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RACHEL'S

CHALLENGE

!



GradNation Wilmington Regional Community Summit

PRESENTED BY:

The UNCW Watson College of Education
Dropout Prevention Coalition

SPONSORED BY:

America's Promise Alliance as part of the GradNation
Campaign, with generous support from AT&T

December 1, 2015

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

UNCW Watson College of Education Room 162

GradNation

AMERICA'S PROMISE ALLIANCE®
COMMUNITY SUMMITS

Presented by



**Dropout
Prevention
Coalition**

Watson College of Education
University of North Carolina Wilmington

GradNation Wilmington Regional Community Summit

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AGENDA

High school students are required to stay with a group their entire time on campus. Do not leave your group without checking in with the group leader.

8:30 – 9:00	Registration and Breakfast	Atrium
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome and Overview of the Day	EB 130
9:30 – 10:30	Keynote Address: Rachel's Challenge	EB 130
10:30 – 10:45	Goals for the Day	EB 130
10:50 – 11:40	CONCURRENT SESSIONS - A (May attend one session with a group)	
	Session A1: Stopping the School to Prison Pipeline with an Interagency Agreement	EB 162
	Session A2: How Onslow County was able to bring STEM and WIOA together	EB 130
	Session A4: Arts and Recreation Programs	EB 232
11:45 – 12:00	Pick Up Box Lunch	Atrium
12:00 – 1:00	UNCW School Tour	Atrium
1:05 – 1:55	CONCURRENT SESSIONS - B	
	Session B1: Local Business Support for Schools and Students	EB 162
2:00 – 2:50	CONCURRENT SESSIONS - C	
	Practice for the Student Panel	EB 331
2:55 – 3:45	Afternoon Keynote: What do Students Think? Student Panel	EB 162
3:45 – 4:00	EVALUATION and CLOSING REMARKS	EB 162

THANKS TO ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED WITH THE GRADNATION WILMINGTON SUMMIT.

We appreciate your dedication for helping students succeed in school and life.

- Dropout Prevention Coalition Advisory Board
- GradNation and America's Promise Alliance
- Rachel's Challenge
- Watson College of Education and Watson Professional Development System
- Watson Educational Technology Unit
- All of our wonderful schools, regional organizations, community members, and volunteers
- AT&T and business support
- UNCW services (grants, marketing, media relations, photography, technology, catering, custodial and parking)
- And participants!

Sincerely,

The Dropout Prevention Coalition Planning Committee

Janna Robertson and Robert Smith, DPC Co-coordinators; Susan Finley, Communications Chair; Deloris Rhodes, Community Outreach Chair; Nicole Geczi, Event Coordinator Chair

Cover artwork provided by Jessie Robertson

AGENDA FOR THE DAY

8:30 – 9:00 Registration and Breakfast Atrium**9:00 – 9:30 Welcome and Overview of the Day EB 162**

*Janna Robertson, Professor and Co-coordinator, WCE Dropout Prevention Coalition**Van O. Dempsey III, Dean, Watson College of Education**Rev. Clifford Barnett, Warner Temple AME Zion Church and Chair, WCE Dropout Prevention Coalition***9:30 – 10:30 Keynote Address: Rachel's Challenge EB 162**

Darrell Scott, Founder of the Rachel's Challenge program and father of Rachel

Rachel's inspiring story provides a simple yet powerful example of how small, deliberate acts of kindness and acceptance motivate us to consider our relationships with the people we come in contact with every day. www.rachelschallenge.org (Webcast)

10:30 – 10:45 Goals for the Day EB 162

10:50 – 11:40 CONCURRENT SESSIONS - A

Session A1: Stopping the School to Prison Pipeline with an Interagency Agreement EB 162

Family Court: Judge J. Corpening

Catch the latest from Judge J. Corpening on a state-of-the-art Interagency Agreement to support students and plug our local "school to prison" pipeline! In November, New Hanover Public Schools entered an agreement with law enforcement, mental health, and social services to focus on prevention and support of students, and to limit referral to law enforcement for non-violent offences. Learn how similar programs have been highly successful around the country. <http://saferschoolstaskforce.weebly.com/interagency-agreement.html> (Webcast)

Session A2: How Onslow County was able to bring STEM and WIOA together EB 130

Onslow County Schools: John Shannon, Francisca Gray

Come hear how some of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act students in Onslow County were given the opportunity to learn about STEM, and other skills, through the ten80 curriculum as they developed a team to carry themselves and their cars to Houston, Texas to compete in the national racing finals.

