

AMERICA'S PROMISE ALLIANCE



# LEARNING, WORKING AND LIVING:

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## KEEPING PROMISES TO OUR YOUTH

*Virginia Department of Education  
Dropout Prevention Summit*

*in Partnership with  
America's Promise Alliance*





# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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October 28, 2008

Dear Virginia Dropout Prevention Summit Participants:

On behalf of the Virginia Department of Education and the Virginia Board of Education, I welcome you to the Virginia Statewide Dropout Prevention Summit, *Learning, Working and Living: Keeping Promises to Our Youth*.

This program offers a wealth of information and opportunities for you to interact with each other. Together, we must take the steps necessary to ensure that our children remain in school and realize their full potential. Their success is our success. Your presence at this conference is a strong testament to your personal commitment to helping our state's young people stay in school.

Thank you for all your dedicated efforts in addressing the dropout challenges that face our state and communities. I hope that you will be inspired and return home with a renewed sense of purpose to our youth, especially those in at-risk situations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia I. Wright".

Patricia I. Wright





October 28, 2008

To: Participants of the “Learning, Working and Living - Keeping Promises to our Youth” Summit:

We all know that high school graduation is a key indicator of future success for our young people and our nation, so it is startling to learn that every 26 seconds a student drops out of school. That’s over 1.2 million students per year – one-third of students overall. And far few of those who do graduate are prepared for college and work. This is why on April 1, 2008 the America’s Promise Alliance launched a massive two-year effort to mobilize over 100 dropout prevention leadership summits across the country. These summits will help get this issue out front and center and generate workable solutions to keep our students in school.

I thank Governor Tim Kaine and the Virginia Department of Education for responding to the call and for rallying their communities to urgent action. I know that each of you attending the summit are working hard to address this crisis and we stand ready to help you create the supports that will best prepare young people for their futures.

On behalf of more than 230 leading national organizations in the America’s Promise Alliance, I thank you for your participation and support. Together we can make a difference in our children’s lives by addressing this crisis head-on and reducing the dropout rate.

Sincerely,

Alma J. Powell  
Chair

*A special thank you to our sponsors  
and planning committee members  
for making this a successful summit.*

## **SPONSORS**

*America's Promise Alliance*

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*Special acknowledgement and appreciation  
to the Virginia Department of Education staff  
for all of their efforts to support the Dropout Summit.*

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## Virginia's Statewide Dropout Prevention Summit

# LEARNING, WORKING AND LIVING: KEEPING PROMISES TO OUR YOUTH

Richmond, Virginia  
October 28, 2008

### Program

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#### REGISTRATION

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Shenandoah Ballroom Foyer

#### OPENING GENERAL SESSION

8:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Shenandoah Ballroom

#### Welcome/Opening

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

#### Greetings and Remarks

**Governor Timothy M. Kaine** (Video)

#### Welcome

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

#### Keynote Speaker – *Understanding the Dropout Crisis*

**Bill Milliken**, Founder, Communities In Schools

#### Youth Panel – *What We Want to Tell You*

**Dedesmonia Garrison**, Student, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Richmond, Virginia

**Brock Barber**, Student, Virginia Beach Central Academy High School, Virginia Beach, Virginia

**Asia Briggs**, Student, N.B. Clements Jr. High School, Prince George, Virginia

**Darrell Monroe, Jr.**, Hampton Roads Youth Leadership, Norfolk, Virginia

**Rashad Harris**, Student, Virginia Beach Central Academy High School, Virginia Beach, Virginia

#### BREAK

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

#### Breakout Sessions

Four concurrent sessions, one per strand for each time period

#### FIRST SESSION

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

##### Strand One

*Engaging the Student, Engaging the Family:  
Going Beyond the School Door*

This strand focuses on effective practices involving schools and community partners, such as service organizations, nonprofit

organizations, and faith-based organizations. Presentations highlight programs that provide supports, such as mentoring and after-school programs, address alternative learning opportunities and academic supports, and create community partnerships in schools.

##### *Creative Community Partnerships to Engage Students in Learning*

Shenandoah Parlor C

**Martha J. Frickert**, Communities In Schools Administrator, Chesterfield County Public Schools Partnership with Faith Organizations – Chesterfield County Public Schools – Chesterfield, Virginia

**Dr. Jennifer J. Smith-Slabaugh**, Executive Director  
Virginia Mentoring Partnership

##### Strand Two

##### *Counteracting Loss: Making a Living, Making a Difference*

This strand focuses on the effective programs initiated by schools, businesses, community colleges, and other organizations that provide opportunities for individuals at risk of dropping out, or who have dropped out, to prepare for achieving personal, academic, and career goals.

