COMMUNITY WATCH

Speakers on Education, Family & Societal Issues

APBSPEAKERS.COM
617.614.1600
JOHN QUIÑONES
Host, *What Would You Do?*

An Emmy winner and ABC’s first Latino anchor, Quiñones grew up as a child of migrant workers. He is the embodiment of the transformative power of education.

GRACE BYERS
Actress on Hit TV Show, *Empire*

Born in the Caymans and raised by two deaf parents, Byers lends insights into challenging social and cultural experiences, encouraging us all to have compassion and grace for each other.

WES MOORE
CEO, The Robin Hood Foundation

Author of *The Other Wes Moore* and *The Work*, Moore reminds us that potential is universal, but opportunity is not. He founded BridgeEdu to enable success for all students.

MAYIM BIALIK
Neuroscientist & Actress

Best known for her roles on *The Big Bang Theory* and *Blossom*, PhD-holder and neuroscience curriculum designer Bialik makes learning science cool and exciting.

DAYMOND JOHN
FUBU Founder & *Shark Tank* Investor

Self-made branding visionary John inspires with the life lessons he’s learned and encourages others to embrace diversity and cultivate creativity.

SUSAN L. TAYLOR
CEO, National CARES Mentoring Movement

The former editor-in-chief of *Essence*, Taylor is dedicated to breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty by recruiting mentors for at-risk youth.
**STEVE WOZNIAK**
Co-Founder of Apple

A Silicon Valley icon, Wozniak has always been passionate about technology. He reminds us that a love of learning, when fostered, can lead to great things.

**BLAIR UNDERWOOD**
Actor, Activist & Philanthropist

An NAACP and Grammy Award winner, Underwood shares insights on how education influenced his life and career. He motivates each of us to take control in shaping our own future.

**RICK STEVES**
International Travel Expert

An outspoken voice on the need for Americans to explore other cultures, Steves show us how to live a more enhanced life by broadening our perspectives.

**JAMIE LEE CURTIS**
Award-Winning Actress & Author

The author of several best-selling children’s books, Curtis is an advocate for all children as she inspires with key life lessons and experiences.

**HUGH EVANS**
Founder, Global Citizen

Evans’ personal mission to end poverty has mobilized millions. As founder of the annual Global Citizen Festival, a concert series to reward those who have made contributions to their communities, Evans inspires and motivates with his passion and purpose.

**SAMANTHA HARRIS**
Entertainment Journalist

The former host of Dancing with the Stars, Harris is also a cancer survivor who founded GottaMakeLemonade.com. She energizes communities to choose positivity in the face of adversity.
SPEAKERS WHO DRAW A CROWD

TRACEE ELLIS ROSS
Actress & Youth Volunteer
Ross is an NAACP Image Award-winning actress who has starred in such hits as Girlfriends and Black-ish. A passionate motivator, she inspires us to try new things in life.

NICK CANNON
Actor, Entrepreneur & Philanthropist
A multifaceted entertainer, Cannon founded the Nick Cannon Foundation, Inc. to empower underserved youth through entrepreneurship education and workforce development.

TINA BROWN
World-Renowned Editor
The former editor of Vanity Fair and The New Yorker and founder of DailyBeast.com, Brown is a news media pioneer. As the visionary behind Women in the World, she shares compelling insights on everything from the global status of women to the power of reinvention.

LEVAR BURTON
Actor & Literacy Advocate
Famed Reading Rainbow host Burton founded LeVar Burton Kids, an organization dedicated to igniting a child’s curiosity. Through video field trips, interactive story times and the “Skybrary,” he helps kids connect with the world around them.

DIANE GUERRERO
Actress, Orange is the New Black
At age 14, Guerrero watched her family be deported. She shares the incredible story of how she was able to remain in the US, continue her education, and build a successful career.

BRAD MELTZER
Best-Selling Author
A literary sensation for his gripping spy novels and heroic children’s books, Meltzer inspires with a discussion on how we can truly live up to our potential in life.
SPEAKERS WHO DRAW A CROWD

**TEMPLE GRANDIN**  
Autism Activist  
The most accomplished adult with autism in the world, Grandin reminds us that all children can be taught. She inspired the HBO film, *Temple Grandin*, which documents her fascinating life.