Session A3: Mental Health Support for Students in Schools EB 214

*Trillium: Amy Horgan - www.trilliumhealthresources.org**Wilmington Health Access for Teens Center: Joy Grady - www.whatswhat.org*

Trillium and WHAT are helping schools to support the mental health of their students. Trillium has several other programs, besides Rachel's Challenge, that can support your youth. The WHAT center provides physical and mental health support located in several of our local schools. Learn about their programs!

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Session A4: Arts and Recreation Programs**EB 232***DREAMS of Wilmington: Matt Carvin - www.dreamswilmington.org**Kids Making It: Mollie Southard - www.kidsmakingit.org**Brigade Boys & Girls Club: Angie Hill - www.brigadebgc.org**Martin Luther King Center: Mary Jones -**www.wilmingtonnc.gov/community_services/recreation/community_centers/mlk_center*

Panel discussion of innovative recreation programs and how they can support students to enrich their lives, stay in school, and gain useful skills for their future! Youth should have fun!

Session A5: Solution-Focused Techniques in Schools and the Criminal Justice System**EB 331***UNCW: Kristin Bolton; Chris Hall, Megan Keen, Lindsay Allen*

What are some alternatives to punishment that have successful outcomes? Learn about recent research from UNCW professors and their graduate students on solution-focused interventions to assist youth in the schools and in the community.

Session A6: Rachel's Challenge Questions and Answers**EB 337***Rachel's Challenge: Sage Robinson, Andrew Strait - rachelschallenge.org*

Do you want to try out Rachel's Challenge in your school? Are you currently involved with Rachel's Challenge and have questions? Do you want to let Rachel's Challenge know about some of the successes you already have at your school? Here is your chance! This session will have a discussion format with sharing of information about Rachel's Challenge.

11:45 – 12:00 Pick Up Box Lunch (lunch will be available until 1:00pm)**Atrium****12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH PANEL PRESENTATION****EB 162**

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR OUR SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS (WEBCAST)

Featured Panelists (moderated by WCE professor Robert Smith):

- Jonathan Barfield, Chair, New Hanover County Commissioners
- Sterling Cheatham, Wilmington City Manager
- Lisa Estep, member, New Hanover County Board of Education
- Susi Hamilton, North Carolina House of Representative District 18
- Connie Majure-Rhett, President and CEO, Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce
- Tim Markley, Superintendent, New Hanover County Schools
- Ron Zapple, New Hanover County Commissioner

Our school leaders and elected officials have been working on several initiatives to support the youth in Wilmington and New Hanover County. Learn about local community support for our schools.

1:05 – 1:55 CONCURRENT SESSIONS - B

Session B1: Local Business Support for Schools and Students**EB 162***Wilmington Chamber of Commerce: Connie Majure-Rhett - www.wilmingtonchamber.org**AT&T: John Lyon*

The business community knows that our youth are our future! The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce and local businesses are investing in our youth. Hear about their initiatives in this session. (Webcast)

Session B2: The Role of Student Resource Officers in Schools**EB 130***New Hanover County Sheriff's Department: Novella Frieslander, Efrain Granda, Janice Covil, Michael Fields*

In New Hanover County, our extensively trained SRO's work in the schools to build relationships with the students and their families. We have one law enforcement officer from elementary, middle, and high school to describe their positive involvement with the schools.

Session B3: Mental Health Intervention Programs for Students**EB 266**

*Coastal Horizons: John Dail, Lisa Burriss, Elizabeth Uzcategui, Preston Cole - www.coastalhorizons.org
Crossroads: Diane Edwards - www.uncw.edu/crossroads*

Outside agencies often provide services to our youth. Coastal Horizons has extensive programs available for youth in our community for mental health, substance abuse and crisis intervention. Crossroads is a substance abuse prevention program that is available for middle schools – and it is at UNCW!

