

2009 West Virginia's Promise Grant Report
High School Graduation and Dropout Prevention Regional Summit
 Pamela Dugan, WV's Statewide Director
 HC 66 Box 1 F
 Frankford, WV 25438
 304-661-1460
pdugan@frontiernet.net



2009 WV's Promise Summit Grant Report
(Due: Saturday May 9, 2009, please email and mail to Pam Dugan)

Name: Rachel Kellar **Title:** AmeriCorps VISTA

Region 1: Brooke, Hancock, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Preston, Taylor, Wetzel

Organization: Marion County Family Resource Network

County: Marion **Phone:** 304-366-4445

Email: marioncountypromise@yahoo.com

Expense Report/Budget: \$1000.00
(Please attach an itemized budget report of actual expenses)

Grant Amount Awarded from WV's Promise: \$1000.00

Community Match Received: \$2101.90
(Please attach documentation of community match actual funds/in-kind donations)

Date of Event: March 23, 2009

Number Attendees: Children/Youth 4 Adults 58

Location of Event: I-79 Technology Park Research Center

Summit Details: The summit was broken down into a morning and afternoon session. We started off the morning with First Lady of West Virginia, Gayle Manchin giving the welcome and keynote speech. After Mrs. Manchin concluded we had Mr. Ralph Miller with the Education Alliance speak on graduation rates nationally and statewide. Ms. Dara Pond spoke after Mr. Miller and further broke down the information into local and regional information. During lunch we had Mrs. Sharon Shaffer speak on the workforce and what our local economy needs to stay strong.

To start off the afternoon, we had Mr. Ralph Miller with the Education Alliance speak on best practices and policy recommendations. After which the participants were broken down into seven groups each comprised of women, men and youth. We had only four youth or children under 18, however, we had five 18-21 year olds that had dropped out of high school and went back to gain their GED that gave input in the discussion groups. During the discussion groups, the participants discussed what they thought the reasons were that students dropped out of high school, what is being done in their communities to improve graduation rates, what barriers they are facing in their communities, what were possible solutions to the barriers, and what were some effective policy changes they felt needed to be made. This information was recorded on sheets provided to the groups and then collected before the participants left.

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At the conclusion of the event, the donors to the event were thanked and given gifts. Then, the participants were asked to complete the survey from the America's Promise Alliance before they departed. These were also collected and to be compiled by the America's Promise Alliance.

- CATCH PHRASE:** "Are we there Yet?", "Less Aggravation, More Graduation", "Dropout...Destination Unknown", "Working Together to C U Thru", Stop Drop'in Out and Lets Roll", "The High School Diploma...The Stay out of Jail Card", "Get Lots of Money, if you Study, Study, Study", "Text Less, Learn More", "To Avoid a Bad Situation, Get a Good Education!", "Don't Run in Flee, Stay in School and Get a Degree", "Educate Before It's Too Late", "School...I'm Lovin It", Jump on the Wagon...We Did", "Be the Peer Above the Pressure"

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Please attach a contact list of all participants involved/participated in Regional Summit using this format.

ORGANIZATION	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	TITLE	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	EMAIL	FACILITATE AT STATE SUMMIT
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Please identify key leaders, speakers involved with local Regional/County Summit that would be interested in participating as a facilitator in the State Summit in July 2009.

Please include in report, **Three Points of Interest:**

1. Why students dropout of school/identity the problems/reasons
2. What are the solutions
3. Identify effective policy change
 - a. How did you gather the above information from the participants (*small groups, flip charts, open microphone, etc.*)

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The Region 1 America's Promise High School Graduation and Dropout Prevention Summit was held in Fairmont on March 23, 2009 at the I-79 Technology Park Research Center. The afternoon session titled "Best Practices Discussion" addressed the three key points of interest. During this time the participants were broken into seven working groups where questions regarding the three key points of interest were posed to them. In their groups they were asked to take notes about the discussion at the table on the paper provided to them. The papers were collected at the end of the event and compiled for this report.

Point of Interest 1: Why students drop out of school? Identify the problems and reasons.

