



DROPOUT OR A GRADUATE



I WILL BE A GRADUATE

**HOW CAN WE KEEP OUR
CHILDREN IN SCHOOL?**

You may not know the answer right now. But you are here today because you know that the question must be answered. Every year, 1.2 million students drop out. This is a problem that's too big to ignore. It's also a problem that can be solved, if we work together. Starting right now.





March 5, 2009

Summit Participants:

Welcome to the Governor's Dropout Prevention Summit. I want to thank you for the work you do to help keep Alabama's youth in school. When a student drops out, it not only affects the student's life, but also his family, the vitality of the community and the state as a whole. That is why it is imperative that Alabama communities join together to identify and support students who are at-risk of dropping out.

Each of you here today understands that across the country students dropping out of high school has become an epidemic. One third of students do not graduate on time or at all. In Alabama, we refuse to concede this as a simple fact we must accept, and I personally applaud each of you for your eagerness to bring about much needed change.

Alabama is experiencing tremendous success in the area of economic development. Thousands of new jobs have been created with many more on the way, but we must make sure that Alabama students are prepared to fill these positions. We have taken numerous steps to address this problem, but government can't solve this problem alone. School systems, nonprofit organizations, businesses, elected officials and faith-based groups must all work together. Only then can we hope to ensure each student is well educated, prepared for the workforce and has the opportunity to achieve his life's potential.

Alabamians have a rich history of service and have always come to the aid of their neighbors. Our young people need us, and I have no doubt that together we can confront this problem. This summit and follow-up workshops will provide valuable information and training to help advance the fine work you are doing in your communities.

Again, thank you for the time and talent you are dedicating to building a brighter future for Alabama and our young people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Riley". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Bob Riley
Governor



March 5, 2009

To: Participants of the Alabama Dropout Prevention Summit:

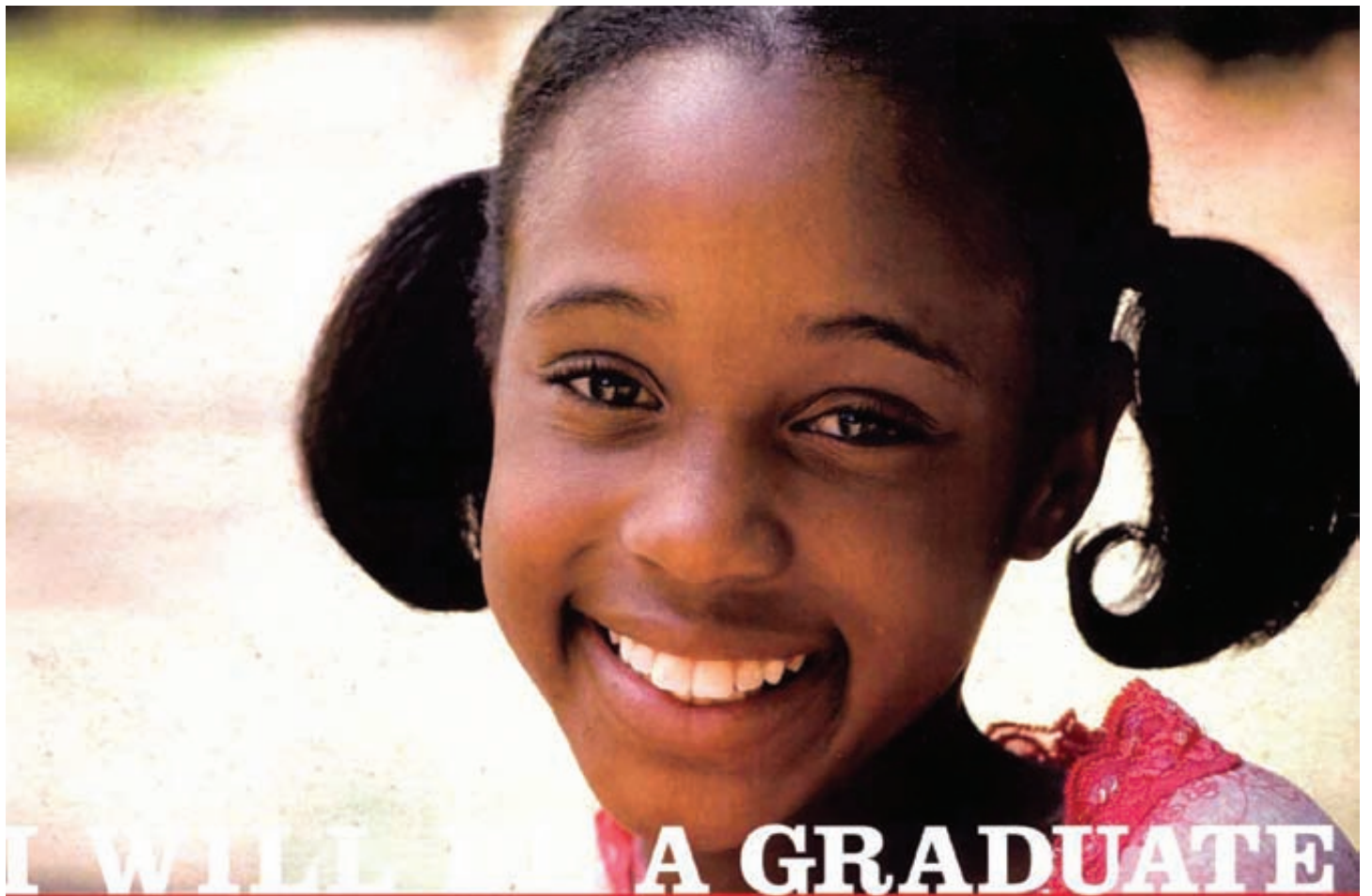
We all know that high school graduation is a key indicator of future success for our young people and our nation, so it is startling to learn that every 26 seconds a student drops out of school. That's over 1.2 million students per year – one-third of students overall. And far few of those who do graduate are prepared for college and work. This is why on April 1, 2008 the America's Promise Alliance launched a massive two-year effort to mobilize over 100 dropout prevention leadership summits across the country. These summits will help get this issue out front and center and generate workable solutions to keep our students in school.