**ROB LOWE**  
Actor & Activist  
A remarkable actor, Lowe enthralls audiences with his life-affirming stories of addiction and recovery in a charming and engaging keynote.

**DEBORAH NORVILLE**  
Emmy-Winning Journalist  
The anchor of *Inside Edition* and a best-selling author, Norville is a sought-after motivator who examines the connection between gratitude and happiness in life.

**KEVIN O’LEARY**  
*Shark Tank* Investor & Entrepreneur  
When he purchased The Learning Company in one of his earliest business deals, O’Leary knew educational computer games would forever change the classroom. He discusses how technology continues to enhance learning at all ages.

**STEVEN MICHAEL QUEZADA**  
Actor, Activist & Humanitarian  
An actor on the Emmy-winning series *Breaking Bad*, Quezada is also a youth and community activist and former member of the Albuquerque School Board.

**LEEZA GIBBONS**  
Emmy-Winning Journalist & Author  
A renowned entertainment news icon and winner of *The Celebrity Apprentice*, Gibbons is also an activist and motivator who empowers people to get the most out of life.
KEN JENNINGS
All-Time Jeopardy! Champ

Ken Jennings, the top TV game show winner in the world, entertains audiences with his signature wit and insights into everything from myths to maps.

JANE SEYMOUR
Actress & Children’s Activist

An award-winning actress, entrepreneur and global philanthropist, Jane Seymour empowers audiences to find the opportunities in the challenges we face.

JOHN RATZENBERGER
Actor & Vocational Education Activist

Best known as “Cliff” from Cheers, John Ratzenberger has done voiceovers on such popular films as Inside Out and Finding Dory. His foundation, Nuts, Bolts and Thingamajigs, trains students for vocational careers.

ROBERT SAFIAN
Head of Fast Company

An award-winning editor, Robert Safian showcases how individuals and schools can thrive by applying innovative thinking and creative leadership strategies from corporate models.

JUDGE GLENGA HATCHETT
Star of TV’s Judge Hatchett

A former juvenile court judge and author of Dare to Take Charge, Judge Hatchett helps children and their families overcome adversity.

SARAH PALIN
Former Governor of Alaska

A former presidential candidate and passionate voice on children and family, Sarah Palin offers insightful observations about the issues impacting our kids’ futures.
DIANE RAVITCH
Former Assistant Secretary of Education

Known as the nation’s leading champion for public education, Ravitch writes on the danger of privatizing public schools. Her widely read blog boasts hits upward of 35 million.

CHRISTOPHER EMDIN
Professor of Science, Columbia

Urban education reform expert Emdin opens our eyes to the magic of teaching. Reminding us that students enter the classroom from different walks of life, he shares creative methods for engaging all youth.

YONG ZHAO
Globalization & Education Expert

Zhao focuses on integrating Eastern and Western educational best practices. He explores education in our global age and encourages us to think of students as entrepreneurs.

NIKHIL GOYAL
Journalist & Activist

The author of "Schools on Trial," Goyal explores how to create a better educational future by abandoning the “teach-to-test” method and embracing environments that promote creativity.

SALOME THOMAS-EL
Author, Teacher & Principal

Thomas-El uses chess to foster critical thinking in students. He shares how schools can become more student-centric through collaboration between teachers, administrators and parents.

PASI SAHLBERG
Expert on Finnish Education

An author and educator, Sahlberg touts creativity in lieu of standardization and teaches how to apply Finnish lessons to America’s schools.
JEFFREY SELINGO
Higher Education Thought Leader

A best-selling author, Selingo shares valuable insights into how to get the most out of your education experience today so you are best prepared for the jobs of tomorrow.

MILTON CHEN
Educational Strategist

Chen is the former Executive Director of the George Lucas Education Foundation, which drives Edutopia.com. He illustrates the best practices for using technology in every classroom.

WILLIAM DERESIEWICZ
Professor & Award-Winning Essayist

Deresiewicz presents groundbreaking insight into the power of a liberal arts education and the role schools will play in shaping our future.