Reasons/ Problems:

- Laziness (lack of structure, not want to do work, single parents)
- Family Life (parents, illnesses, lack of support and involvement)
- Teachers (picking favorites, lack of connection with student, lack of addressing multiple learning styles)
- Motivation (Not knowing what to look to in the future)
- Already Failing (can't read, spell, write, math)
- Lack of Engagement (Students become overwhelmed with work load, feel no one cares about them)
- No individual counseling (ability to help individual student)
- Don't like school
- Attendance created issue
- No motivation (due to peer pressure)
- Boredom (Irrelevant curriculum)
- Personal Interest (other responsibilities)
- School Cliques/ Peer Groups
- Societal Issues (pregnancy, child care, depression, drug abuse, generational dropout)
- Inconsistent curriculum across state lines
- Juvenile Delinquency (truancy, court systems)

Point of Interest 2: What are the solutions?

Solutions:

- Develop ways to have more funds for education
- More comprehensive after school programs (offered to all schools for more consistency)
- Collaboration between agencies (coordination of services)
- Earlier Intervention
- Earlier exposure to career based learning opportunities (community mentorship with business people, pastors, police; career education)
- Movement toward more comprehensive high school programs (to include academic and trade/vocational-tech training)
- Create focus groups
- Supporting legislative bills for change
- Alternative access for communication to parents about summer and after school programs
- Training for teachers
- Teacher/ Student interaction outside classroom (improve communication)
- Community outreach from school (community involvement)
- Evaluation (input/output)
- Strength and Asset based curriculum (like Japan)

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- Multiple key indicators
- Magnet schools
- Year- Round school year
- Exit Interviews
- Offer more electives
- Policy changes
- Alternative Learning Centers
- Benchmarks for literacy (3rd and 8th grades)
- More community and parent involvement
- Mandatory parent meetings with all teachers

Point of Interest 3: Identify Effective Policy Change

Policy Changes:

- Mandatory "Meet the Teacher" Night
- Parents sign child's report card even through High School
- Same requirements for all students
- Modification of curriculum (more consistency)
- Reduce standardized testing
- Increase dropout age to 18
- Longer school year (more day, year round)
- Early Intervention for at Risk (Birth -4)
- Statewide accountability
- More Alternatives
- Increase college credit options
- Change in grade requirements
- Policy changes (tech prep, service learning, college prep, magnet schools; ability to graduate early; push both college and technical school equally)
- Practical and artisan type skills
- More funding
- Alternative discipline procedures
- Mandatory drug testing with follow up intervention

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Post-Summit Summary Report Overview

The America's Promise High School Graduation and Dropout Prevention Summit for Region 1 of West Virginia was a day-long event held on March 23, 2009 at the I-79 Technology Park Research Center in Fairmont, WV. The summit's focus was on America's Promise Number Four: Effective Education and the dropout crisis happening nationwide and statewide. Through the summits happening both nationwide and statewide the goal was to discuss the reasons and problems occurring to cause students to drop out of high school, possible solutions to the issues and some possible effective policy changes that could make an impact on the dropout crisis.

The West Virginia Region1 summit was broken down into a morning and afternoon session. We started off the morning with First Lady of West Virginia, Gayle Manchin giving the welcome and keynote speech. After Mrs. Manchin concluded we had Mr. Ralph Miller with the Education Alliance speak on graduation rates nationally and statewide. Ms. Dara Pond spoke after Mr. Miller and further broke down the information into local and regional information. During lunch we had Mrs. Sharon Shaffer speak on the workforce and what our local economy needs to stay strong.

To start off the afternoon, we had Mr. Ralph Miller with the Education Alliance speak on best practices and policy recommendations. After which the participants were broken down into seven groups each comprised of women, men and youth. We had only four youth or children under 18, however, we had five 18-21 year olds that had dropped out of high school and went back to gain their GED that gave input in the discussion groups. During the discussion groups, the participants discussed what they thought the reasons were that students dropped out of high school, what is being done in their communities to improve graduation rates, what barriers they are facing in their communities, what were possible solutions to the barriers, and what were some effective policy changes they felt needed to be made. This information was recorded on sheets provided to the groups and then collected before the participants left and to be compiled by Rachel Kellar, WV Promise VISTA.