I thank Governor Bob Riley for responding to the call and for rallying their communities to urgent action. I know that each of you attending the summit are working hard to address this crisis and we stand ready to help you create the supports that will best prepare young people for their futures.

On behalf of more than 230 leading national organizations in the America's Promise Alliance, I thank you for your participation and support. Together we can make a difference in our children's lives by addressing this crisis head-on and reducing the dropout rate.

Sincerely,

Alma J. Powell
Chair



I WILL BE A GRADUATE

EVERY
26 SECONDS
A CHILD
DROPS OUT
OF SCHOOL.

AGENDA

- 7:30 - 8:30 AM Registration
- 8:30 - 11:00 AM Opening Session
- 8:30 Welcome, Sydney Hoffman, Director, GFBCI
National Anthem – BTW Magnet School Band and
Choir Members and Carver High School JROTC
- 8:45 Dr. Joseph B. Morton, State Superintendent of Education
- 9:15 Youth Panel
- 10:15 Governor Bob Riley
- 10:45 Dr. Don Williamson, State Public Health Officer, Alabama
- 11:15 Break
- 11:30 - 12:30 PM Concurrent Break-out Sessions
- Session 1: Dr. Jane Cobia, Consultant, Sylacauga City Schools
Margaret Morton, Executive Director, Sylacauga Alliance for Family Enhancement
- Session 2: Jeremiah Newell, Program Director, Mobile Area Education Foundation
Dr. Hilder Wilson, Director, Research Alliance for Multiple Pathways
- Session 3: Fred McCallum, President, AT&T Alabama
- Session 4: Jamie Keith, Director, Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
Layne H. Dillard, Principal, Morgan County Schools
- Session 5: Dr. Tommy Bice, Deputy State Superintendent of Education Instructional Services
Dr. Matthew Hughes, Director, Governor's Office of Workforce Development
- 12:30 Break
- 12:45 Lunch
- 1:15 - 3:00 Keynote Speakers
- 1:15 America's Promise Alliance Video
- 1:25 Dr. Shelley Stewart, President, The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation
- 1:45 Alma Powell, Chair, America's Promise Alliance
- 2:15 Suzanne Morse, President, Pew Partnership for Civic Change
- 3:00 Closing Remarks, Jessica Fair, Community Outreach Coordinator, GFBCI