ALAN BLANKSTEIN
President, HOPE Foundation

An award-winning educational leader who was once a “high-risk” youth, Blankstein draws from field-tested approaches and years of working alongside Pedro Noguera to help improve schools and communities.

DONNA PORTER & DJ BATISTE
Inspirational Teacher-Student Duo

Award-winning educator Porter single-handedly changed the course of DJ Batiste’s life when she transformed him from former gang member to head of the class. She shares tips and tools for reaching all students.

RAFE ESQUITh
Acclaimed Teacher & Author

An award-winning educator, Esquith draws from decades of experience as he offers advice on how educators can stay motivated and cultivate enthusiasm for teaching and learning.
EDUCATION

IAN JUKES
Educator & Tech Expert

A passionate education evangelist and author, Jukes offers strategies to align technology and education to enhance classroom outcomes and ensure 21st-century fluency.

JAWANZA KUNJUFU
Education Consultant & Best-Selling Author

A sought-after consultant by urban school districts, Kunjufu urges educators to “address the whole child” and welcome their culture into schools instead of forcing students to adapt and conform.

RUBY PAYNE
Founder, aha! Process

Internationally known for her book and workshop, A Framework for Understanding Poverty, Payne helps students and adults of all economic backgrounds achieve success.

ERIC SHENINGER
International Center for Leadership in Education

A pioneer in digital learning, Sheninger assists school leaders nationwide in embracing and effectively utilizing technology through his Pillars of Digital Leadership framework.

DEBBIE SILVER
Teacher, Author & Humorist

Having been a teacher, staff development instructor and professor, Silver has witnessed firsthand the challenges educators face at every level. She offers researched-based strategies to recharge schools.

TONY WAGNER
Professor & Education Expert

Examining the disconnect between our education system and the demands of today’s economy, Wagner challenges the emphasis placed on academic achievement versus developing engaged citizens.

APBSPEAKERS.COM // 617.614.1600 // PAGE 10
ERIN GRUWELL
Teacher, Catalyst & Author

Freedom Writers author Gruwell teaches educators how to incorporate the lessons she gleaned in her classroom, using journals and the power of storytelling to enhance learning.

PHILLIP DONE
Elementary School Teacher & Author

A veteran third grade teacher, Done understands how kids think and learn. He imparts wisdom as he shares everyday adventures and milestones from the classroom.

STEPHEN RITZ
Urban Gardener & Green Educator

An innovative educator, Ritz earned global attention when he started growing food on the roof of his South Bronx school. He reminds us that every day holds an opportunity to do something great.

MICHAEL FULLAN
Worldwide Authority on Education Reform

An award-winning author and global authority on education systems, Fullan works tirelessly with educators to put 21st-century education in reach of all children.

ALAN NOVEMBER
International Leader in Education Technology

Known for pushing the boundaries on how to improve teaching and learning, November brings his signature humor and wit as he helps schools integrate technology into their environments.

DOUG REEVES
Education Expert on School Reform

Noted reformer and founder of Creative Leadership Solutions, Reeves takes a big picture approach as he offers solutions to improve student achievement and transform schools.
JOHN MEDINA
Author, Brain Rules

A developmental molecular biologist, Medina turns brain research and how the brain interprets information into captivating talks and effective education strategies for children and teens.

MICHIO KAKU
Esteemed Theoretical Physicist

One of the most widely recognized figures in science, string field theory co-founder Kaku captivates audiences with his unique way of relating physics to daily life.

DAVID EPSTEIN
Best-Selling Author

The author of The Sports Gene, Epstein discusses how brain sports science can be applied both in the classroom and on the field. He shares useful tools for educators and parents.

GOLDIE HAWN
Actress & Mindfulness Advocate

Dedicated to creating a world where children thrive, Hawn’s foundation developed the acclaimed MindUP teaching model to bring mindfulness into the classroom and enhance learning.

MARILYN TAM
International Business Leader

Having grown up abused in Hong Kong, Tam bravely left home to come to America. Now an incredibly successful businesswoman, she teaches us how to break down barriers to find happiness and balance in life.