During the summit we were fortunate to have both local news stations stop by for interviews that were played on the local news stations as well as posted on the internet. The West Virginia Region 1 Summit was also able to generate awareness not only in the community but also in the region regarding the dropout crisis that is currently occurring and the effects of the crisis on the community, state and nation. Some of the participants have since made comments such as "It was a wonderful day...I was able to learn things, meet colleagues and give input," "This event was very informative." Participants have also commented that they are anxious to see what will come from the summit and that they hope to see the motivation that started at the summit to continue so that an impact can be made.

The information from the West Virginia Region1 Summit will be compiled and sent to the state Promise office to be used at the West Virginia State America's Promise High School Graduation and Dropout Prevention Summit to be held July 14, 2009 in Charleston, WV. At that summit, a formal dropout prevention action plan will be created.

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Working Together for Marion County Families

America's Promise High School Graduation and Dropout Prevention Summit

March 23, 2009

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Promotional Items	500.00	270.86
Decorations	125.00	46.11
Supplies	150.00	366.79
Printing/Copying	75.00	282.64
Postage/Mailing	150.00	33.60
Total:	1000.00	1000.00

The actual expenses for the Region 1 America's Promise High School Graduation and Drop Out Prevention Summit varied slightly due to in kind donations of decorations, promotional items, and postage costs. A description of expenses for each category is listed below.

Promotional Items: Each summit participant was provided with America's Promise promotional items including note pads, pens. Additionally, presenters were given a thank you gift from America's Promise. Sponsors were given plaques from the America's Promise Alliance.

Decorations: America's Promise balloons, table cards, and a banner were displayed at the event.

Supplies: Each participant was given a bag containing a folder, information, and promotional items upon registering for the event.

Printing/Copying: These funds covered the expense of printing/copying all information and materials for registration, presentations, and registration bags.

Postage/Mailing: These funds covered the costs of mailing thank you cards to presenters and participants following the event.



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Attendee List

ORGANIZATION	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	TITLE	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	EMAIL
Mononglaia County Family Resource Network	Angela	Faulkner-Vaglianti	Executive Director	P.O. Box 324	Morgantown	WV	26507	moncofrn@aol.com
Marion County Family Representative	Cathy	Reed	Community Representative	Rt.1 Box 480	Fairmont	WV	26554	
United Way of Marion County	Tiffany	Samuels	Executive Director	112 Adams St. Suite 205	Fairmont	WV	26554	tiffany@uwmarion.org
Preston County Family Resource Network	Barbara	Thorn	Director	P.O. Box 238	Kingwood	WV	26537	Barbt2@verizon.net
Preston County Family Resource Network	Linda	Lilly	AmeriCorps VISTA	P.O. Box 238	Kingwood	WV	26537	lindalilly@hughes.net
Taylor County Schools	Lori	Shumaker	Assistant Principal	400 Riverside Dr.	Grafton	WV	26354	lrshumak@access.k12.wv.us
Community Connections	JoAnne	McNemar	Community Support Specialist	P.O. Box 2192	Clarksburg	WV	26302	communitysupport@ccifrn.org
Taylor County Collaborative Family Resource Network	Walesca	Marrero	Director	2 Vintage Square	Grafton	WV	26354	taylorcountycollaborativefrn@yahoo.com