Session B4: Transitioning into the Community and Support Programs**EB 337**

*Leading into New Communities (LINC)/LITE: Manhood: Frankie Roberts, Donnel Martin - www.lincnc.org
Offering Optimistic Plans for Success (OOPS): Atiba Johnson - www.oopsfoundation.net*

LINC is a highly successful program for reintegrating individuals in the community who have been to prison. LITE: Manhood is a culturally specific youth development services for African American young men ages 16-24. OOPS is a youth development program for underserved youth that supports students in gaining skills to graduate school and receive job related skills.

Session B5: Innovations in Supporting Students with Behavioral Concerns**EB 387***New Hanover County Schools: Judy Stubblefield, Beau McCaffray*

There are a variety of supports for students' social, emotional, and behavioral well-being in the public schools. Hear about the ABE system, PBIS, and anti-bullying programs that are making a difference in the schools.

Session B6: Early Intervention Programs**EB 223**

*Smart Start: Jane Morrow and Kelly Puzon - www.newhanoverkids.org
MindUP: MaryAnn Campbell - www.thehawnfoundation.org/mindup*

Smart Start is the area's leading early childhood intervention program giving support to families and young children in the first 2000 days of their lives. Elementary school children across New Hanover County Schools have benefitted from mindfulness education like the MindUP program at Mary C. Williams Elementary.

2:00 – 2:50 CONCURRENT SESSIONS - C**Session C1: Awaken the Learner****EB 162***Darrell Scott, Rachel's Challenge - rachelschallenge.org*

This session reviews the history and philosophy behind an approach of education that reaches students' hearts, not just their heads.

Session C2: Alternatives to Incarceration: Diversions for Adolescent Offenders**EB 130**

Family Court: Judge J. Corpening, Sheila Evans - www.theadrcenter.org/our-services/teen-court

There are alternatives to incarceration in the juvenile justice system such as teen court, community service and restorative justice. District 5 diverts a majority of the juveniles referred to the justice system to interventions that can help youth to succeed. Hear about plans for the future for older youth since North Carolina continues to classify 16 and 17 years olds as adults in the justice system.

Session C3: Successful Graduation Programs in NC**EB 266**

NC Department of Public Instruction (NC DPI): Debora Williams - www.dpi.state.nc.us/dropout

What is happening across the state? Debora Williams from the NC state department has traveled all over examining what is working across the state to increase our graduation rates. With a current rate of 85.4 percent graduation, we are well on our way to the 90% goal!

Session C4: Faith-Based Outreach to Students**EB 337**

*Warner Temple AME Zion Church: Rev. Clifford Barnett - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Warner-Temple-Ame-Zion-Church/120531684629278>
United Methodist Church: Pat Litzinger - nccc4c.org
New Saint Luke AME Zion Church: Rev. Jermaine Armour
<https://www.facebook.com/Saint-Luke-Wilmington-219134305062/>
The Bridge Church: Rev. Ethan Welch - <https://thebridgeilm.com>*

Our region has several faith-based organizations supporting the youth and schools in our community. Hear about programs developed with faith-based organizations to provide alternatives to suspension, reading support, tutoring, mentoring, and recreation opportunities.

Session C5: Student Mentoring and Support Programs**EB 387**

*Communities in Schools (CIS): Marrio Jeeter - www.ciscapefear.org
Blue Ribbon Commission: Jana Jones Halls, Brian Blake - www.brcyez.org
Wilmington's Residential Adolescent Achievement Place: Daryl Dockery - www.nc-wraap.com*

Wilmington has several successful non-profit organizations designed for dropout prevention and the prevention of youth violence. Hear how these well-established programs provide services to youth in the schools, after school, and in the community.

Session C6: New Schools, New Models: Making School Relevant & Engaging**EB 223**

*NC New Schools | Breakthrough Learning: Katie McGee - www.ncnewschools.org
Pender County Early College High School: Edith Skipper, Principal
Pender County 2015 Principal of the Year - <https://sites.google.com/a/pender.k12.nc.us/pechs/>
UNCW Watson College of Education, Robert Smith*

How are we changing schools and forming new models to create more relevant and engaging learning experiences for all students? The Early College Model was one of the first programs supported by the New Schools Project. Learn about, and share, examples of other successful programs.