DAVID SOUSA
Brain Scientist & Author

International neuroscientist, educational consultant, and author, Sousa translates brain research into easy-to-understand analysis on how the brain learns best.
STEAM

STEVEN HARRIS
Director of Jazz Arts at Manhattan School of Music

Heralded as “one of the most important artists in jazz,” Harris is a thought leader who uses jazz as a metaphor to offer valuable insights into leadership development and team empowerment.

GLEN KEANE
Disney Animator, Author & Illustrator

The creator of such characters as “Tarzan” and “Ariel,” Keane literally brings drawings to animated “life” in his presentations. He urges us to enhance STEAM principles to push the boundaries.

DAVID POGUE
Tech Guru

The former host of NOVA ScienceNOW, author of the Missing Manual series and columnist for Scientific American, Pogue delivers entertaining talks about the impact of science and technology on society.

BILL NYE
The Science Guy

Nye makes science and technology entertaining and accessible to all generations. Exuding a childlike wonder, he customizes presentations to explore complex science in a fun way.

TALITHIA WILLIAMS
STEAM Education Advocate

A professor, mathematician and statistician, Williams opens our eyes to the role everyday data can play in our lives. Sharing new ways of looking at numbers, she inspires students to embrace STEAM subjects.

ALLISON SCHROEDER
Oscar Nominated Screenwriter

The screenwriter for Hidden Figures, Schroeder drew from experience working at NASA and studies in mathematics to write the script. She shares impactful stories that inspire people to see things differently and get involved.
GINA MCCARTHY
President Obama’s EPA Administrator

An advocate for common sense strategies to protect public health and the environment, McCarthy helps us understand the challenges and opportunities that face our planet—and what we can do to make a difference.

JASON LATIMER
Renowned Illusionist

Inspired by STEAM, Latimer uses scientific principles as he performs jaw-dropping illusions to demonstrate the magic of science. He currently hosts Comic Con HQ’s original series, Impossible Science.

SYLVESTER JAMES GATES
Pioneering String Theory Physicist

A Brown University professor and researcher known for his groundbreaking contributions to the world of physics, Gates explains complex theories in a fun, accessible way.

GUION BLUFORD
First African American Astronaut

Bluford has logged over 688 hours in space on four space shuttle missions. Now president of the Aerospace Technology Group, he opens our eyes to exciting career opportunities in science and engineering.

STEVEN SQUYRES
Mars Rover Project Leader

Cornell professor Squyres made history as the leader of NASA’s pioneering robotic drive across Mars. His charismatic presentations include actual Rover footage.

B. GENTRY LEE
NASA Chief Engineer

A renowned sci-fi writer who coproduced the Cosmos series, Lee is responsible for the engineering integrity of all the robotic planetary missions managed by NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory.
SONIA MANZANO
Best-Selling Author & Actress
Known for her iconic role as “Maria” on Sesame Street, Manzano speaks on literacy and how the show has impacted three generations of families.

ELLEN GALINSKY
Expert on Work-Family Issues
Having spent her career supporting children and families, Galinsky is often asked to speak on the skills we need to teach children to help them reach their full potential.

SUSAN B. NEUMAN
Former Assistant Secretary of Education
Educator Neuman writes about early childhood literacy and the impact of poverty on learning. She helps school districts work to close the achievement gap.

KELLY CORRIGAN
Best-Selling Author & Reading Advocate
A fierce literacy advocate who urges us to find meaning in the lives we are living, Corrigan expands on the positive habits we can develop and the lessons we can learn when we live in the moment.

MARC BROWN
Creator of “Arthur”
Author-illustrator of the treasured Arthur series, Brown has influenced children and learning for over 30 years. He speaks to the importance of literacy, education, and fostering creativity.

NANCY SILBERKLEIT
Co-CEO, Archie Comic Publications
A believer that a comic book, as a graphic novel, is a valuable tool for first-time readers, Silberkleit teaches us how we can develop literacy while simultaneously instilling a love of reading.
A pioneer in understanding today’s youth, Wiseman explains how we can create better experiences for young people by cultivating cultures of dignity in our schools and communities.

