

2009 West Virginia's Promise Grant Report

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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: Stella Moon **Title:** Coordinator

Region 3 & 5: Cabell, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Mason, Pleasants, Putnam, Wayne, Wood
Braxton, Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, Lewis, Ritchie, Tyler, Wirt

Organization: RESA V – Adolescent Health Initiative

County: Wood, Wirt, Tyler, Roane, Ritchie, Pleasants, Jackson, Calhoun **Phone:** (304) 485-6513, X 120

Email: smoon@access.k12.wv.us

Expense Report/Budget: \$8,728.36
(Please attach an itemized budget report of actual expenses)

Grant Amount Awarded from WV's Promise: \$1,250.00

Community Match Received: Grants: \$3,750.00; In-kind: \$4,978.36
(Please attach documentation of community match actual funds/in-kind donations)

Date of Event: April 2, 2009

Number Attendees: Children/Youth 26 Adults 54

Location of Event: Pressley Ridge of WV – White Oak Village, Walker WV

Summit Details: Eighty individuals representing youth, youth service agencies, community leaders, public schools, higher education, and nonprofits from RESA V's eight counties, Wood, Wirt, Tyler, Roane, Ritchie, Pleasants, Jackson and Calhoun, attended *Educate to Graduate* hosted by Pressley Ridge of WV at White Oak Village. Stella Moon, RESA V, Adolescent Health Initiative Coordinator, welcomed *Educate to Graduate* attendees and shared that this regional dropout prevention summit would look at reasons why youth drop out of school and develop possible solutions to address this dilemma during the Discussion Session. As she and the presenters prepared for the summit, there was one thread that was woven throughout each presentation. That thread was the power of positive relationships and how they favorably impacted our youth while the lack of relationships adversely affected them.

An overview of America's Promise and the purpose of the dropout prevention summit was presented by Patty Ralston, WV's Promise VISTA. Ralph Miller, The Education Alliance, presented *Student Retention and Dropout Prevention* that supported policy recommendations and best practices based on research data. He spoke about the impact of dropping out as well as economic implications from earnings to health.

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To obtain local data from youth, RESA V developed two survey tools with input from the presenters and WV's Promise VISTAs. One survey polled students in school to learn their outlook on school and if they were contemplating dropping out of school. The second survey polled youth who had dropped out of school. Kindra Boyd, WV's Promise VISTA, presented preliminary survey findings. For *My Outlook on School*, 2,861 surveys were completed and 84 surveys were completed for *Interrupted Schooling*. Also, two of the eight public school systems did not participate in the survey. For survey results, please refer to attached documents.

The Alliance for Education data shows that WV's Class of 2007 had 6,700 students who did not graduate and that results in \$1.7 billion in lost revenue over their lifetimes. According to the WV Department of Education data, 268 students dropped out of school in RESA V's Class of 2007 for \$68 million in lost revenue over their lifetimes. With an average 13% dropout rate, the counties had an average 87% graduation rate with 1,793 students graduating in 2007.

The 26 youth who attended *Educate to Graduate* shared their school experiences. The youth represented a diverse cross-section of the eight counties from dropouts to wards of the state, to "average and honor" students. The youth's stories were the most compelling testimonials and held the audience spellbound as they shared their failures and successes. You could feel the audiences' pride for their successes and the youth basked in their spontaneous applause that acknowledged each of the youth's accomplishments.

As the keynote speaker, Kirsten Olson noted, she had a hard act to follow as she spoke about *The Power of Relationships in Drop Out Prevention*. She wove a story based on autobiographical interviews with "ordinary" students, teachers and parents and their dilemmas with the school system such as "intensive boredom and daily disengagement, while knowing that school 'matters' more than ever." She focused on "reconfiguring the school culture to better support all learners and addressing learning disengagement and learning reluctance." She drew on her experiences as an author, a consultant to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Kennedy School at Harvard University.

In the afternoon, Kirsten Olson explained the purpose of the Discussion Session. There were four groups: Group I: Calhoun and Wirt Counties, Group II: Jackson and Roane Counties, Group III – Pleasants, Ritchie and Tyler Counties and Group IV: Wood County. Each group had a facilitator and recorder and selected a reporter to report out. They had 85 minutes to focus on the six questions listed below. Please refer to attachments for individual Discussion Session reports.

