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## GRADUATING ANOTHER CLASS OF LEADERS!

We were so proud to host our 19th Annual LIT Graduation at Medaille College on May 22nd. This year, we honored **100 graduates** from thirteen schools in WNY!

Under the direction of our Prevention Specialists, Leaders In Training students participate in two years of conferences, a unique summer program, retreats and dozens of service learning projects, activities and small-scale fundraising at their schools and within the community. Students brainstorm and design projects to participate in and complete as a group.

They spend their time giving back to the community and their schools, using hundreds of hours to work on initiatives that benefit the community, like food and clothing drives, visiting elder care facilities and the SPCA, creating greeting cards for our troops, supporting teachers in the classroom and a lot more.

Through these experiences, each child gets to see firsthand how they can be active agents for positive change in society. These are the students we expect to take leadership roles in substance abuse prevention efforts that will occur in their high schools.

Our "Leaders in Training" deserve recognition not only for the character they have demonstrated and for their excellent work but also for acting as positive role models for their peers and everyone in the community! We are very proud of them, Congratulations Graduates!

### 2014 LIT Graduates

<p><b>#18 Dr. Antonia Pantoja</b>                      Bidya Dahal                      Kabura Elias*                      Khin Khin Htike                      Ehler Htoo                      Aakar Htut                      Rodwon Ibrihim</p> <p><b>#53 Community School</b>                      Carlesha Bivens                      Iaira Jenkins                      Devonna Loder                      Shareef Murray                      Daquale Wilkerson</p> <p><b>#156 Olmsted</b>                      Skylar Carter                      Antwoine Hatten                      Gabe Carr-Johnson                      Monahe Marchione</p>	<p><b>#27 Hillery Park</b>                      Romello Hunter                      David Krygier                      Savanna Maund                      Devon Miceli                      Georgia Needha                      Tabitha Nicpon                      Monet Seabury                      Brittany Viggato</p> <p><b>#93 Southside</b>                      Jackson Edwards                      Byshop Elliott*                      Jayonna Hughes                      Julie Koepnick                      Alexis Poblocki                      Lailani Rodriguez                      Nathan Strianese                      Alexis Woodberry                      Santino Wrobel                      Carlene Zanoni</p>	<p><b>Cleveland Hill</b>                      Santos Alonso                      Tia Balo                      Taylor Betz                      David Grant                      Angela Lesser                      Kaitlyn Osswald                      Mariah Williams</p> <p><b>Lake Shore</b>                      Mackenzie Alvira                      Adam Brzozowiec                      Jessica Dunlap                      Dyllon Gartley                      Becket Panfil                      Hailey Russell                      Alex Silfies                      Paige West                      Zachary Wilson                      Victoria Zuidema</p>	<p><b>#80 Highgate Heights</b>                      Kajhanea Barney                      Jakarra Davis                      Emmanuel Edwards                      Areyania Harris                      Brianna Harris                      Jamie Bin-Huguley                      Ray Moore                      Alisjah Palmer*                      Kevin Walker</p> <p><b>#67 Discovery School</b>                      Christian Fisher                      Victoria Gallo                      Hanna Pilarski                      Emily Nieves                      Samantha Shaul                      Gina Slattery                      Jose Torres                      Phillip Weeks</p>	<p><b>#72 Lorraine Academy</b>                      Cory Burka                      Sara Camalloni                      Amanda Davis                      Zack Holeywka                      Tanae Jones                      Joshuwa Kalinowski                      Destinee Rodriguez                      Jeff Roy                      Kylie Spink                      Scott Wilson</p> <p><b>#95 Waterfront</b>                      Abukar Abdulaziz                      Anyiah Bliss                      Dedrick Gonzalez                      Zedrick Gonzalez                      Cornelius Iveys                      Sophia James                      Myrin Morrison                      Anthony Mott</p>	<p><b>#91 BUILD Academy</b>                      Michael Bryant                      Nasar Ayers-Goss                      Kia Ayers-Goss                      Janelle Hill                      Taelon Hollamon                      Alexis Mitchell                      Hayward Oliver                      Jaylen Powell                      Alissa Smith                      Jennifer Stacey</p> <p><b>#39 Martin Luther King</b>                      Janey Jackson                      Amya Mack                      Tnisha Scott                      Brittany Steele                      Jaimie Washington</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*Student Speakers</p>
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### 2014 Hall of Fame Inductees

