

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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General Colin Powell's America's Promise and Jersey City to Host Elevation through Graduation Dropout Prevention Summit Join Us. Be Part of the Solution.

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the Hudson County Superintendent and the Jersey City Public Schools will host Jersey City's *Elevation through Graduation Dropout Prevention Summit* at 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 22, 2010 at Liberty Science Center to address the dropout rate among high school students. There is no registration fee to attend the *Elevation through Graduation Dropout Prevention Summit*, which begins at 8:30 a.m. and the event includes breakfast and lunch.

The City of Jersey City has partnered with America's Promise Alliance, a national organization founded by General Colin and Mrs. Alma Powell, to launch this graduation campaign in New Jersey with the primary goal of ensuring that all young people stay in school and on pathways to success.

“Today's youth need to be surrounded by strong support systems. They need caring teachers, proper nutrition, a safe place to learn and be after school, as well as the opportunity to give back to others,” said Mayor Healy. “By uniting the community, parents, educators, business leaders and government officials to both improve and strengthen the educational system we can come up with a solution and address the high school dropout problem.”

The outreach initiative would include the process of listening, learning, and examining what needs to be done to ensure that all children stay in school and graduate. Accordingly, this summit will be an action-packed day during which participants share and discuss initial findings as well as propose a tangible set of action steps. The day's events will include guest speakers, expert panels, and opportunities for discussion.

Each break out session will be organized around **five** promises:

1. **Caring Adults:** All children need support and guidance from caring adults in their families, at schools and in their communities. These include ongoing secure relationships with parents as well as formal and informal relationships with teachers, mentors, coaches, youth volunteers and neighbors.
2. **Safe Places:** All children need to be physically and emotionally safe wherever they are — from the actual places of families, schools, neighborhoods and communities to the virtual places of media. They also need a healthy balance between structured, supervised activities and unstructured time.

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(2)

3. **A Healthy Start:** All children need and deserve healthy bodies, healthy minds and healthful habits. These result from regular health check-ups and needed treatment, good nutrition and exercise, healthy skills and knowledge, and good role models of physical and psychological health.

4. **Effective Education:** All children need the intellectual development, motivation and skills that equip them for successful work and lifelong learning. These result from having quality learning environments, challenging expectations and consistent guidance and mentoring.

5. **Opportunity to Help Others:** All children need the chance to make a difference in their families, at schools and in their communities. Knowing how to make a difference comes from having models of caring behavior, awareness of the needs of others, a sense of personal responsibility to contribute to the larger society, and opportunities for volunteering, leadership and service. Providing young people with opportunities to make a difference through service instills not only a sense of responsibility but of possibility. Young people want to be involved in making the world a better place; however, far too many lack meaningful opportunities to contribute.

The keynote address will be given by **Mr. Richard Brueckner**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of **Pershing LLC**, a BNY Mellon company.

Across a number of domestic and global offices, **Pershing, LLC** has made significant contributions from employee-sponsored fundraisers to a variety of local and national organizations including: Jersey City's York Street Project, Special Olympics, Hudson Community Enterprises, American Cancer Society, Haiti Relief Efforts, Read Across America, British Heart Foundation, Avaii Home for Orphans, and many more.

For more than 13 years, Pershing has partnered with the New Jersey Blood Services with employee contributions averaging more than 1,000 pints annually.

In 2008, the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) honored Pershing with the Sustained Leadership Award for their Schools to Work program, which provides participating high school students with access to mentors and hands-on experience in the financial services industry for more than 17 years.

America's Promise Alliance reported that nationwide approximately **1.2 million students dropout each year** – averaging 7,000 every school day or one every 26 seconds and approximately one-third (37%) of high school dropouts nationwide are steadily employed, and are more than twice as likely to live in poverty.

There are several ways to register: 1) pick up a form in City Hall - 280 Grove Street – Rm. 223; 2) download form online jerseycitynj.gov; 3) Email RHanna@jcnj.org; or 4) Call us at 201-547-5218.

