

**From Vision to Practice Institute:
Seven Million Minutes from Pre-Kindergarten to Graduation
Holiday Inn Select Koger South Conference Center
Richmond, Virginia
July 14-16, 2009**

Tentative Agenda

July 14, 2009

10 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Registration**

Noon – 1 p.m. **Keynote and Lunch**

Welcome

Dr. Mark E. Emblidge (*Tentative*)
President, Virginia Board of Education

Opening Remarks

Dr. Patricia I. Wright
Superintendent of Public Instruction, Virginia Department of Education

Keynote Speaker

It's All About "Choice"

Dr. Shelley Stewart

Founder and President, Mattie C. Stewart Foundation

Born in the segregated South in the 1930s, Dr. Shelley Stewart overcame impoverished beginnings and family tragedies to become one of America's most prominent African-American businessmen. He taught himself to read, later citing that his voracious reading appetite laid the foundation for his success. The presentation will demonstrate how the tools created by The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation will help increase the graduation rate in communities across the country. The "Choice Bus," a half classroom and half prison cell, will be featured to provide a "hands-on" experience of the potential consequences of choosing to drop out of school.

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Breakout Sessions**

Strands	Speakers
Research & Policy	<p>Moving from Research to Practical Application in Dropout Prevention Dr. Loujeania Bost <i>Director, National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities</i> This session will present research about graduation patterns for students with disabilities and share effective, evidence-based interventions and programs to address increasing the graduation rate for students with disabilities.</p>

	<p>Identifying At-Risk Students and Building a Framework of Effective Interventions Dr. Steven W. Edwards <i>President and CEO, Edwards Educational Services, Inc.</i> This session will utilize national research along with school and community demographics to identify students at risk for school failure. With the help of a resource guide, the <i>Pyramid of Interventions</i>, participants will create a system to address the needs of the at-risk student. (part one of two sessions)</p> <p>Brain Health Across the Lifespan Dr. Paul Nussbaum <i>Clinical Neuropsychologist/Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh</i> This session will introduce basic information on brain structure. The five domains of a brain-healthy lifestyle and how it impacts student behavior and academic performance will be featured.</p>
<p>Academic & Social Success</p>	<p>Helping Students Graduate: Strategies and Tools to Prevent School Dropouts Franklin Schargel <i>President, Schargel Consulting Group</i> This session will present the 15 effective strategies developed by the National Dropout Prevention Center to reduce the dropout rate. Tools developed as best practices by some of America’s outstanding schools and programs to support at-risk youth in graduating will be featured. (part one of two sessions)</p> <p>Basic/New Start Program Beverly Allen-Hardy <i>Administrator, Basic/New Start Program, Henrico County</i> This session will introduce the <i>Basic/New Start Program</i>, a program designed to ensure a seamless transition for students in grades 6-12 who have received long-term suspension, been expelled, or are returning from a detention facility. Research will be presented on the effects of the program on high school graduation rates as well as success beyond graduation.</p> <p>Practical Strategies for Differentiated Instruction Rick Wormeli <i>Teacher and Writer</i> This interactive presentation will focus on strategies for differentiating instruction. Video, case studies, and humor will be used to discuss the myths surrounding effective implementation, and practical strategies for setting up a differentiated classroom. (part one of two sessions)</p>
<p>Student & Parent Engagement</p>	<p>All Aboard the “Choice Bus” Phil Christian <i>Executive Vice President & Director, Mattie C. Stewart Foundation</i> This presentation will introduce participants to the "Choice Bus," a half classroom and half jail cell. The “Choice Bus” will be featured to provide a “hands-on” experience of the potential consequences of choosing to drop out of school. The session will also share other resources available from the Mattie C. Stewart Foundation. The resources include DVDs, print materials, and presentations.</p>

	<p>The Parent School Partnership: Strategies that Work! Reginald Smith <i>Assistant Professor, North Carolina Central University</i> Jacqueline Winston <i>Trainer, Durham Technical Community College</i> This session will focus on the importance of parents in the learning process. Effective strategies and practices that schools can utilize to increase parental involvement in their child’s education will be featured. (part one of two sessions)</p> <p>GPS- Guaranteed Parental Involvement Success Angie Miles <i>Educational Consultant, Home Advantage with Parents as Partners for Youth (H.A.P.P.Y.) Program, Richmond, Virginia</i> This session will present the H.A.P.P.Y. Program which works to strengthen parental involvement in academic achievement through connection to literacy programs. The program currently provides support to elementary and middle school parents and students and will soon expand to include high school parents and students.</p> <p>Gotta Move, Gotta Share: Life in the Active Classroom Ron Nash <i>Founder, Ron Nash and Associates</i> This interactive presentation will focus on dynamic, active teaching strategies to engage students in the learning process. The strategies demonstrated support student engagement, one of the primary reasons that students choose to drop out of school.</p>
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2:45 p.m.– 4:15 p.m. **Breakout Sessions**

