

Full Agenda • February 25, 2008 • Gleacher Center, Chicago

8:00 – 9:00am
Executive Dining
Room

REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 – 9:45

MORNING GENERAL SESSION

Master of Ceremonies	Bryan Samuels, <i>Chief of Staff to CEO</i> , Chicago Public Schools
Welcome	Jesse Ruiz, <i>Chairman</i> , Illinois State Board of Education Arne Duncan, <i>Chief Executive Officer</i> , Chicago Public Schools
Opening Keynotes	Nelda Vela, Benito Juarez High School Class of '03 Sheldon Smith, CVCA Achievement Academy Class of '07

9:45 – 10:40

GRADUATION PATHWAYS

Introduction	David Gilligan, <i>Chief Officer</i> , Office of High Schools and High School Programs
Presentation	Carmita Vaughan, <i>Chief of Staff</i> , Office of High Schools and High School Programs Haven Ladd, <i>Senior Principal</i> , The Parthenon Group

10:40 – 11:10

VOICES OF YOUTH IN CHICAGO EDUCATION (VOYCE)

Introduction	Rufus Williams, <i>President</i> , Chicago Board of Education
Video Presentation VOYCE	

11:10 – 11:15

Transfer to break-out rooms

11:15 – 12:15 p.m.
Panel Discussions
Rooms 204, 206, 208,
600

PART I, FINDING A SOLUTION: COMMUNITY STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF CHICAGO AT-RISK YOUTH

Panelists will share examples of successful strategies and partnerships developed to support at-risk youth. Participants will identify challenges and community disconnects, and initiate discussions on how they can leverage one another's expertise and resources to better serve our students.

Panel 1 (Room 204)

Inspiring a Desire to Learn: Keeping our youth engaged and on-track to graduation

Learning, growing and raising expectations requires an active and participating student mind. How do we create conditions to promote this environment during out-of-school time? This discussion will focus on the community's role in keeping our students motivated and interested in school before disengagement begins to decrease their chances of a successful future.

Facilitator

Tracy Dell'Angela, Senior Manager for Outreach and Communications, **Chicago Consortium on Chicago Research**

Presentations

Jennifer Arwade, Executive Director, **Albany Park Neighborhood Council**
Katya Nuques, Director of Education, **Little Village Development Corporation**
Phillip Jackson, Executive Director, **The Black Star Project**

Intended Audience: Organizations/agencies working on prevention strategies to keep our children from falling off-track and/or early intervention strategies to help students displaying early signs of truancy and academic failure

Panel 2 (Room 206)

A Holistic Approach: Exploring culturally competent services for underserved youth

Many CPS students are challenged with external, social, emotional and physical conditions that pose great obstacles to school success. This discussion will focus on how the community can compliment CPS efforts to help these children and increase the likelihood that students will stay in school and graduate.

Facilitator

Teresa Garate, Chief of Staff, **Office of Specialized Services, Chicago Public Schools**

Presentations

Marca Bristo, Executive Director, **Access Living**
Celia Gonzalez Lozano, Director of Program and Planning, **Chicago Communities in Schools**
Dr. Johnnie Williamson, Director of the Links to Learning Program & Disruptive Behavior Disorders Clinic, **Community Mental Health Council**

Intended Audience: Organizations/agencies providing social-emotional, mental and physical support to Chicago youth populations facing external and "real life" challenges

11:15 – 12:15 p.m.
Panel Discussions
Rooms 204, 206, 208,
600

PART I, FINDING A SOLUTION:

COMMUNITY STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF CHICAGO'S AT-RISK YOUTH

Panel 3 (Room 208)

Shaping Successful Futures: Strengthening the connection between the classroom and student aspirations

As reported in *The Silent Epidemic*, many students drop out of school because they feel that what they are learning is not relevant to their life goals. This discussion will focus on how the community can assist in making our youth's high school years more than being just about a high school diploma--how can we help shape the future success of our students?