##### *Honoring Diverse Pathways to SUCCESS*

Shenandoah Parlor A

**Michelle Hairston**, Director, Department of Nontraditional Programs, Henrico County Public Schools, Richmond, Virginia

**Risha R. Berry**, Intervention Specialist, Communities In Schools of Henrico, Inc., Richmond, Virginia

**Asia R. Jones**, Executive Director for Student Support Services, Roanoke City Public Schools, Forest Park Academy, Programs for Over-aged and Under-credited Students, Roanoke, Virginia

##### Strand Three

##### *From the State House to the School House: The Intentional and Unintentional Impact of Policies*

Legislative and administrative policies at the state and local level can promote persistence to graduation or have unintended consequences. Implementation within school divisions and schools can help students needing alternatives and supports to achieve or can work against their connections to school and the community. This strand provides information about pending and current policies of the General Assembly's

Commission on Youth and the Virginia Board of Education. It also presents information about school division policies, such as the use of early warning indicators.

### **Graduation Rates, State Policies, and State Resources for Taking Action**

*Shenandoah Parlor B*

**Dr. Deborah Jonas**, Executive Director for Research and Strategic Planning, Virginia Department of Education, Richmond, Virginia

**Dr. Thomas M. Brewster**, Virginia Board of Education, Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Assessment, Pulaski County Public Schools, Pulaski, Virginia

### **Strand Four**

#### **Maximizing Resources: Knowing What is Available**

This strand provides information about funding opportunities for programs, supports, and services for youth and their families from a variety of sources, such as foundations, and public and private grants. This strand also shares information about resources in the community that provide services and activities to support students and families.

### **Panel Discussion**

#### **What Businesses Can Do to Support Prevention Initiatives**

*Shenandoah Parlor D*

**Jon Hannah**, Public Relations Consultant, State Farm Insurance, Charlottesville, Virginia

**Maureen A. McDonald**, Vice President, Corporate Compliance, Capital One Services, Inc., Richmond, Virginia

**Rob Ukrop**, Community Volunteer, Ukrop's Supermarkets, Richmond, Virginia

### **BREAK**

**11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

### **SESSION TWO**

**11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

### **Strand One**

#### **Engaging the Student, Engaging the Family: Going Beyond the School Door**

#### **Business and School Partnerships: A Two-Way Street**

*Shenandoah Parlor A*

**Dr. Harold Fitrer**, Executive Director, Communities In Schools of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia

**Maureen A. McDonald**, Vice President, Corporate Compliance, Capital One Services, Inc., Richmond, Virginia

**Jay T. Engeln**, Consultant, National Association of Secondary School Principals, Colorado Springs, Colorado

### **Strand Two**

#### **Counteracting Loss: Making a Living, Making a Difference**

#### **Models for Alternative and Nontraditional Approaches**

*Shenandoah Parlor D*

#### **How to Keep Kids in School**

**Martin L. Bell**, Deputy to the Superintendent, Jefferson County Public School District, Louisville, Kentucky

#### **Partnerships with Public Schools to Address the Needs of Students At Risk of Dropping Out**

**Robert Essink**, Executive Vice President, Community Education Partners, Nashville, Tennessee

### **Strand Three**

#### **From the State House to the School House: The Intentional and Unintentional Impact of Policies**

#### **Using Early Warning Indicators of Dropout to Target Interventions**

*Shenandoah Parlor C*

**Dr. Ruth C. Neild**, Research Scientist, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

### **Strand Four**

#### **Maximizing Resources: Knowing What is Available**

### **Panel Discussion**

#### **The Service Sector – Offering Support to Aid Schools**

*Shenandoah Parlor B*

**Edie Patterson**, Executive Director, Virginia Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, Richmond, Virginia

**Tito Luna**, Vice President, Community Development and Programs, YMCA of Greater Richmond, Richmond, Virginia

**Joan Phelps**, Vice President, Community Impact, United Way Central VA, Lynchburg, Virginia

**Clyde Jackson**, Retired, 4-H Military Liaison, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Arlington, Virginia

### **LUNCH**

**12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.**

**James River Ballroom (First Floor)**

### **Introduction of Speaker**

**H. Douglas Cox**, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Special Education and Student Services, Virginia Department of Education

### **Keynote Presentation**

#### **From Drop – Out to Graduation Nation**

**John Bridgeland**, President & CEO, Civic Enterprises

## SESSION THREE

1:20 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

### Strand One

*Engaging the Student, Engaging the Family: Going Beyond the School Door*

### Parent Panel

*What Parents Need to Assist Their Children*

Shenandoah Parlor C

**Dr. Novella Johnson Ruffin**, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Child Development & Parenting, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia State University, Petersburg, Virginia

**Milton Giles**, Parent Involvement Program Coordinator, Department of Correctional Education, Richmond, Virginia

**Dan Phillips**, Single Parent, Fredericksburg, Virginia

**Otis Dowdy**, Assistant Principal, William Byrd High School, Roanoke, Virginia

**Forrest Mae Heath**, Grandmother, Retired Medical Technician, Petersburg, Virginia

### Strand Two

*Counteracting Loss: Making a Living, Making a Difference*

*Empowering Students for a Lifetime of Success: Creating Possibilities*

Shenandoah Parlor A

**Linda Dorr**, Director of Middle and Secondary Instruction, Henry County Public Schools' Career Preparation Academies, Collinsville, Virginia