2:55 – 3:45 Afternoon Keynote: What do Students Think? Student Panel**EB 162**

Girls Rocking it in the South (GRITS): Stephanie Willis, Kayla Brown, Henriett Jones; Taky Williams, Brianna Herd
Young Moguls: Travis Corpening, Darian Dixon, Dennis Dixon, Rhamel Easterling, Jacob Lloyd; Darien Suggs;
Jimmy Willis III

LITE Manhood: Juan Bethea

WECHS: Aquil El-Amin

Come on back for a snack and student panel. Students will share what obstacles they face and what opportunities they have for them to be successful in schools and in the community. We have students involved with different programs that want to tell you about their perspectives.

3:45 – 4:00 EVALUATION and CLOSING REMARKS**EB 162**

Help us Achieve GradNation's Goal!

This year, for the first time in the country's history, the national high school graduation rate surpassed 80 percent. This figure is an important landmark on the road to fulfilling one of the GradNation campaign's goals: a 90 percent nationwide rate by the Class of 2020, with no school graduating fewer than 80 percent of its students on time.

These goals reflect our commitment to providing the fundamental resources that children and youth need to thrive throughout the full continuum of their development. At the heart of this effort are the Five Promises: Caring Adults, Safe Places, A Healthy Start, Effective Education, and Opportunities to Make a Difference.

America's Promise Alliance leads more than 400 organizations, communities and individuals dedicated to making the promise of America real for every child. As its signature effort, the GradNation campaign mobilizes Americans to increase the on-time high school graduation rate to 90 percent by 2020 and prepare young people for postsecondary enrollment and the 21st century workforce.

www.americaspromise.org

RACHEL'S Challenge

start a chain reaction



Keynote Speaker

DARRELL SCOTT FROM RACHEL'S CHALLENGE!

www.rachelschallenge.org

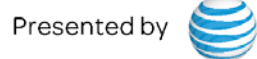
Darrell is Rachel's father and the founder of the Rachel's Challenge program. He has spoken to over five million people in live settings around the world, not counting the millions he has spoken to through programs such as Oprah, Larry King Live, CNN, and the Today Show. He has authored or co-authored five books, and meets with politicians and educators regularly concerning issues of school violence.

Rachel's Challenge includes a series of student empowering, educator motivating programs and strategies called the Awaken the Learner Five-step School Improvement Process that equips students and adults to create and sustain safe, caring and supportive learning environments essential for academic achievement. The programs are based on the writings and life of 17 year-old Rachel Scott who was the first student killed at Columbine High School in 1999. Rachel left a legacy of reaching out to those who were different, who were picked on by others, or who were new at her school.

Trillium Health Resources www.trilliumhealthresources.org has sponsored over 120 schools in our region to include Rachel's Challenge in their schools.

ABOUT THE UNCW WATSON COLLEGE OF EDUCATION DROPOUT PREVENTION COALITION

The UNCW Watson College of Education Dropout Prevention Coalition was created in 2011 to raise awareness of the high school dropout problem in the region and bring together a broad audience representing schools, colleges, government agencies, community organizations, businesses, the faith-based community and other interested individuals to find ways to help students stay and succeed in school. www.uncw.edu/ed/dropout/



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Program Addendum

Changes have been made to the following sessions:

Concurrent Sessions – B

B1: Local Business Support for Schools and Students – *cancelled*

B2: The Role of Student Resource Officers in Schools – *now located in EB 162*

B4: Transitioning into the Community and Support Programs – *now located in EB 130*

Concurrent Sessions – C

C1: Awaken the Learner – *cancelled*

C2: Alternatives to Incarceration: Diversions of Adolescent Offenders – *now located in EB 162*

C4: Faith-Based Outreach to Students – *now located in EB 130*

GradNation's Five Promises

The Five Promises:

- Caring Adults
- Safe Places
- A Healthy Start
- Effective Education
- Opportunities to Make a Difference

More information: <http://www.americaspromise.org/promises>

Presentations Organized by the Five Promises

GradNation Promise	Caring Adults	Safe Places	A Healthy Start	Effective Education	Opportunities to Make a Difference
Keynote and Session A	Solution-Focused Techniques	Rachel's Challenge Interagency Agreement	Mental Health Support	STEM and WIOA	Arts and Recreation Programs
Session B	School Resource Officer	Behavioral Concerns	Early Intervention	Mental Health Intervention	Transitioning into the Community
Session C and Keynote 2	Mentoring and Support Programs	Incarceration Alternatives	Faith-Based Outreach	Successful NC Programs New Schools, New Models	Student Panel