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Research & Policy	<p>Moving from Research to Practical Application in Dropout Prevention Dr. Loujeania Bost <i>Director, National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities</i> This session will present research about graduation patterns for students with disabilities and share effective, evidence-based interventions and programs to address increasing the graduation rate for students with disabilities. (repeated session)</p> <p>Identifying At-Risk Students and Building a Framework of Effective Interventions Dr. Steven W. Edwards <i>President and CEO, Edwards Educational Services, Inc.</i> This session will utilize national research along with school and community demographics to identify students at risk of school failure. With the help of a resource guide, the <i>Pyramid of Interventions</i>, participants will create a system to address the needs of the at-risk student. (part two of two sessions)</p>

	<p>Brain Health Across the Lifespan Dr. Paul Nussbaum <i>Clinical Neuropsychologist/Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh</i> This session will introduce basic information on brain structure. The five domains of a brain-healthy lifestyle and how it impacts student behavior and academic performance, will be featured. (repeated session)</p>
<p>Academic & Social Success</p>	<p>Helping Students Graduate: Strategies and Tools to Prevent Schools Dropouts Franklin Schargel <i>President, Schargel Consulting Group</i> This session will present the 15 effective strategies developed by the National Dropout Prevention Center to reduce the dropout rate. Tools developed as best practices by some of America’s outstanding schools and programs to support at-risk youth in graduating will be featured. (part two of two sessions)</p> <p>Basic/New Start Program Beverly Allen-Hardy <i>Administrator, Basic/New Start Program, Henrico County</i> This session will introduce the <i>Basic/New Start Program</i>, a program designed to ensure a seamless transition for students in grades 6-12 who have received long-term suspension, been expelled, or are returning from a detention facility. Research will be presented on the effects of the program on high school graduation rates as well as success beyond graduation. (repeated session)</p> <p>Practical Strategies for Differentiated Instruction Rick Wormeli <i>Teacher and Writer</i> This interactive presentation will focus on strategies for differentiating instruction. Video, case studies, and humor will be used to discuss the myths surrounding effective implementation, and practical strategies for setting up a differentiated classroom. (part two of two sessions)</p>
<p>Student & Parent Engagement</p>	<p>All Aboard the “Choice Bus” Phil Christian <i>Executive Vice President/Director, Mattie C. Stewart Foundation</i> This presentation wil introduce participants to the "Choice Bus," a half classroom and half jail cell. The “Choice Bus” will be featured to provide a “hands-on” experience of the potential consequences of choosing to drop out of school. The session will also share other resources available from the Mattie C. Stewart Foundation. The resources include DVDs, print materials, and presentations. (repeated session)</p> <p>The Parent School Partnership: Strategies that Work! Jacqueline Winston <i>Trainer, Durham Technical Community College</i> Reginald Smith <i>Assistant Professor, North Carolina Central University</i> This session will focus on the importance of parents in the learning process. Effective strategies and practices that schools can utilize to increase parental involvement in their child’s education will be featured. (part two of two sessions)</p>

GPS- Guaranteed Parental Involvement Success

Angie Miles

Educational Consultant, Home Advantage with Parents as Partners for Youth (H.A.P.P.Y.) Program, Richmond, Virginia

This session will present the H.A.P.P.Y. Program which works to strengthen parental involvement in academic achievement through connection to literacy programs. The program currently provides support to elementary and middle school parents and students and will soon expand to include high school parents and students. (repeated session)

Gotta Move, Gotta Share: Life in the Active Classroom

Ron Nash

Founder, Ron Nash and Associates

This interactive presentation will focus on dynamic, active teaching strategies to engage students in the learning process. The strategies demonstrated support student engagement, one of the primary reasons that students choose to drop out of school. (repeated session)

July 15, 2009

7:30 a.m. –8:30 a.m. **Registration and Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. **Breakout Sessions**

