Dr. Linda Cantu, to learn about how this award-winning cross-age tutoring program reduces dropout rates and promotes youth leadership.

Visit [Engaging Ourselves to Engage Our Students](#), an article by Josie Danini Cortez, M.A., IDRA senior education associate. From the article: "At its core, engagement is about relationships...If adults aren't comfortable relating to students who seem 'different' or come from different experiences, then relating takes more of our minds, bodies and souls."

The **Intercultural Development Research Association** is an independent private non-profit organization dedicated to realizing the right of every child to a quality education. IDRA strengthens and transforms public education by providing dynamic training; useful research, evaluation, and frameworks for action; timely policy analyses; and innovative materials and programs.

IDRA works hand-in-hand with hundreds of thousands of educators and families each year in communities and classrooms around the country. All our work rests on an unwavering commitment to creating self-renewing schools that value and promote the success of students of all backgrounds.

We are a small organization with a powerful mission: to create schools that work for *all* children.



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