

American Graduate Day 2017

**THE ANNUAL NATIONAL EDUCATION MEDIA EVENT, *AMERICAN GRADUATE DAY 2017*
WILL AIR LIVE ON PUBLIC MEDIA STATIONS FROM COAST-TO-COAST ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH.**

Now in its sixth year, ***American Graduate Day 2017*** will once again provide compelling and inspirational personal tales of commitment, obstacles, optimism, and triumph. Continuing public media's long-term commitment to helping communities address the complicated and critical subject of educating all Americans, the four-hour live broadcast (2pm-6pm ET) is a valuable voice as the nation continues to drive the high school graduation rate to new record levels.

This year ***American Graduate Day 2017*** will spotlight the importance and power of mentoring across the entire schooling timeline. Mentoring is crucial to students providing effective face-to-face guidance, inspiration, education, and on-going support for lasting benefits. The consistently positive results of mentoring ripple across the entire spectrum, from improved educational benefits, to reduced criminal detention, to deeper citizenship, and better careers. The goal of American Graduate Day program is to amplify the conversation on education, inspire involvement, and motivate new mentors across the country to participate in this critical process.

American Graduate Day 2017 will focus on these educational themes:

- Early Education
- More and Better Learning
- Special Needs Communities
- STEAM
- Dropout Prevention and Re-Engagement
- Career Readiness and College Completion

Over the last five years, invaluable contributions to the program have come from a stellar list of all-American luminaries and a roster of world-class hosts. These student-focused legends come from politics, sports, entertainment, science, business, and education including: President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, President George W. Bush, General Colin Powell, Michael Bloomberg, Chelsea Clinton, Jane Pauley, Bryant Gumbel, Brian Williams, Ken Burns, Soledad O'Brien, JuJu Chang, Hari Sreenivasan, Steph Curry, Shaquille O'Neal, Mark Messier, Dikembe Mutombo, Chris Paul, Dolly Parton, Paul Shaffer, Tony Bennett, Wynton Marsalis, Pitbull, Rachel Platten, Prince Royce, Zendaya, Jason Derulo, Andy Grammer, Dean Kamen, Astronaut Peggy Whitson, Patrick Stewart, Allison Williams, Elmo, Penn & Teller, Billy Bob Thornton, Bridget Moynahan, Wendy Williams, Bobby Flay, Ed Asner, along with an array of passionate educators, organizers, students, and mentors.

This year, ***American Graduate Day 2017*** will broadcast and stream live from the Tisch WNET Studios at Lincoln Center in New York City. This multi-platform event will again feature live interviews plus segments that recognize efforts by national, regional, and celebrity partners, while saluting the outstanding everyday heroes - **American Graduate Champions**. It is these dynamic education-centered mentors and volunteers who are changing millions of lives and opening doors to new, productive opportunities for students all across the country.

Throughout the broadcast, viewers and online users will be encouraged to log on to AmericanGraduate.org then connect with the organizations featured in the program. Engagement will also extend across social media via [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) using the hashtag #AmGrad. The call to action is simple, direct, and critical: Become an American Graduate Champion – Be a mentor. To that end, we are fortunate to have MENTOR as a returning partner providing their expertise and a dynamic portal to facilitate volunteering connections between viewers and groups within their local communities. The *Mentoring Connector* database allows GROUPS to register any of their mentoring programs in advance of the broadcast to allow rapid, tailored, local connections to your organization as well -- <https://connect.mentoring.org/>

The challenges are significant and complex. But with renewed focus in communities across the country, with the energy of driven organizations, and with the selfless, relentless dedication of millions of American Graduate Champions we have made a difference. Together we can keep improving the national high school graduation rate -- one student at a time. Join the conversation on ***American Graduate Day 2017, Saturday, October 14th***.

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About WNET

As New York's flagship public media provider and the parent company of [THIRTEEN](#) and [WLIW21](#) and operator of [NJTV](#), WNET brings quality arts, education and public affairs programming to more than 5 million viewers each week. WNET produces and presents such acclaimed PBS series as [Nature](#), [Great Performances](#), [American Masters](#), [PBS NewsHour Weekend](#), [Charlie Rose](#) and a range of documentaries, children's programs, and local news and cultural offerings available on air and online. Pioneers in educational programming, WNET has created such groundbreaking series as [Get the Math](#), [Oh Noah!](#) and [Cyberchase](#) and provides tools for educators that bring compelling content to life in the classroom and at home. WNET highlights the tri-state's unique culture and diverse communities through [NYC-ARTS](#), [Reel 13](#), [NJTV News with Mary Alice Williams](#) and [MetroFocus](#), the multi-platform news magazine focusing on the New York region. WNET is also a leader in connecting with viewers on emerging platforms, including the [THIRTEEN Explore iPad App](#) where users can stream PBS content for free.

About CPB

The [Corporation for Public Broadcasting](#) (CPB), a private, nonprofit corporation created by Congress in 1967, is the steward of the federal government's investment in public broadcasting. It helps support the operations of more than 1,400 locally-owned and -operated public television and radio stations nationwide, and is the largest single source of funding for research, technology, and program development for public radio, television and related online services.

About American Graduate

[American Graduate: Let's Make it Happen](#) is public media's long-term commitment to supporting community-based solutions to help young people succeed in school and life. Supported by the **Corporation for Public Broadcasting** (CPB), more than 100 public television and radio stations have joined forces with over 1,400 partners across 40 states to elevate the stories of our youth and the supportive adults that help them succeed. Through American Graduate, public media, with its unique position as a trusted resource and important part of local communities, provides a critical platform to shine a light on pathways to graduation and successful student outcomes. National and local reporting, both on air and online is helping communities understand the challenges and community-driven solutions associated with the dropout crisis. Public forums, town halls, and community conversations are activating discussions between community leaders, educators, and more.