



WLRN: American Graduate Media Hub for Miami

WLRN Public Radio & Television has been selected by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) to be the American Graduate public media hub station for Miami-Dade County. The American Graduate is a recently launched national initiative to help local communities find solutions to address the dropout crisis in the United States.

Three out of every 10 students in America's public schools fail to finish high school; an average of more than 7,200 students drop out each day and about 1.3 million students every year. Miami-Dade is one of the top five epicenters of the dropout crisis along with New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Clark County, NV.

CPB, in partnership with America's Promise Alliance and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, is working with WLRN to raise awareness of the dropout issue. The initiative builds on the station's long-standing commitment to education by convening conversations and strengthening partnerships with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), local businesses and community organizations to help students stay on the path to a high school diploma.

WLRN, one of 20 national media hubs, will implement awareness strategies and engagement activities in collaboration with M-DCPS staff and students, specifically targeting the district's middle school population.

On Tuesday, January 10, 2012, to kick-off the local campaign, WLRN will convene a gathering of community stakeholders from Miami-Dade's education, business and civic arenas. Miami-Dade Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho is the keynote speaker. The Miami -Dade school district's graduation rates have steadily risen over the past five years but there is more that can be done to improve the trend.

For more than four decades, public media has been committed to improving educational outcomes for our nation's most disadvantaged children. WLRN is public media for South Florida and we're giving a voice to those committed to finding solutions to the dropout crisis in America.

For more information on getting involved and becoming part of the solution, contact WLRN Project Manager Toni Gallo at 305-995-2508 or wlrnpm@gmail.com.