**Rich Firth**, Director, Model Performance Learning Centers, Performance Learning Center Initiative for Communities In Schools of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia

### Strand Three

*From the State House to the School House: The Intentional and Unintentional Impact of Policies*

*The General Assembly: The Commission on Youth's Studies of Alternative Education, Dropout Prevention, and Truancy*

Shenandoah Parlor B

**Amy Atkinson**, Executive Director, Commission on Youth, Richmond, Virginia

**Leah Hamaker**, Legislative Policy Analyst, Commission on Youth, Richmond, Virginia

**Senator Harry B. Blevins**, Vice Chairman, Commission on Youth, Richmond, Virginia

**Delegate Robert H. Brink**, Commission on Youth, Richmond, Virginia

### Strand Four

*Maximizing Resources: Knowing What is Available*

## Panel Presentation

*Options for Completing One's Education*

Shenandoah Parlor D

**Lt. Colonel Larry Apel**, Deputy Director, Virginia Commonwealth Challenge, Virginia Beach, Virginia

**Raymond Cousins**, Professional Services & Compliance Specialist, Workforce Development Services, Virginia Community College System, Richmond, Virginia

**Scott Kemp**, Career Pathways Coordinator, Virginia Community College System (VCCS), Richmond, Virginia

**Johnny Stone**, Corporate Relations Specialist, Project Recovery – Total Action Against Poverty (TAP), Roanoke, Virginia

## GENERAL SESSION TWO

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### Panel Presentation

*Coming Together*

James River Ballroom

**Moderator: Dr. Loujeania Bost**, Director National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina

**Dr. Mark E. Emblidge**, President, Virginia Board of Education, Richmond, Virginia

**Senator Harry B. Blevins**, Vice Chairman, Commission on Youth, Richmond, Virginia

**Jennifer Alvarez**, Public Affairs Assistant Manager, State Farm Insurance, Charlottesville, Virginia

**Judge Elizabeth Kellas**, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Winchester, Virginia

**Kerri M. Wilson**, Chairman, Harrisonburg City School Board, Harrisonburg, Virginia

**Samuel Hayes**, Director, Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprise, Richmond, Virginia

## GROUP ACTION PLANNING 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Groups comprised of representatives from each sector will develop recommendations stemming from summit activities to promote collaborative efforts to implement multifaceted and systemic approaches to dropout prevention. Group discussions will be captured through completion of action planning templates.

## NEXT STEPS

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Dr. Patricia I. Wright**

The themes from the action planning work groups will be shared through a proceedings document. Stakeholders will be invited to serve on steering committees that will review the summit recommendations and action plans, and support follow-up work and regional meetings across the state.

## AMERICA'S PROMISE ALLIANCE PRESENTATION

Turning the Tide: Charting a Course for Student Success

# Virginia's Statewide Dropout Prevention Summit

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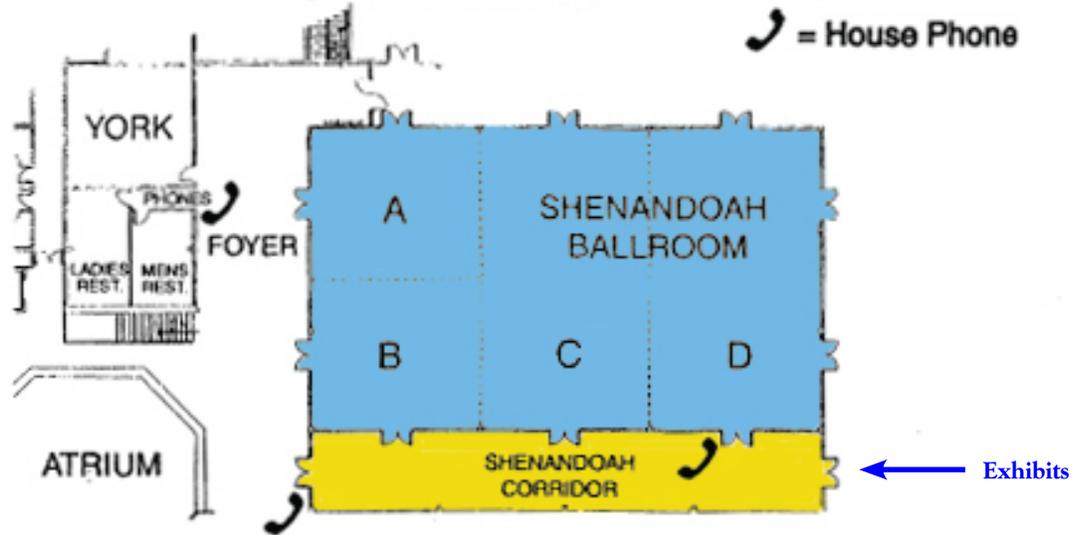
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# HOLIDAY INN SELECT - KOGER SOUTH RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

## SECOND FLOOR



## FIRST FLOOR