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SESSION 1:

Dr. F. Jane Cobia, Consultant, Sylacauga City Schools

Margaret Morton, Executive Director, Sylacauga Alliance for Family Enhancement, Inc. (SAFE Family Services Center)

The Road to 100 Best Communities in the Nation for Young People

America's Promise Alliance has named Sylacauga, Alabama, as one of the 100 Best Communities in the Nation for Young People for three consecutive years. Learn how a community can come together to deliver the five promises: A Caring Adult, Safe Places, A Healthy Start, Effective Education and Opportunities to Serve. Through this framework, leaders and stakeholders from across Sylacauga have developed a road map, utilized the best, evidenced based practices and tailored strategies to tackle the dropout crisis. Solutions will be shared that are predicated on community action, data analysis and decision making that has earned Sylacauga national recognition and is preparing students for success.

Session 2:

Jeremiah Newell, Program Director, Mobile Area Education Foundation

Dr. Hilder Wilson, Director, Research Alliance for Multiple Pathways

Multiple Pathways: A Strategy of Systemic Dropout Prevention

This session will discuss how community partners in Mobile, Alabama, have come together to develop a community-wide approach to dropout prevention. The session will focus on specific data strategies that communities can use to size their dropout population as well as the types of school models that work to reengage disconnected youth. Finally, the session will highlight how communities can develop and manage partnerships with various organizations including school districts, community colleges, faith-based institutions, community-based organizations, city and county agencies, and juvenile justice organizations to build a broad-based coalition for dropout prevention.

SESSION 3:

Fred McCallum, President, AT&T Alabama

Businesses Need Graduates: The Business Community's Role in Keeping Youth in School

This session will provide an overview of AT&T's Aspire Initiative as well as share ideas on how schools and communities can get businesses engaged in dropout prevention.

SESSION 4:

Jamie Keith, Director, Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Layne H. Dillard, Principal, Morgan County Schools

Ensuring Girls Graduate: Preventing Teen Pregnancy and Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Teens

This session will provide a brief overview of the challenges faced by girls who drop out of high school due to pregnancy/childbearing and will stress the importance of implementing evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs. We will also highlight a successful and innovative school-based program, M.O.M.S., which keeps pregnant and parenting teens on target for graduation and also addresses their unique academic, social and health needs. M.O.M.S. has been in place for almost two years, and none of the 30 students involved have dropped out. Before the implementation of this program, the system was losing 33% of its maternity students each year.

SESSION 5:

Dr. Tommy Bice, Deputy State Superintendent of Education Instructional Services

Alabama's Response to Dropout and Education in the 21st Century

This session will review the current status of dropout and graduation rates in Alabama and will review the components of the newly passed FIRST CHOICE program and its potential impact on the future of education in our state.

Dr. Matthew Hughes, Director, Governor's Office of Workforce Development

The Role of Alabama's Workforce Development System in Student Achievement and Dropout Prevention

This session examines the role that Alabama's comprehensive workforce development system plays in encouraging student achievement and school completion. Best practices will be discussed along with the state's innovative approach to serving high school students through dual enrollment opportunities and career coaches.





SYDNEY HOFFMAN
Director, Governor's Office of Faith-Based
and Community Initiatives

Sydney Hoffman is Director of the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GFBCI). She has been tasked with continued implementation of the Faith-Based Initiative for the State of Alabama within an office that combines the initiative and existing citizen service programs such as AmeriCorps and Citizen Corps.

Currently, Sydney serves as Chair of the Governor's Faith-Based Advisory Board, Chair of the Governor's Inter-agency Council on Homelessness, Vice Chair of the Alabama Citizen Corps Council, and member of the Alabama Homeland Security Task Force. Ms. Hoffman is one of the primary architects of Alabama's citizen preparedness initiative, the innovative and multifaceted Ready Alabama campaign (www.ReadyAlabama.org). This campaign has been recognized internationally as a best practice and replicated across the United States. Ms. Hoffman was Governor Riley's nominee to the National Governor's Association for "Citizen of the Year" based on her leadership and innovation in training Alabama's citizens to prepare, prevent, and respond to any natural or man-made disaster.

