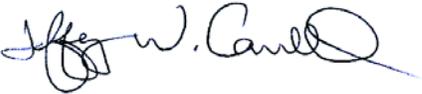




TO: Cultural Education Committee

FROM: Jeffrey Cannell 

SUBJECT: *American Graduate: Let's Make it Happen*

DATE: November 8, 2013

AUTHORIZATION(S): 
SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Overview and background on *American Graduate: Let's Make it Happen*, a program of public media that is supported by public broadcasters in New York State.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For Information. Five New York public television stations, which are chartered by the Board of Regents, are participating in the American Graduate initiative: WCNYSyracuse, WMHT Capital Region, WNET/WLIW New York City and Long Island, WSKGBinghamton. and WXXI Rochester. Katherine Jetter, Vice President for Education at WMHT, will inform the Committee about the activities taking place across the state and the results achieved so far.

Background Information

American Graduate: Let's Make it Happen is a long term public media commitment, supported by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), to help communities implement solutions to the high school dropout problem. Public media plays a significant role building individual activity, community capacity, and national awareness.

Public television stations are convening their communities to address the high school dropout problem. A new study conducted by the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins School of Education finds that the American Graduate initiative has succeeded in building community capacity to meet the national priority of ending America's high school dropout crisis.

Working with Alma and Colin Powell's America's Promise Alliance, Civic Enterprises, Johns Hopkins Everyone Graduates Center, and The Alliance for Excellent Education, and over 1000 local partners, the initiative puts faces on the numbers and increases understanding of the risks and solutions through national and local content, covering all facets of the issue for broadcast, web and mobile platforms. In addition, American Graduate is engaging and empowering teachers, parents and students to help those most at risk of dropping out through community collaborations and classroom resources.