1. Identify why students drop out of school in their county,
2. Identify barriers to solving the county's dropout challenge,
3. Identify barriers that hamper students from being ready to pursue post-secondary education,
4. Identify who could be (i.e., state law, legislation, school policy) responsible for removing/addressing these barriers in order to foster a decreasing dropout rate
5. Identify effective policy change(s) and
6. Identify at least one strategy that may be implemented locally by the school system and/or community that would reduce the dropout rate; noting implementation date and responsible party.

In closing, it was agreed that this is the starting point for addressing the dropout dilemma in RESA V's eight-county area. The next step is a Legislative Luncheon since the legislators were in session and unable to attend *Educate to Graduate*. The group is supportive of an annual Youth Summit. RESA V

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will work with the counties as they implement the one strategy they identified to help reduce the dropout rate. The consensus was to have a follow-up summit next spring.

The Legislative Luncheon was hosted by Ohio Valley University on April 28th. Only two of the 14 legislators were able to attend and the Superintendents were in Charleston but sent representatives. Ralph Miller facilitated and Sue Woodward recorded the discussion. Senator Donna Boley appreciated all comments, especially the youth. She would like for them to address the Senate's Education Committee. She believes that this could be the start of a grassroots effort to address the educational institution and its delivery system.

CATCH PHRASE: Educate to Graduate

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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.

Ralph Miller, The Education Alliance, ralphmiller@educationalliance.org
 Stella Moon, RESA V – AHI, smoon@access.k12.wv.us
 Sue Woodward, Wood County Schools, swoodwar@access.k12.wv.us
 Deena Young, RESA V, dcyoung@access.k12.wv.us

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

1. Why students drop out of school/identity the problems/reasons
2. What are the solutions?
3. Identify effective policy change

How did you gather the above information from the participants (*small groups, flip charts, open microphone, etc.*)

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Three Points of Interest:

1. Why students dropout of school/identity the problems/reasons

- a. Kids who are not connected to parents, teachers, community, peers relationships or groups
- b. Academically challenged; failing grades; poorly prepared by their earlier schooling
- c. Teachers “mark” students based on family reputations; students are often stereotyped based on earlier disciplinary problems and reputations follow them throughout their years in school system
- d. Family stressors
 - i. Financially feel need to help support family
 - ii. Placed in “adult” roles in family at too early an age
 - iii. Abuse in families
 - iv. Teen pregnancies
 - v. Feel they have “more important issues to deal with”
- e. Low teacher expectations
- f. No feeling of self (outliers); cannot apply themselves
- g. Adjudicated students
- h. Foster children
- i. Attendance Issues
- j. Mental Health Issues
- k. Behavior – Discipline Issues
- l. School is boring.
- m. Alcohol and/or substance abuse
- n. Consolidation – lost in the crowd – can’t participate in activities due to more competition.
- o. Devaluing of education in the home

2. What are the solutions

- a. Reduce ease of access to GED (not intended to be)
- b. More positive teachers in talking with under-achieving students
- c. More “mentoring” relationships
 - i. Increase effective collaboration with community partners
- d. More “hands on’ and “job shadowing”
- e. Valuing education
- f. Research shows that starting the school day later is better for adolescents.
- g. Review graduation requirements as they are not appropriate for all students (i.e., math requirements of Algebra I plus three).
- h. Review rigid guidelines
 - i. For athletics – 2.0 GPA
 - ii. For academics – 3 Fs and you are done
 - iii. For discipline – zero tolerance
- i. Increase staff development training on Interpersonal Skills
 - i. Random sampling of teacher’s interpersonal skills
- j. Students need to be provided more real-life opportunities and “hands-on” visitations to other learning facilities (transportation issues come into play here)
- k. Provide sufficient support staff

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3. Identify effective policy change

- a. Inflexibility at the State and Federal Level
 - i. No Child Left Behind
 - ii. Policy 2510
- b. School systems and Boards of Education need to look at a realistic graduation rate formula
 - i. Change in four year graduate – students not counted as dropouts if they come back and graduate in five years.
- c. GED Policy is too easy – must be 16 and out of school for only 30 days
- d. A policy that requires agencies/parents to attend school with the child instead of paying fines
- e. Strengthen attendance polices for grades 9-12
- f. Provide mental health support to schools
- g. Students who drop out of school are required to perform “some type” of service
- h. Revisit Student/Teacher Codes of Conducts
- i. Get rid of National Testing (roadblocks to learning)
 - i. Discussed the difference between convergent versus invergent testing

How did you gather the above information from the participants (*small groups, flip charts, open microphone, etc.*)

This information was gathered in small group settings using flip charts to record comments.

