



**January 28, 2013  
American Graduate Meeting  
10:00 am  
United Way Conference room**

**Attendees:**

Vernon Butler - Families United for Education  
Melissa Harris - Generation Justice  
Nicole Byrd – Office of African American Affairs  
Bahati Ansari - RFK Charter High School  
Susan Reagan of New Mexico Dept. of Workforce Solutions  
Marvin Johnson of District Attorney's Office  
Kay Provolt of Jobs for America's Graduates - NM Rio Grande HS  
Eleanor Milroy of Albuquerque Interfaith  
Robert Baade, RFK Charter High School  
Renate Witte - New Mexico PTA  
Franklin Schargel - School Success Network  
Hanh Nguyen – Family Advocate  
Ron Lucero – APS  
Bahati Ansari - Robert F Kennedy Charter  
Kristin Johansson of ATF  
Tommy Hernandez – Big Brothers Big Sisters  
David Cox - Horizon Academy West  
Diane Torrez-Vasquez – Latino Education Task Force  
Roberta Rael – Generation Justice  
Hollie Lovely of New Mexico PBS

**Congratulations! This is our first year anniversary of the American Graduate Initiative**

- 1) Agenda :
  - a) Brief introductions of attendees
  - b) Explain goals of the meeting/initiative: Public Media's commitment of Community Awareness/Engagement around the High School Drop Out Crisis
  - c) American Graduate content update
  - d) Update on family and youth engagement
- 2) NMPTA-Family Engagement Conference for Title 1 schools –Renata Witte
  - a) Will take place February 23<sup>rd</sup> UNM Continuing Ed
  - b) Goals of conference- supporting schools with Family Engagement especially middle and high school level
  - c) This year's theme: "Cultural Competency"
  - d) Registration will be capped at 250
  - e) Schools are encouraged to participate on Friday, Saturday's focus is for families of 13-18 year olds

- f) Looking for 30-50 families to engage in activities-breaking them up into work groups
  - g) Giving families information about truancy, Angelo will present data from CEPR
  - h) Title 1 secured a yearlong family membership to Explora!
  - i) Any input on what the group would like to hear from these families?
  - j) Conversing and discussing factors that lead to high risk behavior (truancy, drop-out)
- 3) Discussion regarding conference: Group asked if there was a strong and replicable model for communication with/for parents?
- a) Will there be documentation of what the outcomes are of these working groups?
  - b) How about highlighting a family that has had some successes to inspire others?
  - c) Will there be fair representation with only 50 families?
  - d) Station is thinking about ways to use the videos to screen with families and high-risk groups.
- 4) One year Anniversary of American Graduate Initiative – Where are we now?
- a) On-air national and local broadcast and productions
  - b) Online Web resources, and social media spots on TV and Radio have been developed
  - c) In the community; research and data from UNM CEPR
  - d) Youth generated media from Generation Justice
  - e) Teacher Town Hall back on April 18, 2012
  - f) Teacher professional development-classroom resources NMPBS Learning Media ; Ready To Learn early childhood afterschool and summer program development resources, training and support.
- 5) A questionnaire was filled out by participants based on the five Original Goals of the initiative:
- a) *Increase awareness, understanding and dialogue about the dropout crisis*
  - b) *Develop models for funding infrastructure and partnerships that will ensure long-term initiative stability*
  - c) *Increase and mobilize community partnerships that engage diverse individuals and organizations*
  - d) *Increase opportunities for Americans to engage in conversation and local efforts designed to address the dropout crisis*
  - e) *Increase delivery of dynamic and engaging public media educational materials, resources, and services to teachers and at-risk students in the middle grades and high school*
- 6) Sustaining priorities from previous survey highlighted partners of the initiative
- a. Youth produced media
  - b. Public Awareness campaign
  - c. Early Childhood focus on early education and access to quality childcare
  - d. NM In Focus produced “shorts”
- 7) Recap:
- a. Early Childhood initiatives through expansion of afterschool programs and parent workshops
  - b. Highlight on Truancy: Marvin’s spot on truancy
  - c. Youth produced media partnership with Generation Justice
- 8) What can we do next? Community discussion continues

- a. Connect with High School PTA
- b. Are we targeting families enough to make aware?
- c. Talking to right people.... Who's not at the table?
- d. Truancy information needs to be distributed to parents- Example: What's an excused absence?
- e. Community Organizing-
- f. Are we taping families at the conference?

Discussion of what's next in American Graduate with attendees:

Eleanor Milroy informed us about the company K-12 Inc. who is providing a virtual class from Virginia. Money from APS students is going out of state for these classes. Albuquerque Interfaith is working on this issue at the legislature

Families need help with getting more GED information out there. The new private company contracted to provide GED has increased the price from \$35 to \$120. People not informed about privatization

Public media needs to hone in on audience and provide specific messages that identifies the audience and their needs. Solutions need to be highlighted, not the issues and problems.

Identify struggling kids- provide more focus on mentoring, JAG, job solutions, credit recovery.

Is there awareness of the achievement gap, educational equity? How can we feature that?

It would be good to Attend Bernalillo County Pride Days Celebration and some other types of community grassroots outreach. Host parent forums (such as upcoming Office of African American Affairs) Host Pre-K afterschool programs and early childhood parent programs

What else can public media do?

Get information out to the schools? How? Assemblies, in-school youth media  
Schools still put up barriers to reform and parent engagement, how can we help break that down. Perhaps a televised discussion of the issue with parents would help.

There still are challenges to working within the system. Are there other institutional models out there? Let's look at other communities.

Political agendas demonstrate to families and students that "my needs aren't being addressed"

Above all listen to our youth voices, engage them, motivate them, get their input

~Next meeting Feb 25 10:00am (room 100 same building) United Way of Central NM~