**Scott Wilson & Zack Holeywka were co-honored as the 8th Grade Hall of Fame Inductees.  
 Darren King was honored as the Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee for 2014**

Shown from left to right here:  
 Program Director Beth Anzalone, Zack Holeywka, Scott Wilson &  
 Prevention Specialist Samantha Zappala

On the right is Darren King with his initial  
 Prevention Specialist Tammy Regnet



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## LIT SHOWCASE 2014:

### Students commemorate dozens of Service Learning Projects

Throughout the school year, WNY United's Prevention Specialists provide the support and guidance to their Leaders In Training teams from partner schools to build the skills and experiences essential to become leaders and community stakeholders. Students are chosen by their show of commitment, fortitude and an interest in learning.

Parents are introduced to the program at "Parent Night," giving us the opportunity to show the adults our Summer LIT program agenda. This year, on June 17th, we were proud to welcome more than 150 parents and 100 future Student Leaders! Taking place over five weeks on the Medaille College campus, it prepares students to become official LIT members before the start of their 7th grade year.

Throughout the next two years, LIT teams choose community service projects to participate in and complete as a group. Each year in early May they highlight these projects in front of their peers at the Annual LIT Spring Showcase, held at Lucarelli's Banquet Center.

**Here is a list of Service Learning Projects that were completed during the 2013/2014 school year:**

#### Highgate Heights School #80 (Prevention Specialist: Lori Brown)

- American Red Cross Holiday Hero Mail; Soldier Letter-Writing & Holiday Card Campaign
- Collected & delivered 28 boxes of food for Buffalo City Mission
- Penny Drive for LIT Program
- Reading Buddies program: reading to younger students
- Designed & sent greeting cards to sick children
- Food Bank Backpack Program
- Decorated Meals On Wheels placemats
- Participated in American Diabetes Association Walkathon

#### BUILD Academy #91 (Prevention Specialist: Lori Brown)

- American Red Cross Holiday Hero Mail; Soldier Letter-Writing & Holiday Card Campaign
- Hosted a WNY United table at School's Winter Bazaar Carnival
- Penny Drive for LIT
- Reading Buddies program: reading to younger students
- "Give Kids the World": made Buffalo postcards for sick kids & collected postcards from around the world
- Collected, counted & tallied incentive tickets for school PBIS activities
- Decorated Meals On Wheels placemats; delivered with meals
- Hosted incentive parties for several classrooms who collected funds for charity

#### Hillery Park Elementary School #27 (Prevention Specialist: Tammy Regnet)

- Assist in PBIS Pep Rally and behavior modules
- American Red Cross Holiday Hero Mail; Soldier Letter-Writing & Holiday Card Campaign
- Assist in Ready Freddy activities
- Carnation Sale to support the school dance
- Made blankets for Harvest House
- Hosted a bake sale to benefit their 8th grade class

#### Dr. Antonia Pantoja Community School of Academic Excellence #18 (Prevention Specialist: Lydia Kurt)

- Collected soda pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Raised \$200+ with a penny drive for Jericho Road Community Health Center
- Volunteered after school at "Math Night" & "International Night": helping with event promotions, attendance, set up, greeting parents, serving food & clean up
- Made cards to Celebrated Principle Appreciation & Teacher Appreciation Days
- Made Valentines for patients at Woman and Children's Hospital
- Demonstrated being a role model through Easter Egg hunt for pre-K. Reading stories about Easter eggs & hiding eggs.