Sydney's previous experience includes leading the Alabama Citizen Corps Program, a citizen preparedness initiative of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, for the GFBCI. As Director of Citizen Corps, she managed all Homeland Security and Emergency Management community initiatives and served as the liaison to the Alabama Department of Homeland Security and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency. Ms. Hoffman was the Volunteer and Donations Coordinator for Alabama during Hurricane Katrina and is a graduate from the Center for Homeland Defense and Security's Executive Leaders Program at the Naval Post Graduate School.

Sydney believes the most effective way to meet critical needs is to combine all government, private, and non-profit resources at the local level, understanding local stakeholders have the ability to craft solutions uniquely tailored to their community. A native of Alabama, she attended Birmingham-Southern College and holds degrees in Biology and Nursing.





ALMA J. POWELL
Chair America's Promise Alliance

Alma J. Powell sits on the boards of several educational, cultural, charitable and civic organizations. She is the chairman of the board of America's Promise Alliance, whose mission is to mobilize people from every sector of American life to build the character and competence of youth. Mrs. Powell also chairs the advisory board for the Pew Center for Civic Change. From 1989 to 2000, she served as the chairman of the National Council of the Best Friends Foundation, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of young girls. Mrs. Powell is the recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Human Letters from Emerson College, an Honorary Doctor of Humanities from Shenandoah University and the Civic Change Award from the Pew Partnership for Civic Change. She has also been honored by *Washingtonian* magazine as Washingtonian of the Year and is the recipient of the Leadership Award from the Women's Center in Virginia. In addition to her many service-minded activities, Mrs. Powell has added "author" to her list of credits. In 2003, her two children's books, *My Little Wagon* and *America's Promise*, were launched with great success.

Mrs. Powell was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. She graduated from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, and went on to study speech pathology and audiology at Emerson College in Boston. She worked as the staff audiologist for the Boston Guild for the Hard of Hearing. Alma and Colin Powell were married in 1962. Mrs. Powell spent the next 33 years raising a family and accompanying her husband on his various military assignments in the United States and overseas. While her husband was stationed at the Pentagon, she served as the Army liaison to the National Red Cross as part of a team of volunteer consultants from the military services. During General Powell's tenure as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, she was the Advisor to the Red Cross of the Military District of Washington. Most recently, during her husband's tenure as the 65th Secretary of State, Mrs. Powell served as the honorary president of the Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide. She also sat on the advisory board of the Hospitality and Information Service and was an honorary member of the Department of State Fine Arts Committee.





DR. JOSEPH B. MORTON
State Superintendent of Education

Dr. Joe Morton was previously Superintendent of Education of Sylacauga City Schools and of Sumter County Schools. Dr. Morton has a B.S. degree from Auburn University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from The University of Alabama. He was selected by the Alabama State Board of Education to be the State Superintendent of Education on July 13, 2004. Prior to the appointment as State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Morton served for eight years as Deputy State Superintendent of Education. As Deputy and State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Morton has guided the creation and implementation of the Alabama Reading Initiative; the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative; and the Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide (Distance Education) Initiative. While serving as State Superintendent of Education, Alabama has shown significant academic gains in reading and math assessment scores and has been judged a national leader in training future teachers and principals. Additionally, Alabama is considered a national leader in student nutrition and student exercise initiatives.





DONALD ELLIS WILLIAMSON, M.D.
State Health Officer
Alabama Department of Public Health

Dr. Donald E. Williamson was appointed State Health Officer and Director of the Alabama Department of Public Health in 1992 after serving as Director of the Bureau of Preventive Health Services from 1988 to 1992 and prior to that as Director of the Division of Disease Control from 1986 to 1988. Prior to joining the Alabama Department of Public Health, Dr. Williamson served as State Tuberculosis Control Officer at the Mississippi State Department of Health. Dr. Williamson has been the recipient of a number of awards: the 2000 Arthur T. McCormack Award from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials for dedication and excellence in public health, the 1999 Theodore R. Ervin Award from the Public Health Foundation and the 1999 Child Health Advocate Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics. He was also the recipient of the 1997 D. G. Gill Award from the Alabama Public Health Association for outstanding contribution to public health in Alabama and the 1998 Internist of the Year Award from the Alabama Society of Internal Medicine. On a national level, Dr. Williamson serves on the Executive Committee of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and the Region IV Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Advisory Council. He was President of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials from 1997 to 1998. Among others, he served as a member of the National Vaccine Advisory Committee, the Board of Directors of the Public Health Foundation and the Steering Committee on Access for the Uninsured of the National Academy for State Health Policy. He serves on numerous boards and commissions at the state level. Dr. Williamson received his medical degree, cum laude, from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in 1979. He completed a residency in internal medicine at the University of Virginia Hospital in 1982 and is board certified in that specialty.