Strands	Speakers
Research & Policy	<p>Policies that Help Increase the Graduation Rate This panel will present innovative policy initiatives designed to increase opportunities for graduation. Panel members will share challenges and successes they have experienced regarding divisionwide policies.</p> <p>Marty Bell <i>Deputy to the Superintendent, Jefferson County Public Schools, Louisville, KY</i></p> <p>Rita Bishop <i>Superintendent, Roanoke City Public Schools</i></p> <p>Tom Brewster <i>Assistant Superintendent, Pulaski County Public Schools</i></p> <p>Linda Dorr <i>Director of Career and Technical Education, Henry County Public Schools</i></p>
Academic & Social Success	<p>What Do Successful Leaders of At-Risk Learners Do to Raise Academic Achievement? Franklin Schargel <i>President, Schargel Consulting Group</i> Next to high performing teachers, successful leadership is the second most important factor in increasing academic achievement and achieving higher graduation rates. This presentation will feature the reason why 200 high-performing, high-minority, high-poverty urban, rural and suburban schools were successful.</p> <p>Improving High School Graduation: The Career Technical High School That Works Connection Dr. Joanna Kister <i>Educational Consultant, Southern Regional Education Board</i> This session will explore the ways that career and technical education initiatives can help alternative education students remain on track to graduation. The session will also highlight effective practices of the successful <i>High Schools That Work</i> program.</p> <p>Practical Strategies for Differentiated Instruction Rick Wormeli <i>Teacher and Writer</i> This interactive presentation will focus on strategies for differentiating instruction. Video, case studies, and humor will be used to discuss the myths surrounding effective implementation and practical strategies for setting up a differentiated classroom. (repeated session from Day 1)</p>

	<p>Closing the Achievement Gap: What Are We Learning and What Do We Need to Do? Ray McNulty <i>Senior Vice President, International Center for Leadership in Education</i> This presentation will focus on how to close the participation gap as the first step in improving student achievement. Participation entails students being connected to their learning environment, having a hunger to learn, and a willingness to participate actively in the learning process.</p>
<p>Student & Parent Engagement</p>	<p>All Aboard the “Choice Bus” Phil Christian <i>Executive Vice President/Director, Mattie C. Stewart Foundation</i> This presentation will introduce participants to the "Choice Bus," a half classroom and half jail cell. The “Choice Bus” will be featured to provide a “hands-on” experience of the potential consequences of choosing to drop out of school. The session will also share other resources available from the Mattie C. Stewart Foundation. The resources include DVDs, print materials, and presentations. (repeated session from Day 1)</p> <p>Service and Project-Based Learning: Keeping Students Connected to the Community Debbie West <i>Administrator, Booker T. Washington Magnet Middle School, Newport News City Public Schools</i> This session will focus on schoolwide service learning and project-based learning programs at Newsome Park Elementary School and Booker T. Washington Middle School in Newport News.</p> <p>Making the Connection Between Families and Schools Dr. Karen Mapp <i>Director, Education Policy and Management Department, Harvard University</i> This session will focus on the importance of parental involvement in the educational process from the early years through the high school years.</p> <p>Gotta Move, Gotta Share: Life in the Active Classroom Ron Nash <i>Founder, Ron Nash and Associates</i> This interactive presentation will focus on dynamic, active teaching strategies to engage students in the learning process. The strategies demonstrated support student engagement, one of the primary reasons that students choose to drop out of school. (repeated session from Day 1)</p>

10:15 a.m.–12 p.m. **Planning Session**

Graduation Data: What Each School Division Should Know

Dr. Deborah Jonas

Executive Director, Research and Strategic Planning, Virginia Department of Education

During this session, participants will have an opportunity to synthesize information gathered during the conference and use that information to plan initiatives within their divisions to increase graduation rates.

12:15 p.m.–1:30 p.m. **Keynote and Lunch**

Keynote Speaker

Building America in the 21st Century: From the School House to the Workplace

Franklin Schargel

President, Schargel Consulting Group

This presentation will highlight the 15 most effective strategies to help reduce the number of students who choose to drop out of schools. Embedded in the presentation will be the information from several of the author's books, including *Strategies to Help Solve Our School Dropout Problem*, *Dropout Prevention Tools*, *Helping Students Graduate*, *Best Practices to Help At-Risk Learners*, and *From At-Risk to Academic Excellence: What Successful Leaders Do*.

1:45 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **Community Organizations: Essential Partners in Student Success**

This panel discussion will highlight successful partnerships between school divisions and community organizations. The panelists will discuss how they have worked collaboratively to provide resources and services to help students maintain a commitment to educational success.

