



Las Vegas High School Featured in Day-long Multiplatform Event Celebrating “Stories of Champions” — Individuals and Organizations Committed to Improving Outcomes for Youth and Raising Graduation Rates

Wes Moore to Host “American Graduate Day 2014”

Live from Tisch WNET Studios at Lincoln Center in NYC, *airing September 27 on Vegas PBS*

American Graduate Day 2014 returns this fall for its third consecutive year. Wes Moore, best-selling author and U.S. Army veteran, will host the all-day broadcast that premieres **Saturday, September 27** from **8 a.m. to 3 p.m.** on Vegas PBS. The local station was chosen as one of four PBS stations across the country to provide a live, national, seven-minute remote focusing on a specific area related to high school dropout prevention. Hosted by local news anchor Olivia Fierro, the Vegas PBS segment will feature Dave Wilson, former principal of Chaparral High School who was instrumental in the high school’s turnaround success; Jennifer Lopardo, Communities in Schools of Nevada on-site coordinator; and Jessica Sanchez, a Chaparral High School student. Vegas PBS’ live remote will be featured between 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in a section focusing on “Career Readiness and College Completion.”

Broadcast and streamed live from the Tisch WNET Studios at Lincoln Center in New York City, the annual multiplatform event is part of the public media initiative, *American Graduate: Let’s Make It Happen*. This program, provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, is intended to help communities bolster graduation rates through the power and reach of local public media stations. Featuring seven hours of national and local programming, live interviews and performances, *American Graduate Day 2014* will recognize the exceptional work of individuals and groups across the country that have been designated as “American Graduate Champions.” The Champions will be honored for helping local youth to stay on track for college and career successes.

“Vegas PBS is proud to have been selected to showcase to the country the turnaround success story at Chaparral High School and the role of Communities In Schools of Nevada in helping students reach graduation,” said Vegas PBS General Manager Tom Axtell. “In Nevada, which has one of the highest dropout rates in the nation, we are given the opportunity to spotlight a positive story on our road to recovery and to show the organizations, schools, teachers and administrators who are working every day to turn this crisis around.”

“We are thrilled to be working with American Graduate Day and PBS on a television event that highlights our mission of keeping students in school and on a successful course for the future,” said Diane Fearon, CEO of Communities In Schools of Nevada. “We are excited to share one of our local success stories in hopes it inspires everyone to become a part of changing the picture of education.”

Hosted by Wes Moore, a bestselling author, TV personality (PBS/“Coming Back with Wes Moore” and OWN/“Beyond Belief”) and champion for youth, *American Graduate Day 2014* has been designed with the aims of inspiring citizens to connect with their local public media station and local community organizations and encouraging them to get involved as American Graduate Champions to bolster graduation rates. Throughout the day, on-air personalities from PBS, WNET, and other media organizations will join Moore in studio for special segments.

This year’s topics are scheduled to include Early Education, Caring Consistent Adults, More and Better Learning, Special Needs Communities, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art/Design and Math) Programs, Dropout Prevention and Re-Engagement and College and Career Readiness.

Viewers will also be invited to participate in the discussion via [Twitter](#) using the #AmGrad hashtag and on [Facebook](#). Viewers and online users who are interested in connecting with local organizations and youth as American Graduate Champions can send a text on the day of broadcast or log on to [AmericanGraduate.org](#) to find out more about the national and regional organizations and how to help in their hometowns. Visit the *American Graduate Day* Web site for more details on participating PBS and NPR stations as well as other television and radio programs: <http://americangraduate.org/american-graduate-day-2014>

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About Vegas PBS

Dedicated to enriching the lives of those who call Southern Nevada home, Vegas PBS Channel 10 is one of America's most watched PBS stations on a per capita basis. Five additional channels are available over the air or on cable and satellite including Create, Vme, Worldview, Rewind and Jackpot!

Vegas PBS provides K-12 educational resources to teachers and students in public, private, charter and home schools including professional development courses; One Place, a curriculum-correlated online media service; the Described and Captioned Media Center (DCMC) containing materials for deaf, hard of hearing, blind and vision impaired individuals and those who assist them; and Ready To Learn literacy and health community workshops based on curriculum materials in daytime children's programs.

For more information on programming and services, please visit [VegasPBS.org](#), like us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/VegasPBS](#), or follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/VegasPBS](#).

About CIS Nevada

Communities In Schools of Nevada is the local affiliate of the nation's largest and most effective organization dedicated to keeping kids in school and helping them succeed in life. Working with both schools and the surrounding community, Communities In Schools of Nevada does whatever it takes to help kids stay in school and succeed in life. Based directly inside schools, Communities In Schools of Nevada connects students and their families to basic and critical educational and community-based resources, tailored to each student's specific needs.

Operating in 43 school sites in Southern Nevada, Western Nevada and Northeastern Nevada, Communities In Schools of Nevada serves over 44,000 students. Nationally, Communities In Schools provides services in more than 2,200 schools in 26 states and the District of Columbia, serving 1.3 million young people and their families every year. As the nation's leading dropout prevention organization, Communities In Schools is the only program proven to both decrease dropout rates and increase graduation rates. For more information, please see our website <http://www.cisnevada.org>.

Keep up with CIS Nevada events and news on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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 1,300 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](#) was launched in 2011 with 25 public media stations in communities where the high school dropout rate was high in order to spotlight this crisis and focus on middle and high school student interventions. Today, more than 80 public radio and television stations in over 30 states have partnered with over 1000 community organizations and schools, as well as Alma and Colin Powell's America's Promise Alliance, Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University School of Education, Alliance for Excellent Education, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Newman's Own Foundation to help the nation achieve a 90 percent graduation by 2020.