General Collin Powell was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army, and was one of the 16,000 military advisors sent to South Vietnam by President John F. Kennedy in 1962. General Powell served under Presidents Nixon, Carter, Reagan, Clinton and both Presidents Bush. Under President George H.W. Bush, General Powell served as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and as Secretary of State under President George W. Bush.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///

JERSEY CITY

"Elevation through Graduation"



America's Promise Alliance

Five Promises

1. **Ongoing relationships with caring adults** – parents, mentors, tutors or coaches
A caring adult serves as a guide, a mentor and a role model for young people. This sense of connection—within and outside the family—is a powerful factor that encourages good social skills, responsible values and a positive identity. Adult role models include parents, teachers, coaches, extended family members and tutors. All across the nation, America's Promise partners are connecting caring adults to young people.

2. **Safe places** with structured activities during non-school hours
A safe place with constructive activities gives youth an alternative to street corners, gangs and other harmful environments. A safe place nurtures young people's skills and interests, enriches their academic performance and gives them opportunities to contribute to their communities. America's Promise partners are responding by creating safe havens for young people.

3. **Healthy start** and future
Children need a healthy start before they begin schooling – parental care and early immunizations are vital in a child's first years of life. Children and adolescents also need accessible and affordable healthcare, including good nutrition; eye, ear and dental checkups; and regular exercise. America's Promise partners provide accessible and affordable health services for all young people throughout development.

4. **Marketable skills through effective education**
Marketable skills enable young people to prepare for employment in the 21st century. Young people must master basic academic and analytical skills, learn workplace etiquette and know how to use new technology, such as computers and the Internet. America's Promise partners help youth develop these essential career skills.

5. **Opportunities to give back** through community service
Community service not only benefits society, it also enriches the lives of people who provide it. Young volunteers have higher self-esteem, perform better in school, build leadership skills and learn how to solve community problems. Unfortunately, many youth are rarely asked to participate in community service – even though most volunteer when asked. America's Promise partners are providing numerous opportunities for youth to help their communities.

JERSEY CITY

"Elevation through Graduation"



PROGRAM

EMCEE

Deputy Mayor Rosemary McFadden

FLAG SALUTE & NATIONAL ANTHEM

DHS Air Force JrROTC

Jamel Thomas, DHS Freshman- JC Arts High Program

WELCOME

Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy

VIDEO PRESENTATION - *"Did You Know"*

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Mr. Richard Brueckner, Chief Executive Officer
Pershing, LLC

"What You Mean to Education"

Ms. Catherine Inoa, Student, Ferris High School

"Effective Education"

Mr. Franklin Walker, Associate Superintendent
Jersey City Public Schools

REMARKS

Dr. Tim Brennan, Acting Executive County Superintendent
Hudson County

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

CLOSING

Dr. Charles T. Epps, Jr., Superintendent
Jersey City Public Schools

LUNCH



Breakout Sessions

“Caring Adults”

Mr. Carlos Lejnieks, President and CEO

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties

Ms. Elnora Watson, President & CEO

Urban League of Hudson County, Inc.

“Safe Places”

Ms. Marli Vogel Gelfand, Director

*Department of Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services
Jersey City Medical Center*

PO Colin Congleton

Jersey City Police Activity League

Mr. Frank Gargiulo, Superintendent

Hudson County Schools of Technology

“A Healthy Start”

Mrs. Maureen Healy, R.N.

PS # 12, Jersey City Public Schools

Ms. Linda Ivory Green, Health Educator

Jersey City Department of Health & Human Services

Ms. Susan Solleder, Director, Food Service

Jersey City Public Schools

“Opportunities to Help Others”

Ms. Alfa Demmellash, Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer

Rising Tide Capital

Ms. Monica Tone, Education Specialist

New Jersey Department of Education

Honorable Judge Cynthia Jackson

Jersey City Municipal Court