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EXPENSES		FUNDERS			IN-KIND DONORS				
ITEM	Cost	WVP	APPI	SFI	AHI/RESA V	OVU	PR	WCS	WF
Keynote Speaker	3,130.00	1,000.00	700.00	500.00				930.00	
Facilitator	92.40		92.40						
Registration Packet	181.25				181.25				
Legislative Luncheon	152.36				152.36				
Survey Input	600.00				600.00				
Handouts	1,022.80	114.70	473.35		434.75				
Books	145.30	135.30			10.00				
Sportpack	734.25		734.25						
Breakfast/Lunch	920.00					120.00	800.00		
Conference Facility/Equipment	1,000.00						1,000.00		
Travel (Youth)	750.00								750.00
TOTAL	\$8,728.36	\$1,250.00	\$2,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,378.36	\$120.00	\$1,800.00	\$930.00	\$750.00

WVP WV's Promise
 APPI Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Initiative
 SFI State Farm Insurance
 AHI/RESA V Adolescent Health Initiative / RESA V
 OVU Ohio Valley University
 PR Pressley Ridge of WV
 WCS Wood County Schools
 WF WorkForce WV (Youth Advantage Program)

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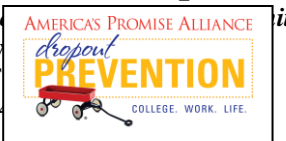
First Name	Last Name	Organization	Organization Type/Affiliation	Email Address	Position/Job Title	Attendee Affiliation
			(Business, Education, Elected Official, Government, Media, Nonprofit Organization)			(General Attendee, Summit Convener Committee or Staff, Presenter, America's Promise Staff, Evaluation Team Staff)
Aaron		Pressley Ridge of WV	Education	TBauman@pressleyridge.org	Youth	General Attendee
Adam		Pressley Ridge of WV	Education	TBauman@pressleyridge.org	Youth	General Attendee
Brandon		Pressley Ridge of WV	Education	TBauman@pressleyridge.org	Youth	General Attendee
Clay		Pressley Ridge of WV	Education	TBauman@pressleyridge.org	Youth	General Attendee
Clifton		Pressley Ridge of WV	Education	TBauman@pressleyridge.org	Youth	General Attendee
David		Pressley Ridge of WV	Education	TBauman@pressleyridge.org	Youth	General Attendee

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Matthew		Pressley Ridge of WV	Education	TBauman@pressleyridge.org	Youth	General Attendee
Robert		Pressley Ridge of WV	Education	TBauman@pressleyridge.org	Youth	General Attendee
William		Pressley Ridge of WV	Education	TBauman@pressleyridge.org	Youth	General Attendee
April	Alderman	WV's Promise	Nonprofit Organization	aprilalderman@frontiernet.net	VISTA	America's Promise Staff
Jacob		Jackson County Schools	Education	bhess@access.k12.wv.us	Student	General Attendee
Andrea	Bailey	Wirt County Middle School	Education	albailey@access.k12.wv.us	Counselor	General Attendee
Jeff	Banton	Ripley High School	Education	jbanton@access.k12.wv.us	Assistant Principal	General Attendee
Tim	Bauman	Pressley Ridge of WV	Education	TBauman@pressleyridge.org	Director	General Attendee
John	Boone	Ritchie County Board of Education	Elected Official		Member	General Attendee

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Kindra	Boyd	Children's Home Society	Nonprofit Organization	kboyd@childhswv.org	WV's Promise VISTA	General Attendee
Mike	Boyd	Wood County Schools	Education	amboyd@access.k12.wv.us	Director of Secondary Education	General Attendee
Bob	Boyer	Youth Advantage Program	Nonprofit Organization	RBoyer@rossprov.com	Case Manager	General Attendee
Dylan		Pleasants County Schools	Education	fsuper@access.k12.wv.us	Student	General Attendee
Myranda		Wirt County High School	Education	dcmetz@access.k12.wv.us	Student	General Attendee
Katrina	Byers	Tyler County Family Resource Network	Nonprofit Organization	tcfrn@verizon.net	Director	General Attendee
Kayla		WV Works	Nonprofit Organization	ttsmith@rossprov.com	Youth	General Attendee
Patty	Chesser	Ritchie County Family Resource Network	Nonprofit Organization	pattyrfrn@yahoo.com	Coordinator	General Attendee
John	Coe	Wood County Schools	Education		Attendance Director	General Attendee
Lacie		Pleasants County Schools	Education	fsuper@access.k12.wv.us	Student	General Attendee

