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One in four 9th graders do not graduate from high school in four years.

GRADUATE! GREATER LOUISVILLE

Conference Agenda

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

7:45 am	<u>Registration</u>	<i>Frazier Hall</i>
8:30 am	<u>Opening General Session</u>	<i>Frazier Hall</i>
	Youth Voice – Tiffanie Foster, rap written and performed by Tiffanie	
	Youth Moderator - Ja'nea Thomas	
	Welcome - Dr. Doris Tegart, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Bellarmine University	
	Remarks – Jerry E. Abramson, Mayor, Louisville Metro	
	Remarks – Sheldon H. Berman, Ed. D., Superintendent, Jefferson County Public Schools	
	America's Promise Video	
	Introduction of Keynote Speaker – Andrew Moore, Senior Fellow, National League of Cities', Institute for Youth, Education and Families	
	Keynote Presenter: Bob Wise, President, Alliance for Excellent Education	
	Local Scope – Carolyn Gatz, Director, Greater Louisville Project Terry Brooks, Executive Director, Kentucky Youth Advocates	
	Youth Voice	
	Wrap-up – Mary Gwen Wheeler	
10:30 am	<u>Break</u>	

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Title: “don't be a dropout – 1 in 4 is too many”

written and performed by Tiffanie Foster, aka “2Tone”

(hook1):

don't be a dropout, don't be a quitter
if you think about doing it I hope you reconsider
a graduate is who you are soon to be
so take advantage of life's opportunities

(verse 1)

where do you see yourself in 5 years
as a nurse, pharmacist or an engineer
some live day by day and can't see that far
life is more then having bling and the shining cars
having a degree is personally special
if life was easy everyone would be successful
what would make it easy just to stay out of school
stay out of trouble do your work and obey the rules
they say only a few teachers really do care
in life higher learning ya gotta get prepared
don't quit just because you cant hack it
you could be attracted to vocational or even magnets
good decision choices are better to make
to earn a degree is never to late
put ya mind to it and keep applying yourself
education can only bring a raise to ya wealth

(verse 2)

keep asking questions and keep listening
graduating is all about your self discipline
don't let your future get ahead of ya
in the class and the workplace is where you find competitors
with God and family everything is possible
going to class & doing well shows ya responsible
you think your going to dropout consult ya principle
not giving your all just isn't sensible
being intelligent can help to flourish ya
your parents main job is to encourage ya
when life throw ya problems you can be a brainstormer
you must be an achiever and receive ya diploma
the mind is a terrible thing to waste
don't go through life without a dream to chase
you claim the classes is hard find a tutor
if not the streets will recruit ya
good decision choices are better to make
to earn a degree is never to late
put ya mind to it and keep applying yourself
education can only bring a raise to ya wealth

(hook2)

1 in 4 is too many
I'm talkin bout dropouts ya'll, yeah dropouts ya's
1 in 4 is too many
I'm talkin bout droppin from school, droppin from school, yeah
1 in 4 is too many
We need to graduate – yeah graduate
1 in 4 is too many

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Thank You

Summit Sponsors

America's Promise

Louisville Metro Government

Jefferson County Public Schools

Bellarmine University

C. E. & S. Foundation

AT&T Kentucky

The Committees planning the summit have been led by:

Multiple Pathways/High School Innovation

Lynn Rippy (YouthBuild Louisville) and Brian Shumate (Jefferson County Public Schools)

Student Supports

Julia Inman (Metro United Way) and Darrell Aniton (Louisville Metro Office of Youth Development)

Policy Barriers to Graduation

Representative Joni Jenkins (Kentucky House of Representatives) and Marty Bell (Jefferson County Public Schools)

Life Readiness and Education Beyond High School

Dr. Mary Jones (Jefferson Community and Technical College) and Michael Gritton (KentuckianaWorks)

Youth Voice

Lorena Lasky (Youth Opportunities Unlimited Center) and
Kevin Fields (Louisville Urban League)

Parent Voice

Kathy Stovall (National Center for Family Literacy) and Cori Gadansky and Greg Hudelson (Metro United Way)

Data

Mary Gwen Wheeler (Louisville Metro Office of Policy and Management) and Bob Rodosky (Jefferson County Public Schools)

Logistics

Melissa Mershon (Louisville Metro Department of Neighborhoods)

Special Thank You to:

Young people from the Louisville Urban League's Urban Youth Empowerment Program
and the Youth Opportunities Unlimited Center's GED classes

Tiffanie Foster for writing and performing "The Dropout Song"

ValuMarket

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Summit Resources

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Links to the following resources and more are available on the summit website:

www.louisvilleky.gov/oyd/dropout_summit

The following materials are part of the Graduate Greater Louisville High School Dropout Solutions Summit packet or are available on the resource table:

From **America's Promise** – www.americaspromise.org

- *Stop America's Dropout Crisis* (brochure), America's Promise Alliance
- *National Action Strategies*, America's Promise Alliance
- *Cities in Crisis: A Special Analytic Report on High School Graduation*, Christopher B. Swanson, Ph.D., Editorial Projects in Education Research Center, April 1, 2008
- *Ready or Not: Creating A High School Diploma that Counts, Executive Summary*, The American Diploma Project
- *Ending the Silent Epidemic, 10-Point Plan*, www.silentepidemic.org

From the **Alliance for Excellent Education** – www.alliance4ed.org

- *Kentucky High Schools* (report card), Alliance for Excellent Education
- *Key Pieces of Secondary School Legislation Pending Before Congress*, Alliance for Excellent Education
- *The Graduation Promise Act (GPA)*, Alliance for Excellent Education

From the **National League of Cities** – www.nlc.org/iyef

- *Municipal Leadership in Supporting High School Alternatives* (Special Report), National League of Cities' *Nation's Weekly*, October 22, 2007.
- *Reengaging Dropouts and Other Disconnected Youth* (registration form for email updates), National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education, and Families

From the **Greater Louisville Project** – www.greaterlouisvilleproject.org

- *Moving Louisville into the top tier of American cities, 2008 Update* (fact sheet), Greater Louisville Project
- *Jefferson County KY Education Pipeline: Birth Through College* (draft prepared for High School Dropout Solutions Summit), Greater Louisville Project

From the **Every 1 Reads** project – www.every1reads.org

- *Every 1 Reads 2008 Report Card*, Every 1 Reads partnership sponsors: Jefferson County Public Schools, Greater Louisville Inc. and Louisville Metro Government

From the **Youth Voice Committee** – www.louisvilleky.gov/oyd/dropout_summit

- *Youth Voice: Louisville's Young People Speak Out on Their Experiences in School* (survey and focus group results), compiled by Elizabeth Senn-Alvey
- *The Dropout Song*, (song lyrics), written and performed by Tiffanie Foster

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Quickie Critique

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

What I thought was most important about today was: _____

The data bit that I was most surprised by was _____

I wish that I had heard more about: _____

I would like to continue to be involved with _____

Please contact me at:

Name: _____

Organization: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Please be aware that all **Graduate Greater Louisville: High School Dropout Solutions Summit** attendees will be contacted via e-mail by the evaluation team from Duke University for a more in-depth evaluation of the summit. Your cooperation by completing that evaluation will be most appreciated by the local organizers.

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**Graduate! Greater Louisville
High School Dropout
Solutions Summit**

Louisville, Kentucky

Bellarmino University

July 30, 2008

**Conference Presenters
and Moderators
Biographies**

Tiffanie Foster, *Performing Artist, Youth Voice Committee*

Tiffanie Foster is a junior in college and currently studies Communications at Western Kentucky University. Her career interests include teen advocacy, particularly advocacy on the behalf of African-American girls. Tiffanie spends her summers as a sales associate at Sprint Nextel stores and as a Metro Parks Youth Leader at the Newburg Community Center. She is passionate about motivational speaking, writing and entertainment. Tiffanie is also a positive rap artist and performs under the alias, Ms. 2Tone.

Je'nea Thomas, *Welcoming Remarks, Youth Voice Committee*

Je'nea Thomas is a 23 year old Louisville native who graduated from Seneca High School in 2003. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 2007 from Fisk University, with a dual major in Sociology and Anthropology. Currently, Je'Nea is working on a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy at the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. Upon completing her studies, she plans to open a self improvement business. Her biggest influences are her mother, a 2007 Spalding University college graduate and brother, Will, a proud student at Western Kentucky University.