#### Discovery School #67 (Prevention Specialist: Lydia Kurt)

- Volunteered at School's Halloween Night & Polar Express Day: Students helped run games, designed & built a train, served snacks
- Volunteered at Olympic-themed "Math Health and Fitness Night" with set up & running stations.
- Volunteered weekly to help run the school store cart, profits made go to the PTO
- Collected, counted & tallied incentive tickets for school PBIS activities
- Celebrated Principal, Teacher & School Nurse Appreciation Days by making cards & gifts
- Made Valentines for children's ward at Mercy Hospital
- Visited Ridge View Manor Nursing Home, played games & chatted with residents
- Volunteered at coat check, gave directions, clean up & more at PTO fundraiser "Spring at The Gardens"
- Ran a St. Patrick's Day bead sale, raising \$250 for PTO
- Celebrated Read Across America Day & read Dr. Seuss books to Pre-K students
- Collected soda pop tabs (110 lbs.) for Ronald McDonald House Charities

#### Cleveland Hill Middle School (Prevention Specialist: Rachel Daws)

- American Red Cross Holiday Hero Mail; Soldier Letter-Writing & Holiday Card Campaign
- Organized Aeropostale's Jeans for Teens drive & collected 200+ pairs of jeans to donate to homeless teens
- Organized "No Kid Hungry": a bake sale to raise money to help end childhood hunger
- Wrote and performed a character skit on responsibility for the elementary students at Cleve Hill
- Volunteered at Mount Calvary Cemetery pulling weeds & picking up trash

#### Southside Elementary School #93 (Prevention Specialist: Becky Krebs)

- Ran the Red Ribbon spirit week at school
- Awarded 3rd place at the Take-a-Stand Banner Contest at South Park High School Red Ribbon Rally
- Adopted a Family Justice Center family for Christmas
- Made blankets for women & children at Harvest House
- Ran a Valentine's day flower sale; sold 550+ flowers
- Mentored younger students in the school
- Demonstrated leadership at school with announcements, PBIS & assemblies throughout the year

#### Frederick Law Olmsted School #156 (Prevention Specialist: Samantha Zappala)

- Hospice Bouquet Sale, all proceeds benefit Hospice Buffalo
- American Red Cross Holiday Hero Mail; Soldier Letter-Writing & Holiday Card Campaign
- SPCA Blanket Donation

#### Martin Luther King Multicultural Institute #39 (Prevention Specialist: Jen Calderon)

- Participated in the American Diabetes Association Walkathon
- Participated in Fuel Up to Play 60 program
- American Red Cross Holiday Hero Mail; Soldier Letter-Writing & Holiday Card Campaign
- Hospice Spring Bouquet Sale
- Clean-a-Thon in the Perry Choice Neighborhood; cleaning up around Futures Academy
- Attended the Red Ribbon Baseball Game, carried Red Ribbon Banners onto the field
- Family Fun Day Volunteers; ran the "Toddler Zone" all day

#### Waterfront Elementary School #95 (Prevention Specialist: Sarah Holsopple)

- American Red Cross Holiday Hero Mail; Soldier Letter-Writing & Holiday Card Campaign
- Bottles for Babies fundraiser for Harvest House
- Read stories to Pre-K & Kindergarten students for Read Across America Day
- Collected coats, hats, mittens, boots for Journey's End Refugee Services
- Volunteered at School Open House

#### Lorraine Elementary School #72 (Prevention Specialist: Samantha Zappala)

- Hospice Bouquet Sale, all proceeds benefit Hospice Buffalo
- Food Drive for Food Bank of WNY
- American Red Cross Holiday Hero Mail; Soldier Letter-Writing & Holiday Card Campaign

#### Lake Shore Elementary (Prevention Specialist: Julie McCarthy)

- Volunteered as Open House Ushers
- Ambassadors for Chinese Delegate
- Made Blankets of Love
- Made Christmas Cards for St. Jude's
- National Kick Butt's Day Walk
- Participated in the 5th Grade Orientation Play- "The In's and Out's of the Middle School"

## 19TH Annual Family Fun Day: Another Success!!



*Scat Cat made the rounds with Free High Fives at FFD this year!*

On Sunday, May 18th, we held our longest running fundraiser for the 19th year at Coca-Cola Field. The event was a great success, **raising more than \$23,000 after expenses in support of the WNY United Foundation.** We are honored to host this event at the home of the Buffalo Bisons during an afternoon game every year. Families are invited to celebrate the start of summer with bounce houses, carnival games, free sno-cones and more - all for a very reasonable price!