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Krista	DeVaughn	Tyler County Schools	Education	khanood@access.k12.wv.us	Assistant Principal	General Attendee
Pam	Dugan	WV's Promise	Nonprofit Organization	pdugan@frontiernet.net	Director	America's Promise Staff
Josh	Eden	WorkForce WV	Government	Rboyter@rossprov.com	Youth	General Attendee
Megan		WV Works	Government	ttsmith@rossprov.com	Youth	General Attendee
Terry	Edwards	Parkersburg High School	Education	tledwards@access.k12.wv.us	Counselor	General Attendee
Andrew		Wirt County Schools	Education	dcmetz@access.k12.wv.us	Student	General Attendee
JP		Tyler County Schools	Education	jthoover@access.k12.wv.us	Student	General Attendee
Natalie	Freshwater	Roane County High School	Education	nfreshwa@access.k12.wv.us	Assistant Principal	General Attendee
Anna	Garland	Youth Advantage Program	Nonprofit Organization	agarland@rossprov.com	Case Manager	General Attendee
David	Gaul	St. Marys High School	Education	dgaul@access.k12.us.wv	Principal	General Attendee

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Susan	Gerstell	Roane County High School	Education	sgerstel@access.k12.wv.us	Counselor	General Attendee
Terry	Goodnight	Calhoun County Schools	Education		Counselor	General Attendee
Kim	Goodwin	Westbrook Health Services	Nonprofit Organization	king@westbrookhealth.com	Director	General Attendee
Ken	Heiney	Wirt County High School	Education	kheiney@access.k12.wv.us	Principal	General Attendee
Jeff	Hoover	Tyler County Schools	Education	jthoover@access.k12.wv.us	Superintendent	General Attendee
Cindy	Inman	Westbrook Health Services	Nonprofit Organization	cinman@westbrookhealth.com	Director of Children and Family Services	General Attendee
Mike	Johnson	Ritchie County Schools	Education		Alternative School Instructor	General Attendee
Peggy	Johnson	Youth Advantage Program	Nonprofit Organization		Case Manager	General Attendee
Pat		WorkForce WV	Government	Rboyter@rossprov.com	Youth	General Attendee
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John	McKown	Wirt County Middle School	Education	jmckown@access.k12.wv.us	Principal	General Attendee
Dan	Metz	Wirt County Schools	Education	dcmetz@access.k12.wv.us	Superintendent	General Attendee
Ralph	Miller	The Education Alliance	Nonprofit Organization	ralphmiller@educationalliance.org	Presenter / Facilitator	Presenter
Stella	Moon	RESA V - Adolescent Health Initiative	Government	smoon@access.k12.wv.us	Coordinator	General Attendee
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Don	Myers	Wirt County High School	Education	mammoth74@gmail.com	Counselor	General Attendee
William	Niday	Wood County Schools	Education	wniday@access.k12.wv.us	Superintendent	General Attendee
Kirsten	Olson		Business	kirsten@oldsow.net	Keynote Speaker	Presenter

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Shelley	Plauche	Children's Home Society	Nonprofit Organization	splauche@childhswv.org	Program Supervisor	General Attendee
Patty	Ralston	Children's Home Society	Nonprofit Organization	pralston@childhswv.org	WV's Promise VISTA	General Attendee
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Jessica		Youth Advantage	Nonprofit Organization	ttsmith@rossprov.com	Youth	General Attendee
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Joe	Super	Pleasants County Schools	Education	fsuper@access.k12.wv.us	Superintendent	General Attendee

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Bryan	Thompson	Jackson County Schools	Education		Director of Attendance	General Attendee
Debbie	Thompson	Center on Family Issues	Nonprofit Organization	cofi@suddenlinkmail.com	Coordinator	General Attendee
Steve	Tuck	Children's Home Society	Nonprofit Organization	stuck@childswv.org	Executive Director	General Attendee
Anthony	Underwood	West Virginia University at Parkersburg	Education	anthony.underwood@mail.wvu.edu	Dean of Students	General Attendee
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David	Weekley	Ritchie County Schools	Education		Student Support Services Director	General Attendee

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Brittany		Youth Advantage Program	Nonprofit Organization	ttsmith@rossprov.com	Youth	General Attendee
Deena	Young	RESA V	Government	dcyoung@access.k12.wv.us	Facilitator	General Attendee

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