DR. SHELLEY STEWART

President and CEO, o2ideas

Founder and President of The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation

Dr. Shelley Stewart grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, and overcame impoverished beginnings and family tragedies as a child. He eventually became one of Birmingham's best-known radio personalities and one of America's most prominent African-American businessmen. Born in the impoverished community of Rosedale, Alabama, Dr. Stewart's childhood proved to be a story of great tragedy and hardship. A month before his sixth birthday, he witnessed the murder of his mother at the hands of his father. After a year of living on the porch of his father's home and suffering severe abuse from his extended family, Dr. Stewart became a child runaway. Over the years and often through the kindness of strangers, he developed an uncommon passion for learning. He credits much of that enthusiasm to the mentoring of his first grade teacher, Mrs. Mamie Foster. Her encouragement gave him an appreciation for reading and the desire to make something of himself. Her message was simple: "Learn to read, get an education, and you can be anything you want to be." It was challenging words like Mrs. Foster's that drove him his entire life. Out of this story of poverty and neglect emerged a man who taught himself to read, later citing that his voracious reading appetite laid the foundation for his success. His mother and father were both illiterate.

As a radio personality in the 1960s, his broadcasts during Birmingham's human rights struggles served as a critical communication path for young African Americans involved in the street protests of the Children's March of 1963. His involvement is chronicled in the Academy Award-winning documentary *The Children's March*, and his lifetime odyssey is chronicled in *The Road South*, a book by Time Warner. Dr. Stewart's parallel career in advertising also began in the 1960s. He is now President and Chief Executive Officer of o2ideas, Inc., an advertising and public relations company headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama. He is also the Founder and President of The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation (www.mattiestewart.org). The MCS Foundation was established in honor of Shelley's late mother, Mattie C. Stewart.

GOVERNOR'S
DROPOUT
PREVENTION
SUMMIT



SUZANNE W. MORSE, PH.D.

President, Pew Partnership for Civic Change

As president of the Pew Partnership for Civic Change, Suzanne W. Morse leads a team that provides solutions to community and civic engagement problems in America. Suzanne Morse's work as an author, speaker and advocate for the importance of civic collaboration and citizen leadership to strong democratic communities is widely recognized. She is also the founder of Learning to Finish™ a national initiative to reduce the high school dropout rate. Her latest book, *Smart Communities: How Citizens and Local Leaders Can Use Strategic Thinking to Build a Brighter Future* (Jossey-Bass, 2004) uses examples of successful civic change initiatives in the United States to argue for a strategic approach to sustainable, long-term community change. She is a regular keynote speaker nationally and internationally on topics ranging from ethics to community building to the importance of higher education. Her articles and opinion pieces have appeared in national journals as well as leading newspapers and trade publications.

Morse's commitment to civic engagement spans more than three decades of teaching, administration and the stewardship of one of the best-recognized nonprofits in the field. Prior to establishing the Pew Partnership in 1992, Dr. Morse was at the Charles F. Kettering Foundation in Dayton, Ohio, where she concluded her tenure as Director of Programs for the Foundation. In addition to her role at the Pew Partnership, Dr. Morse is a trustee of the Charles F. Kettering and Aicher Foundations and sits on the Board of Advisors at the University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs, the Hart Leadership Program at Duke University, Piedmont Virginia Community College, Virginia LEAD and the Montpelier Foundation's Center on the Constitution. Dr. Morse is a visiting professor at the Jepson School of Leadership Studies at the University of Richmond and a fellow of the Center for Organizational & Technological Advancement (COTA) at Virginia Tech. In 2002, she received the Ethical Leadership Award from the Content of our Character Project at Duke University.



THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE.

Governor's Dropout Prevention Summit Task Force

Judge David Breland, Breland Consulting

Cheryl Bumpus, State Farm

Phil Christian, The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation

Liz Cochran, Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

Charlie Colvin, River Region United Way

Dr. Marquita Davis, Department of Children's Affairs

Mark Dixon, Governor's Office

Mitch Edwards, Alabama Department of Education

Jessica Fair, GFBCI

Lori Frazier, Children's Trust Fund

Sydney Hoffman, GFBCI

Judge Brian Huff, Birmingham Family Court

Sue Johnson, Big Brothers Big Sisters

Nakia Kyler, GFBCI

Carol McArthur, AmeriCorps, Butler County Board of Education

Jeremiah Newell, Mobile Area Education Foundation

Gary Pledger, AT&T Alabama

Sandy Powell, Alabama Department of Public Health

Cheryl Sabel, Southern Education Foundation

Justice Patti Smith, Alabama Supreme Court

Sherman Suitts, Vulcan Materials

Linda Tilly, VOICES

Dr. Kay Atchison Warfield, Alabama Department of Education

Zoa White, Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs



**GOVERNOR'S
DROPOUT
PREVENTION
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Youth Panel

Shaendra Graham - Sylacauga High School - Talladega County

Jamie Pyle - Welborn High School - Calhoun County

Dallas Henderson - The Altamont School - Jefferson County

Inocencio Chavez - Susan Moore High School - Blount County

Demitrius Powell - Greenville High School - Butler County

Darlene Dixon - Greenville High School - Butler County

Ashley McDonald, Meteorologist, WAKA (Moderator)