More than 1,000 guests joined us that day and were treated to a Bisons' 7-1 win over the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs on a chilly- yet gorgeous day! Held in honor of Elaine Mack, former WNY United Foundation Vice President and Family Fun Day creator, this event is our largest and longest running. Elaine's sister, Jean Toth has served as the event's committee chairperson for so many years and, without her, this event would not be possible. It is her drive, compassion and outreach to countless individuals in the community on our behalf that guarantees us our success every year.



This year's event was sponsored by 33 businesses and individuals from all over New York! On top of that, we had the helping hands of companies like the US Army, Wise Snacks, iDesign, Fisher Price, Wegmans, Edukids and more. These amazing businesses donated their time, product and service to help make the event so successful and we could not be more grateful!

Families enjoyed their complimentary hot dog, can of pop and bag of Wise chips while watching the game, playing on bounce houses and carnival games that were provided by **ABC Rental** and the **US Army. Much More Entertainment** treated our guests with fire eating, stiltwalking, balloon animals and fun! iDesign brought Robots - complete with obstacle courses! **EduKids** offered kids temporary tattoos and our own staff members Lydia Kurt & Sam Zappala (with Nate Zappala, Emilie Rengler & Sarah Boyle) gave kids amazing (free) face-paintings all day, as well!



*Lots of Fun to be had at the Crafts Area (& everywhere else!)*

This annual event would not be complete without the Basket Raffle and Wheel of Prizes on the concourse. This year's raffle showcased a Hot Wheels Jeep Wrangler Power Wheels and a dozen themed baskets. With these two exciting raffles, we raised nearly \$1,400!

WNY United sends our warmest gratitude to all of those that continue to support our work every year: The **entire Buffalo Bisons Staff** – especially Mike Buczkowski, Tom Sciarrino, Matt LaSota, Curt Anderson, Mike Poreda and Rob Free. Thank you all!

**The 2014 Event Committee also deserves our greatest appreciation:** Jean Toth, Mike Buczkowski, Urmas Lupkin, Kim Rich Lupkin – We could not do this without you! And we also must thank Sue Dobmeier, Sara Smith, Sharon Baudendistle, Dora Kukuliatas Wisniewski, Captain Frank Remillard, SFC Christopher Batchman, SSG Joseph Stover, SSG Nicholas Sinosky, SSG Christopher Romanoski, Hope Devlin, Linda Zaborowski, Karen Kline, Cathy Kaiser and Pam Bell. Thank you also to the entire WNY United Staff for your tireless efforts; Linda Flowers, Beth Anzalone, Sue Boyle, Lori Brown, Rachel Daws, Sarah Holsopple, Becky Krebs, Lydia Kurt, Julie McCarthy, Jen McMahon, Tammy Regnet, Julie Schaefer & Sam Zappala. We also send our warmest acknowledgements to all of the volunteers that donated their time. This year, we welcomed more than **85 volunteers** and we could not have done it without you, Thank You All ONE MILLION TIMES OVER!



*The US Army got everyone working hard!*

Mallory Allen, Quinn Allen, Eileen Ambrose, Pamela Arena, Maddy Avery, Rebekah Blasius, Claire Boyle, Maggie Boyle, Sarah Boyle, Adam Brzozowiec, Michele Carey, Elizabeth Cercone, Robert Coppola Jr., Maria Coppola, Rob Coppola, Joanne Czyz, Brendan Daws, Krista DeAntonis, Annie Doyle, Paul Drees, Brianna Fenzl, Lisa Godios, Nancy Gospodarski, Brad Gurbacki, Pam Gurbacki, Lauren Heaney, Janey Jackson, Aubree Jones, Amanda Kwaczala, Tiffani Le, Samantha Lucas, Amya Mack, Chelsea Macomber, Ricky Mann, Ryan Manzella, Veronica Meyers, Kathy Nigro, Diana Ordines, Cheryl Pena, Emilie Rengler, Devon Rogers, Martha Rogers, Kerri Ryłowicz, T'nisha Scott, Brittani Seaman, Nina Simoncelli, Amber Stacy, Brittany Steele, Debbie Steger, Lee Szczublewski, Andrea Toader, Tammy Wagner, Danielle Wahl, Intefada Wardia, Ashley Waterman, Nate Zappala and everyone else! THANK YOU SO MUCH!!