Cindy Duncan

Professional Development Teacher, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Dr. Brenda Hess

Director of Federal Programs, Russell County Public Schools

Mieko Manuel-Timmons

Director, Micah Initiative

Dr. Bill Porch

President, Communities In Schools

Jim Scanlon

Vice President of Operations and Human Resources, Ukrops

Dr. Jennifer Slabaugh

Director, Virginia Mentoring Partnership

Dr. Cathy Sutphin

Associate Director, 4-H Initiative at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

3:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. **Community Partnerships Booths**

Community partner organizations will be on-site to provide information about potential partnerships and resources for school divisions.

July 16, 2009

8 a.m. –9:30 a.m. **Registration and Breakfast**

9:30 a.m.–9:45 a.m. **Opening Session**
Logistics

10 a.m.–11:30 a.m. **Breakout Sessions**

Strands	Speakers
Research & Policy	<p>Voices of Youth in Chicago Education: Lessons in Success John Easton <i>Executive Director, Consortium on Chicago School Research</i> Emma Tai and Youth Team <i>Voices of Youth in Chicago Education (V.O.Y.C.E.)</i> This session will provide research on successful graduation trends in the Chicago City Public School system. Additionally, high school students from the Chicago City Public Schools will present their own findings from their action research project. Their action research project addressed two questions: 1) why students lose interest in high school; and 2) initiatives to increase the graduation rates in Chicago.</p> <p>A Look at Prevention and Recovery Policies Across the Nation Mary McNaught <i>Chief of Staff, Civic Enterprises</i> This presentation will explore how public policy can improve graduation rates. Research will be presented on the demographics of students who fail to complete compulsory education and what might have helped them graduate.</p> <p>Creating Conditions that Promote High Achievement for All Students Dr. A. Wade Boykin <i>Professor, Psychology Department, Howard University</i> This session will focus on the talent development model developed by the Center for Research on the Education of Students Placed At Risk (CRESPAR). Research about and methods to improve academic performance of minority students will also be presented.</p>
Academic & Social Success	<p>Basic/New Start Program Beverly Allen-Hardy <i>Administrator, Basic New Start Program, Henrico County</i> (repeated session from Day 1) This session will introduce the <i>Basic/New Start Program</i>, a program designed to ensure a seamless transition for students in grades 6-12 who have received long-term suspension, been expelled, or are returning from a detention facility. Research will be presented on the effects of the program on high school graduation rates as well as success beyond graduation. (repeated session from Day 1)</p>

	<p>Georgia’s Graduation Coach Initiative Dr. Jessica Broome <i>Administrator, Georgia Department of Education</i> This session will present the graduation coach model used by the Georgia Department of Education. The model provided mentors for individual students to serve as coaches during their high school careers.</p> <p>Creating Different Pathways to Learning Success Kristina Doubet <i>Assistant Professor of Middle and Secondary Education, James Madison University</i> This presentation will focus on using best practices to create different pathways to learning success. The session will combine differentiated instruction with learning by design to provide practical strategies for reaching all students.</p> <p>Closing the Achievement Gap: What Are We Learning and What Do We Need to Do? Ray McNulty <i>Senior Vice President, International Center for Leadership in Education</i> This presentation will focus on how to close the participation gap as the first step in improving student achievement. Participation entails students being connected to their learning environment, having a hunger to learn, and a willingness to participate actively in the learning process. (repeated session from Day 2)</p>
<p>Student & Parent Engagement</p>	<p>Service and Project-Based Learning: Keeping Students Connected to the Community Debbie West <i>Administrator, Booker T. Washington Magnet Middle School, Newport News City Public Schools</i> This session will focus on schoolwide service learning and project-based learning programs at Newsome Park Elementary School and Booker T. Washington Middle School in Newport News. (repeated session from Day 2)</p> <p>Meeting in the Middle: Defining the Parent Role in the Middle School Dr. Adriane Williams <i>Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership Studies, West Virginia University</i> This session will introduce research on the effects of predisposition formation, and the desire to attend college. Practical ways to engage parents in helping their children visualize their futures will be shared.</p> <p>Teaching that Reaches: How to Plan for the Students Who Need You the Most Raymond C. Jones <i>Instructor, University of Virginia</i> This session will focus on reaching disengaged students and creating a more active learning environment. It will also explore how to design instruction for at-risk students and the effects that instruction has on their ability to succeed across content areas.</p>

11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m. **Closing Keynote and Lunch**

Keynote Speaker
Pending

Dr. Linda M. Wallinger

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Virginia Department of Education