Carver High School Junior ROTC

Cadet LTC Lee Broaden

Cadet CPT Justine Early

Cadet LT Regis King

Cadet CSM Cody Matheney

Cadet SGT Shatiqua Smith

Booker T. Washington Magnet High School Performers

Charity Alexander, tenor sax

Isaac Bell, trumpet

Erica Bowman, contra alto clarinet

Tommy Brinkman, trumpet

Ashley Cameron, percussion

Rachel Furr, vocalist

Kierra Hardy, clarinet

Han Saem Hur, flute

Danielle Jackson, flute

Kathleen Tatum, french horn

Gabriel Thomas, tenor sax

Curtia Torbert, alto sax

Nicole Watkins, bass clarinet



FOLLOW UP SESSIONS

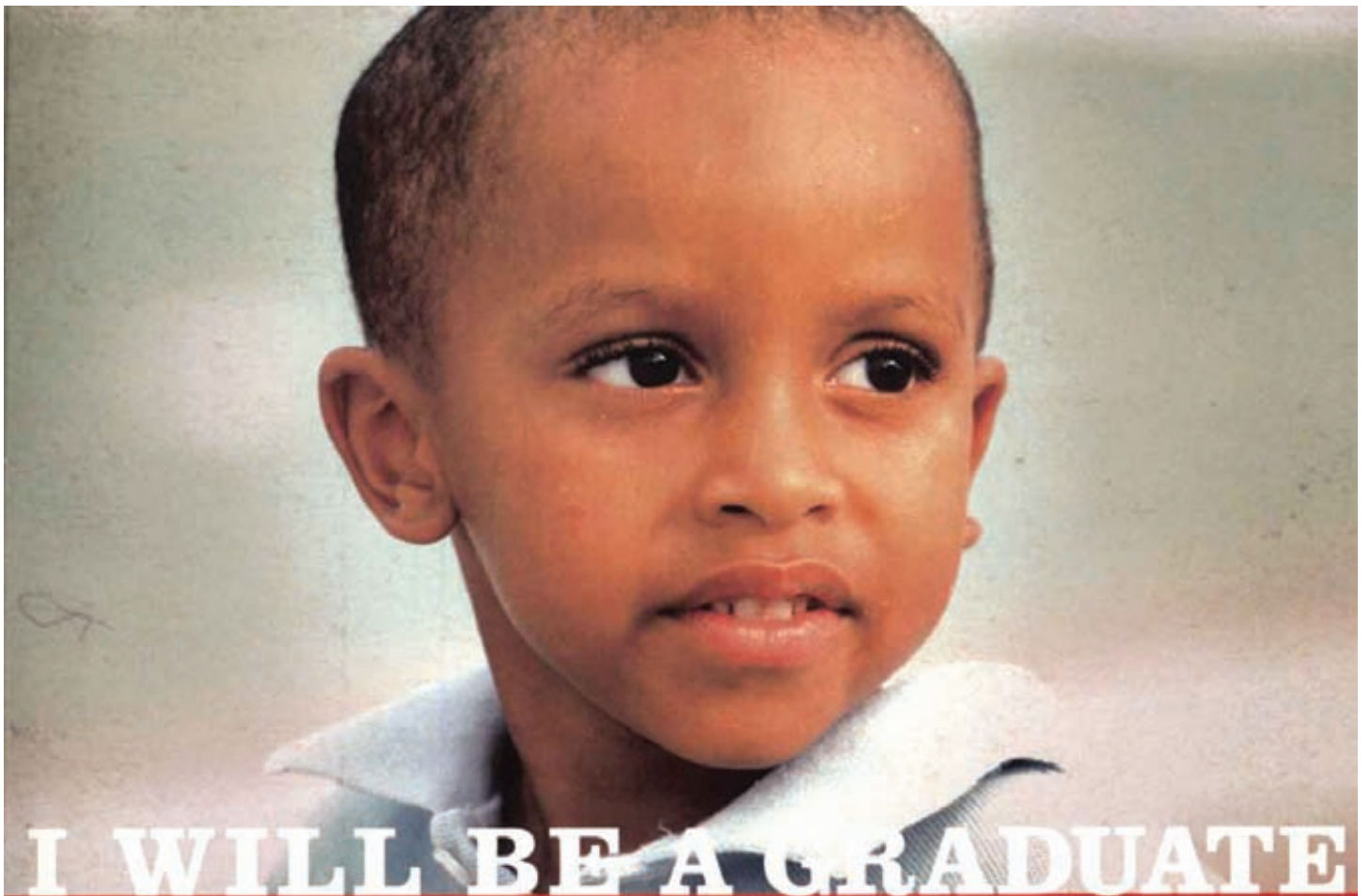
The Alabama Department of Education and the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives will host a follow-up session to assist communities in creating a multi-sectored, collaborative approach to providing wraparound support to at-risk youth. Dr. Robert Balfanz will facilitate this follow-up.

Summit participants will be invited to attend the follow-up session on one of two dates: April 28th from 3pm to 6pm or April 29th from 8:30am to 11:30am. The follow-up sessions will be held at high schools throughout the state utilizing the ACCESS Distance Learning system. More information regarding your community's date and location will be e-mailed to you.

Please help us make the follow-up a success by inviting leaders in your community to attend.

ROBERT BALFANZ

Robert Balfanz is a principal research scientist at the Center for Social Organization of Schools, Johns Hopkins University. He is the Co-Director of the Talent Development Middle and High School Project, which is currently working with over 100 high poverty secondary schools to develop, implement and evaluate comprehensive whole school reforms. His work focuses on translating research findings into effective reforms for high poverty secondary schools. He has published widely on secondary school reform, high school dropouts, middle grade on-track indicators, chronic absenteeism, and instructional interventions in high poverty middle and high schools. Recent works include *What Your Community Can Do To End It Dropout Crisis* and *Grad Nation: A Guidebook to Help Communities Tackle the Dropout Crisis*. He is the Co-Director of the Everyone Graduates Center launched in February 2009 which engages in analytic, tool and model development, and capacity building efforts aimed at ending the nation's graduation rate crisis. Dr. Balfanz is also the Co-Operator of the Baltimore Talent Development High School, a Baltimore City Public School System Innovation High School and an Associate Director of the Baltimore Education Research Consortium.