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## THE ERIE COUNTY FAIR: August 6th - August 17th

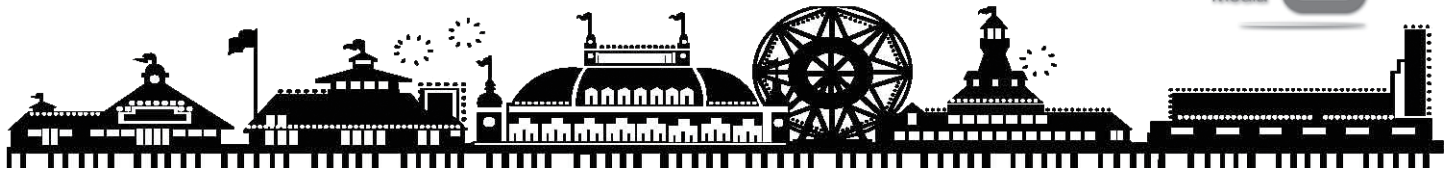
The Erie County Fair will celebrate 175 years of the Fair this year! We are beyond excited to spend another 12 days at Slade Park Gazebo for our Wheel of Prizes! We couldn't be a part of this great adventure every year without our awesome friends at TownSquare Media (they donate the use of the gazebo every year). You can join us for a chance to win some amazing prizes by just looking for the WYRK van and listening to WYRK, JOY, WBLK and JACK FM for details on prizes and more.

**Here's How It Works:**  
**(1) Donate \$1 to spin the wheel (2) Land on a spot & win!**

We have prizes that have been donated by some terrific friends in the community. You could win toys, restaurant gift certificates, Bisons' Game Tickets, store gift certificates, tee shirts, coupons, baseball hats, sunglasses, movie passes and tons more!

**New this year:** T-Mobile will join us with some cool giveaways! And we'll have a new drawing for our friends on Facebook... look for our QR Code to scan and "like" our page for your chance to win a gift card! We'll have all the details on our Facebook page and at the Fair!

If you would like to make a product donation or know a business that is interested in making a donation, please contact Jessica at (716) 881-7722 x 314 or by email at [jlafalce@wny united.org](mailto:jlafalce@wny united.org)



## WNY United Has Outstanding Employees

**Rachel Daws Presents at The Association of Psychological Science's 26th Annual Convention in San Francisco**

For her Honors Thesis at Buffalo State College, Prevention Specialist Rachel Daws, co-researched and wrote a paper entitled "Drinking Motives Mediate the Relationship Between Peer Crowds & College Drinking Outcomes". She and two professors studied the relationships between the crowds college students identify themselves as being a part of and their drinking habits. Ultimately finding that looking at these self-identified peer crowds may be a useful tool when predicting which students are at a higher risk of experiencing negative consequences related to alcohol use. These findings may be worth considering when creating treatment and prevention plans to target specific at-risk students.

Mrs. Daws presented this information at the Association of Psychological Sciences Annual Convention in San Francisco and will further her study by preparing the research for publication in the Journal of Addictive Behaviors.

Congratulations on the tremendous work, Rachel, we are proud to call you one of ours & excited about your pending publication!

## LIT Teams Sponsor "Bottles for Babies" Fundraiser at Waterfront Elementary



*Pictured (L to R): Patricia Hill, Maryan Abdi, Alexia Homa, Yosef Mebrahton, Tresar Kyaing, Lay Dia Say and Jada Banks*

The 7th & 8th grade Leaders in Training Teams at Waterfront Elementary Buffalo Public School #95 held a "Bottles for Babies" fundraiser during the month of March.

The money raised was donated to Harvest House for women to purchase items needed for their babies, such as diapers, clothes, pack n' plays and more.

The LIT students collected \$99.87 from teachers, staff and students at Waterfront Elementary School. Abukar Abdulaziz, an 8th grade student on the LIT team said "It feels great knowing that we are able to help these women and children." We are so proud to have students like these at Waterfront Elementary and for their wonderful work!