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Mountaineer Virtual	Mike	Swartzmiller	Director	P.O. Box 181	New Cumberland	WV	26047	mike@swartzmiller.com
	Chuck	McShane	Consultant	600 Indiana St. Suite 314	Chester	WV	26034	chuck.mcshane@nndsonline.com
WV Prevention Resource Center	Lori	Garrett-Bumba	Community Development Specialist	62260 Hawthorn Hill	Jacobsburg	OH	43933	garrettbumba@marshall.edu
Education Alliance	Ralph	Miller	Manager Praternships	P.O. Box 3071	Charleston	WV	25331	ralphmiller@educationalliance.org
WV Adolescent Health Initiative	Dara	Pond	Coordinator	324 7th St.	Moundsville	WV	26041	ahicoordinator@comcast.net
Office of the First Lady of WV	Gayle	Manchin	First Lady of WV	1716 Kanawha Blvd. East	Charleston	WV	25305	First.lady@wv.gov
Governor's Office	Melissa	Phalen	Executive Assistant, First Lady	1716 Kanawha Blvd. East	Charleston	WV	25305	melissa.d.phalen@wv.gov
CASA of Marion Co.	Kim	Baker	Director	112 Adams St. Rm 203	Fairmont	WV	26554	mccasa@wvdsi.net
CASA of Marion Co.	Jane	Cecil	Intern	112 Adams St. Rm. 203	Fairmont	WV	26554	Jmill108@mix.wvu.edu



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Marion County Family Resource Network	Lauren	Prinzo	Director	112 Adams St. Rm. 204	Fairmont	WV	26554	marioncountyfrn@yahoo.com
Marion County Family Resource Network	Debbie	Mann	Youth Service Coordinator	112 Adams St. Rm. 204	Fairmont	WV	26554	mcfryouth@yahoo.com
Marion Regional Development Corporation	Sharon	Shaffer	Executive Director	112 Adams St. Suite 201	Fairmont	WV	26554	director@marionrdc.com
Brooke High School	Vicki	Puskarich	Counselor	Bruin Dr.	Wellsburg	WV	26070	vpuskari@access.k12.wv.us
Brooke High School	Kathi	Moore	Counselor	RD. # 3 Box 610	Wellsburg	WV	26070	kjmoore@access.k12.wv.us
Monongah Middle School	Deborah	Moore	Counselor	542 Blue Goose Rd	Fairview	WV	26572	Djmoore8d@westco.net
MCACEC	Donna	Metz	Principal	601 Locust Ave	Fairmont	WV	26554	dmetz@access.k12.wv.us
Life Long Learning	Renee	Verbanic	Educational Consultant	Rt.6 Box 150A	Fairmont	WV	26554	lifelongrenee@aol.com
Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Initiative	Crystal	Stiles	Specialist	P.O. Box 2590	Fairmont	WV	26505	crystalstiles@wvdhhr.org
Ohio County Schools	Jim	Monderine	Resource Counselor	4 Kelly Dr.	Wheeling	WV	26003	jmonderi@comcast.net



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Youth Club of Marshall County	Patricia	Holden	Board President	302 9th St.	Moundsville	WV	26041	pjcholden@msn.com
Youth Club of Marshall County	Cindy	Nicholson	AmeriCorps VISTA	P.O. Box 109	Moundsville	WV	26041	youthclubmc@yahoo.com
Governor's Office	Michelle	Figaretti	Regional Representative	3 Highland Park	Wheeling	WV	26003	Michelle.l.figaretti@wv.gov
Moundsville Police Department	James	Kudlak	Chief	P.O. Box E	Moundsville	WV	26041	jkudlak@msn.com
Moundsville Police Department	Rich	Milbert	PFC	P.O. Box E	Moundsville	WV	26041	rmilbert@access.k12.wv.us
Ohio Co. Sheriff's Department	Chuck	Kittle	Deputy	51 16th St.	Wheeling	WV	26003	ckittle@ohcoso.com
Ohio County Sheriff's Department	John	Kyle	Cpl	51 16th St.	Wheeling	WV	26003	jkyle@ohcoso.com
Fairmont State Gear Up	Amie	Fazalare	Director	1201 Locust Ave.	Fairmont	WV	26554	afazalare@fairmontstate.edu
RESA VII/ FSU Gear Up	Anna	Casale	Training Coordinator	1201 N. 15th St.	Clarksburg	WV	26301	acasale@access.k12.wv.us
Fairmont State University	Steve	Leadman	Director of Admissions	1201 Locust Ave.	Fairmont	WV	26554	leadman@fairmontstate.edu