I WILL BE A GRADUATE

**IN AMERICA
TODAY,
8 OF 10
DROPOUTS
WILL END
UP IN
PRISON.**

SPECIAL THANKS TO



o2ideas

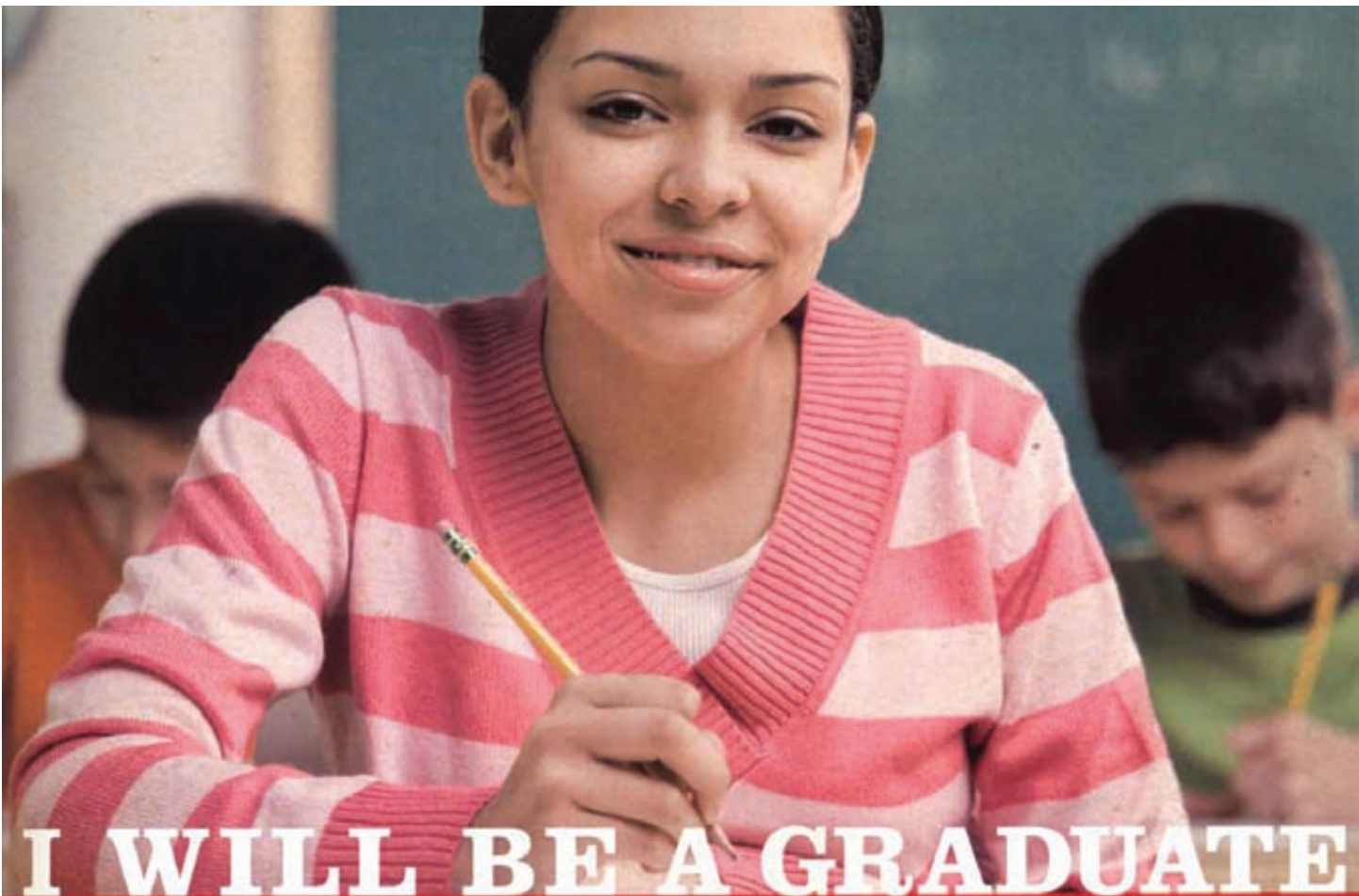


Vulcan
Materials Company

THE CHOICE BUS



Half prison cell. Half classroom. *The Choice Bus* is a multiple-choice experience for the future of America, where parents, teachers and students can see for themselves the unthinkable cost of dropping out. As a Summit attendee, you are invited to tour *The Choice Bus*. It's a one-of-a-kind experience you won't want to miss.



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**EACH YEAR
1.2 MILLION
HIGH
SCHOOL STU-
DENTS DROP
OUT
OF SCHOOL.**

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