## WNY UNITED HONORS THE “2014 FRIENDS OF PREVENTION”



### 2014 Friends of Prevention with their WiNnY Awards:

(pictured left to right)

Senator Timothy Kennedy, Program Director Beth Anzalone,  
Maria Fasolino, Amanda Galenda, David Hills,  
Gayle Irving-White, Todd Miklas &  
Executive Director Linda Flowers

Every day, WNY United is surrounded by great friends who support our agency in realizing our mission of preventing drug and alcohol abuse. These special people are recognized as the WNY United Friends of Prevention. In an on-field ceremony during our Annual Family Fun Day event, five educators received this unique award we call our WiNnY Award, created especially for WNY United by the artists at Steel Crazy Iron Art! In addition to these educators, two esteemed members of the community were also recognized but unable to attend the ceremony.

Each of this year's award winners were chosen because of their continued support of WNY United's school programming and mission to reach out to the community with substance abuse prevention information. On the field, prior to the game, our agency's most prestigious award was handed out to these individuals by WNY United Executive Director Linda Flowers, Program Director Beth Anzalone and NYS Senator Timothy Kennedy. We were beyond honored to have Senator Kennedy support our work in this way.

We are so proud to have such tremendous *Friends* in our community— that care so much about the work that we do, **Thank You!**

**Ann Godfrey, Financial Analyst at New Era Cap (not pictured)**  
**Dave Gordon, Owner of Dave's Christmas Wonderland (not pictured)**  
**Maria Fasolino, Principal at Hillery Park Elementary**  
**Amanda Galenda, Art Educator at AJ Schmidt Elementary**  
**David Hills, Principal at Waterfront Elementary**  
**Gayle Irving White, Principal at Highgate Heights Elementary**  
**Todd Miklas, Principal at Lorraine Elementary**



## 10 YEARS HONORING THE DRIVE AGAINST DRUGS GOLF TOURNAMENT 2014 Robert E. Rich Memorial to be held Monday, August 25TH

**R**obert E. Rich was a dedicated member of this community; working endlessly to create a better environment locally for the individuals that reside here. The Drive Against Drugs Golf Tournament was created in Mr. Rich's honor, because of his love for what we do and it's match in his love for the game of golf. Helping us further promote our mission, we're getting the word out while we're out on the green!

On Monday, August 25th, the Foundation for WNY United will host the DAD Golf Tournament for the Tenth Year! We will return to East Aurora Country Club for the third year to host an 18-Hole Scramble with our ardent supporters.

Golfers are treated to lunch just prior to the 12:30pm shotgun. Beverages and snacks are also offered during golf and there are many chances to win great prizes and cash! Heavy hors d'oeuvres are served after the round, along with a raffle with amazing gifts and the announcements of the winning teams!

There are available spots for sponsors, golfers and other support - if you think you would like to join WNY United while spending the day on this stunning course, let us know! Contact Jess at 821-7722 ext. 314 or by email at [jlafalce@wnyunitied.org](mailto:jlafalce@wnyunitied.org) for information on sponsorships (ranging from \$875 - \$5,000), tee signs, teams of 4 or individual prices!

## KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED! WNY UNITED DRUG-FREE NEW YEAR ART & POETRY CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENTS COMING SOON!!



Every year, we invite students in grades K - 12 to participate in our Drug-Free Art & Poetry Contests. These contests are open to all students in K-12 grades, they can enter through school or on their own! Entry announcements are on our website now and additional announcements will be made to schools in early September. This is a great opportunity for students to display their creativity as well as their commitment to a “drug-free me” or to showcase who their “drug-free role model” is.

**We hope your child will join us and create a beautiful poem or piece of artwork to submit to the contest!! Check the website now!!**

## WNY United Awarded Grant For “Playworks Training”

The Peter & Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation awarded WNY United a \$6,000+ grant in April of this year to provide the Playworks Training program for Teacher Assistants. Playworks is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the health and well-being of children by increasing opportunities for physical activity and safe, meaningful play.