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WVU Center for Civic Engagement	Kim	Liston	Program Coordinator	P.O. Box 6412	Morgantown	WV	26506	Kim.liston@mail.wvu.edu
Pierpont Community and Technical College	Lyla	Grandstaff	Director of off-campus	1201 Locust Ave.	Fairmont	WV	26554	Lyla.grandstaff@pierpont.edu
Preston County Schools	Crystal	Pell	Counselor	Rt.1 Box 432	Kingwood	WV	26537	cpell@access.k12.wv.us
Children's Home Society of WV	Kindra	Boyd	AmeriCorps VISTA	1739 St. Mary's Ave.	Parkersburg	WV	26101	kboyd@childhswv.org
Children's Home Society of WV	Patty	Ralston	AmeriCorps VISTA Leader	1739 St. Mary's Ave	Parkersburg	WV	26101	pralston@childhswv.org
WV's Promise	April	Alderman	AmeriCorps VISTA	HC 66 Box 1F	Frankford	WV	24938	aprilalderman@frontiernet.net
WV's Promise	Pam	Dugan	State Director	HC 66 Box 1F	Frankford	WV	24938	pdugan@frontiernet.net
Hancock Co. School	Ruth	Douglass	Attendance Director	P.O. Box 1300	New Cumberland	WV	26047	radougla@access.k12.wv.us
WV System of Care	Swapna	King	Reg. I Clinical Coordinator	165 Scott Ave. Suite 208	Morgantown	WV	26508	sking@crittentonservices.com
Ohio Co. Family Resource Network	Deborah	Allen	Director	3700 Wood St.	Wheeling	WV	26003	Db4004@aol.com



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United Way of Mononglaia and Preston Counties	Brandi	Potock	Community Impact Director	278 C Spruce St.	Morgantown	WV	26505	bpotock@aol.com
Marion County School	Charles	Hlusko	Attendance Director	200 Gaston Ave.	Fairmont	WV	26554	chlusko@access.k12.wv.us
Marion County School	Tricia	Chisler	Behavior Specialist	200 Gaston Ave.	Fairmont	WV	26554	tchisler@access.k12.wv.us
Mon Youth Build	Jalya	Brooks	GED/ construction	480 Leonard Ave. Apt 6H	Fairmont	WV	26554	Prettybrowneyeddiva08@yahoo.com
Mon Youth Build	Jeffrey	Watkins	GED/ construction	Rt.8 Box 3743	Fairmont	WV	26554	Jeffandashley8992@love.com
Mon Youth Build	Levi	Fox	GED/ construction	220 Lehman Ave	Fairmont	WV	26554	Marine08semperfidelis@yahoo.com
Mon Youth Build	Gary	Lefalce	GED/ construction	320 Maryland Ave.	Fairmont	WV	26554	Death_of_seasons_89@live.com
Mon Youth Build	Josh	Myers	GED/ Construction	609 2 nd St.	Fairmont	WV	26554	X304king@yahoo.com
Mon Youth Build	Carol	Licatta	GED Instructor/ Counselor	200 Jefferson St.	Fairmont	WV	26554	monybuild@verizon.net
Mon Youth Build	Rick	Brown	Coordinator	200 Jefferson St.	Fairmont	WV	26554	monybuild@verizon.net



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Marion Co. Boys and Girls Club	Stacey	Spadafore	Director	1025 Fairfax St.	Fairmont	WV	26554	smpadaf@access.k12.wv.us
Marion Co. Boys and Girls Club	Tracy	Fowler	Prevention Coordinator	118 Holly St. Apt. 3	Fairmont	WV	26554	Tracy23fsc1@aol.com
Marion Co. Boys and Girls club	Kristin	Stapleton	Junior Volunteer	1025 Fairfax St.	Fairmont	WV	26554	
Marion Co. Boys and Girls Club	Triston	Shipley	Junior Volunteer	1025 Fairfax St.	Fairmont	WV	26554	
Marion Co. Boys and Girls Club	LC	Echols	Junior Volunteer	1025 Fairfax St.	Fairmont	WV	26554	
Marion County Family Resource Network	Rachel	Kellar	AmeriCorps VISTA	112 Adams St. Rm. 204	Fairmont	WV	26554	marioncountypromise@yahoo.com

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