Jerry E. Abramson, *Mayor of Louisville Metro*

Mayor Jerry Abramson is the longest serving Mayor in the history of Louisville. A Louisville native, Abramson received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Economics from Indiana University and a law degree from Georgetown University. He served two terms on Louisville's Board of Alderman, and between 1985 and 1998, he served as Mayor for the City of Louisville. After exhausting three term limits, Mayor Abramson practiced law and, in 2000, was a leader of the campaign to merge City of Louisville and Jefferson County governments. He won office in 2002 and is now serving his second term as Mayor of Louisville Metro.

Dr. Sheldon Berman, *Superintendent of Jefferson County Public Schools*

Dr. Sheldon Berman is the recently appointed Superintendent of Jefferson County Public Schools. Before coming to Louisville, he served as the Superintendent of the Hudson (Massachusetts) Public Schools. While superintendent in Hudson, Dr. Berman promoted innovative programs in civic education, social-emotional learning, service learning, mathematics and science reform, high school restructuring, teacher evaluation and computer technology. Before his tenure at Hudson, Dr. Berman was the founder and President of Educators for Social Responsibility. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin in Madison and his Masters and Doctoral Degrees in Education from Harvard University.

Andrew Moore, *Senior Fellow, National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education and Families*

Andrew Moore is a Senior Fellow with the National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education and Families, an "action tank" for cities. Moore's roles include: 1) coordinating efforts in three cities to expand options and alternatives for high school in conjunction with the Alternative High School Initiative; 2) supporting a current technical assistance initiative in which six cities are using cross-system collaboration strategies to re-engage disconnected youth; and 3) helping staff the 13-city California Cities Gang Prevention Network. Earlier, Moore spent 15 years building the nationwide network of service and conservation corps, and consulted for five years on strategic program development with clients in the youth development field. In 2000-2001, Moore was one of eight mid-career executives to serve as an Atlantic Fellow in Public Policy in the United Kingdom. Moore holds degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and Princeton University.

Governor Bob Wise, *President of the Alliance of Excellent Education*

Since 2005, Governor Bob Wise has been the President of the Alliance for Excellent Education, a national policy and advocacy organization whose mission is to ensure that every child graduates from high school prepared for post secondary education and success in life. Governor Wise governed West Virginia from 2001 to 2005 where he championed a number of educational initiatives including: legislation to fund the Promise Scholarship Program which allowed many West Virginians to attend school in-state; the creation the Governor's helpline for safe schools; the establishment of a character curriculum program in all state schools; and instituting salary bonuses for teachers who achieve the National Board Certification. From 1983 to 2001, he represented the 2nd District of West Virginia in the House of Representatives. Governor Wise received a bachelor's degree from Duke University and a law degree from Tulane.

Bellarmino University, Dr. Doris Tegart, *Senior Vice-President for Academic Affairs*

Bellarmino University is an independent, Roman Catholic liberal-arts university. It is the largest traditional, non-profit private university in the Kentucky. Bellarmine College opened in 1950, under the sponsorship of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville and with the special assistance of the Conventual Franciscan Fathers. It was named after the Catholic Saint Robert Bellarmine. In 2000, the Board of Trustees voted to change the name of the institution from Bellarmine College to Bellarmine University to reflect its status as a Masters I university. Total enrollment is approximately 2,600, of which 1,800 are full-time undergraduate students. The president is Dr. Joseph J. McGowan.

Greater Louisville Project, Carolyn Gatz, *Director*

The Greater Louisville Project (GLP) is a non-partisan civic initiative organized by the Community Foundation of Louisville with the goal of ensuring that Louisville becomes one of the nation's most livable and competitive cities. Its mission is to act as a catalyst, using research, data analysis and civic dialogue to engage leaders from the region's key sectors to come together around a shared agenda to achieve long term civic progress. Two of GLP's six goals focus on education. They are: 1) improve educational achievement in kindergarten through grade 12; and 2) increase attainment in secondary and higher education and workforce development. GLP publishes biennial reports and annual reports to measure Louisville's progress. The website is www.greaterlouisvilleproject.org.

Kentucky Youth Advocates, Terry Brooks, *Executive Director*

Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA) is a non-partisan, non-profit, children's advocacy organization. It provides research, drafts publications and collaborates with a variety of stakeholders to craft policies to improve the well being of Kentucky's children. Recent KYA publications include *Making their Way: Helping Kentucky's Immigrant Youth Successfully Transition into Adulthood* and *Setting the Stage for School Readiness: Early Childhood Education among immigrant families in Kentucky*. The website is www.kyyouth.org.