Facilitator

Jill Wine-Banks, Chief Officer, **Education to Careers, Chicago Public Schools**

Presentations

Gene Hallongren, President, **Devry Institute**
Bill Leavy, Executive Director, **Greater Westtown Community Development Corporation**
Peggy Luce, Vice-President of Public Education and Workforce, **Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce**

Intended Audience: Organizations/agencies/institutions aimed at preparing our students for the workforce and/or post-secondary education

Panel 4 (Room 600)

Reconnecting with the Disengaged Student: Alternative strategies for students who have fallen off-track

There are between 10-12K students who drop out of CPS high schools every year. The reasons for this include violence, apathy and poverty, to name a few. There are also a significant number of students who are severely off-pace to graduate. These students have little probability of graduating and even less probability of building a successful future because the community is losing them to gang and crime-related activities. How can we bring back students who are slipping through the cracks?

Facilitator

Renae Ogletree, Manager, **Student Development, Chicago Public Schools**

Presentations

Jack Wuest, Executive Director, **Alternative School Network**
Christopher Mallette, Executive Director, **(JISC) Juvenile Intervention and Support Center**
Minister Johnny Banks, Executive Director, **A Knock at Midnight**

Intended Audience: Organizations/agencies focusing on intervention strategies for students who are at the brink of dropping out and/or participating in the re-enrollment process of out-of-school youth

Following the Luncheon, participants will engage in roundtable discussions that will continue and bring action to the ideas discussed at the panels. We advise that participants select one of the four panels and attend its respective afternoon roundtable.

12:15 – 12:20

Transfer to Executive Dining Room for Lunch

12:20 – 1:20

KEYNOTE LUNCHEON: Transforming Lives & Communities: Building Public and Political Will to Overcome the Dropout Crisis

Introduction

Bryan Samuels, *Chief of Staff to CEO*, Chicago Public Schools

Special Luncheon Keynote

Governor Bob Wise, *President*, Alliance for Excellent Education

1:20 – 1:25

Transfer to break-out rooms

1:25 – 2:45

Roundtable
Discussions
Rooms 204, 222, 226,
230

PART II, FINDING A SOLUTION:

BUILDING ALLIANCES TO SUPPORT CHICAGO YOUTH

The roundtable session will initiate what will ultimately lead to a comprehensive city-wide action plan to ensure that our children are receiving the support they need to graduate prepared for workforce and post-secondary success. Participants will be charged with identifying opportunities for building partnerships and bridging gaps to strengthen community and CPS efforts to solve the dropout problem. Each roundtable will deliver a long-term vision for the solution to the problem and a short-term action plan that will bring us closer to the answer.

Roundtable 1 (Room 204): *Inspiring a Desire to Learn*. Keeping our youth engaged and on-track to graduation

Erica Harris, Chief Officer of **Extended Learning, Chicago Public Schools**
Doug Elmer, Midwest Regional Manager, **Talent Development High Schools, Johns Hopkins University**

Roundtable 2 (Room 222): *A Holistic Approach*. Exploring culturally competent services for underserved youth

Teresa Garate, Chief of Staff, **Office of Specialized Services, Chicago Public Schools**

Roundtable 3 (Room 226): *Shaping Successful Futures*. Strengthening the connection between the classroom and student aspirations

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

Roundtable 4 (Room 230): *Reconnecting with the Disengaged Student*: Alternative strategies for students who have fallen off-track

Dr. Linda Boisseau-Goodwin, Manager of **Alternative Schools, Chicago Public Schools**

2:45 – 3:30

Executive Dining
Room

CREATING A SHARED VISION

During this final panel roundtable facilitators will announce the outcomes of their group discussion, discuss the different roles of the community in meeting the individualized needs of our at-risk youth and reflect on the learnings of the day.

Facilitation and Closing Remarks

Carmita Vaughan, *Chief of Staff*, Office of High Schools and High School Programs

3:30 – 5:00

RECEPTION