Using the four Core Values of Respect, Inclusion, Healthy Play and Healthy Community, Playworks Trainings teach a philosophy that educators can use successfully with youth to foster healthy environments where children can feel safe to be themselves and to grow! On May 7th, WNY United hosted The Power of Play training for more than 30 teachers at school 27. This training demonstrated for educators types of games, explained the benefits of play and highlighted some of the barriers to play and physical activity. This program will assist educators to meet the mandated recess requirements for elementary grades.

WNY United Prevention Specialists have already begun using the Playworks models in their schools and our Summer Leaders In Training Program is putting it to great use this summer as well!

*On May 7th, the activities got these educators moving! It was a fun day, filled with Play!*



## Eighth-Grade Skills Correlated With College Graduation Rates

*Article published by the New York State School Boards Association, Research Briefs*

Eighth-grade tells a lot about which students will graduate from college, according to a new study by Third Way, a think tank dedicated to promoting moderate policies about social and economic concerns.

Middle school children who generally receive A's have about a 70 percent likelihood of college graduation by the time they are 25. But B students have a likelihood of 30 percent, according to *The Secret Behind College Completion: Girls, Boys, and The Power of Eighth Grade Grades*.

Girls, more than boys, exhibit positive behavior patterns like school timeliness and preparedness that are associated with good grades, the report says. While those differences are evident in eighth grade, gender differences also show up in early grades.

For instance, gender gaps in reading and math show up in kindergarten and persist through fifth grade with females outperforming males in reading while males outperform females in math. Regarding socio-emotional skills, kindergarten girls do better than boys in empathy, “task persistence,” and adaptability. The gap between boys and girls in socio-emotional skills widens by fifth grade. The report notes that “the social and behavioral skills gap between boys and girls is considerably larger than the gap between children from poor families and middle class families or the gap between black and white children.”

To read the report, go to <http://www.thirdway.org/publications/813>.

## Western New York Educational Service Council’s 9th Annual Awards Banquet Honors WNY United’s Tom Kulaszewski!

Each year the Western New York Educational Service Council (WNYESC) honors school personnel for outstanding achievement in their schools and communities. This year, 20 people in the categories of support staff, teaching, school administration, superintendent and Board of Education were honored.

On Wednesday, April 30, 2014 at Salvatore’s Italian Gardens in Depew, WNY United’s very own Tom Kulaszewski was honored for his amazing work on the Cleveland Hill UFSD Board of Education! Mr. Kulaszewski has served on the Board of Education for 22 years and was the sole Cleveland Hill representative to be honored at this year’s ceremony.

Tom was surrounded by his family upon receiving this award and could not be more appreciative to have been recognized for his great work - and at WNY United, we are proud to call him one of ours!



# WNY UNITED

Against Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Inc.

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## Helping Graduates Set Goals: Leadership is Key!

On Tuesday, June 24, WNY United Program Director Beth Anzalone was invited by Principal Mary Jo Conrad to deliver the Keynote Address to the eighth grade graduating class at Discovery School #67. Using this tremendous opportunity to reach out to students with a message of forward thinking, working hard and – as is always her motto – being nice, Ms. Anzalone spoke directly to the adults in the room. “It takes everyone to encourage, support, discipline and teach children today. Congratulations to... all the adults... who make a difference in the lives of children each and every day!”

Discovery School and WNY United have been partners for three years in our leadership curriculum, and every year we get the opportunity to reach hundreds of students and adults with our messages about the possibilities that lie ahead for our youth; “We have to decide what we think we can achieve and then take it one step further. ...make a plan and work the plan as we grow (and) move closer to our goals.” Beth Anzalone projects this belief every day, and our success in the future depends on so many like her.

**Who are we?** WNY United Against Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Inc. is a grass roots initiative designed to increase awareness, educate & mobilize area residents to participate actively in proven strategies to prevent substance abuse. We promote healthy choices. Funded by the New York State Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services through the Erie County Department of Mental Health. Additional funds provided by the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, the Rich Family Foundation, the John R. Oishei Foundation, the WNY United Foundation, the Erie County Youth Bureau & private contributions. Member of Px20, the Erie County Prevention Alliance.

**WNY United Digest is published tri-annually. We encourage community members to submit important dates and story ideas!**

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