



## WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE

THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

**Pamela Dugan, State Director**

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West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth's state director, Pam Dugan, and Promise AmeriCorps VISTAs, Missy Storey and Alexandra Conroy, attended the second annual [Building a Grad Nation Summit](#), which took place March 18-20, 2012, in Washington, D.C. The West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts sponsored WV's Promise to attend the Summit.

The Summit brought more than 1,000 education stakeholders from 42 states together to discuss challenges and solutions to ending America's high school dropout crisis – every 26 seconds a student drops out of high school. Among the attendees were more than 150 youth leaders who participated in a youth-only preconference on March 18 to share their ideas and role in dropout prevention. The Summit was hosted by America's Promise Alliance, Alliance for Excellent Education, Civic Enterprises and the Everyone Graduates Center and featured the release of the latest report on the state of high school graduation rates in America.

The Summit officially kicked off on March 19 with America's Promise Chair Alma J. Powell and Michael Powell, who co-chairs Grad Nation and also serves as President and CEO of the National Cable & Telecommunications Association. The opening session featured an announcement from AT&T Chairman and CEO Randall Stephenson about the company expanding their education initiative AT&T Aspire to \$250 million over five years. AT&T Aspire tackles high school success and college/career readiness for students at-risk of dropping out of high school through a much larger, socially-innovative approach.



Left to Right: Alexandra Conroy, Promise VISTA serving at the Family Resource Network of the Panhandle, Alma J. Powell, America's Promise chair, Pam Dugan, state director of WV's Promise-The Alliance for Youth, Missy Storey, Promise VISTA Leader serving at the Children's Home Society of Parkersburg.



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Following the summit Pam, Missy, Alexandra and Richard Wells, the previous vice president of America's Promise, visited with Gayle Manchin and Sen. Joe Manchin III at the U.S. Capitol.





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America's Promise Alliance Grad Nation Summit: <http://www.americaspromise.org/News-and-Events/News-and-Features/APB-2012/Vol-7/Grad-Nation-Summit-Recap.aspx>

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth:  
<http://www.fivepromises.wv.gov/events/Pages/default.aspx>

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