Lahey inspires with her rallying cry to allow children to experience failure as an integral part of becoming resilient adults. She shares strategies to help us reframe setbacks as steps toward success.

The founder of Raising Digital Natives, Heitner helps schools cultivate a culture of responsible digital citizenship. Her curriculum, Connecting Wisely, is used nationwide.

Exploring the intersection of gender, culture, and development, Simmons examines what it takes for young women to thrive. She offers strategies to become more assertive, authentic, and self-aware.

Drawing on research showing today’s selfie-obsessed teens are 40% less empathetic than a generation ago, Borba presents a new framework for activating empathy to succeed in school and life.

Naumburg introduces us to the benefits of practicing mindfulness as we combat the everyday stresses of parenting. Sharing proven strategies, she equips parents to become more effective and fun in child-rearing.
PARENTING

MICHAEL THOMPSON
Child Psychologist

International child, parenting, and school culture expert Thompson reveals the social and emotional journey children take through their school years.

JENNIFER SENIOR
Best-Selling Author & NYT Book Reviewer

Combining academic research, empathy and wit, Senior examines subjects as varied as burnout, IQ testing in kids, loneliness in adults and the influence of the high school years.

KYLE PRUETT
Expert on Child Development

Widely considered a parenting visionary, Dr. Pruett draws from decades of research to provide parents the tools for understanding, nurturing and enjoying a child’s early development.

JODI BONDI NORGAARD
Founder of Go! Go! Sports Girls Dolls & Books

Determined to push media and retail toward a more accurate portrayal of girls—and change the dynamic of play from dress-up to sports fantasy—Norgaard launched a line of dolls built to replicate the dimensions of a real girl’s body.

CHRISTINE CARTER
Author & Happiness Expert

In her books, Carter offers science-based advice, tips and strategies to cultivate emotional intelligence and ensure happiness throughout life, from childhood to the workplace.

ROBYN SILVERMAN
Youth Advocate

Silverman educates audiences with her empowering approach that focuses on developing a child’s natural assets, rather than focusing on their deficits. She integrates brain science with research on grit and resiliency to help boost self-esteem in kids.
GLORIA BORGER
CNN Political Analyst
With a knack for getting behind the headlines, Borger explains how Washington works and helps audiences make sense of what’s going on in Congress and what it means for the future.

PETER BAKER
White House Correspondent
Having covered some of the most dramatic political issues and scandals in American history, Baker lends his unique perspective on government, leadership and justice.

JOHN KING
CNN Chief National Correspondent
An award-winning journalist, King draws from decades of experience to offer in-depth analysis and commentary on politics, world affairs, social issues and media trends.

ROLAND MARTIN
Host, News One Now
A nationally syndicated columnist and widely read author, Martin is a passionate and sought-after voice on issues of race, education and community involvement.

CLAUDIO SANCHEZ
Education Correspondent, NPR
Former elementary and middle school teacher Sanchez shares a valuable perspective as he examines the “three P’s” of education reform: politics, policy, and pedagogy.

TRACY MARTIN & SYBRINA FULTON
Parents of Trayvon Martin
After the death of their son made national headlines, these parents became dedicated to transforming family tragedy into social change. They continue to advocate for racial justice through the Trayvon Martin Foundation.
IN THE NEWS

MARTHA RADDATZ
ABC News Chief Global Affairs Correspondent

The co-anchor of This Week with George Stephanopoulos, Raddatz is known for her informative, no-nonsense reporting style on everything from politics to national security.

RALPH NADER
Consumer Advocate

Called “the country’s conscience,” Nader discusses current events with a unique understanding of how corporate and political decision-makers impact the lives of citizens.

NICHOLAS KRISTOF & SHERYL WUDUNN
Pulitzer Prize Winners

Human rights advocates and NYT journalists Kristof and WuDunn present compelling stories about global oppression and offer insights into how we can change the world.

ERIC LIU
Author, Educator & Civic Entrepreneur

A former White House speechwriter for President Clinton and founder and CEO of Citizen University, Liu covers topics ranging from identity and citizenship to mentoring, education and creativity.

CORNEL WEST
Provocative Public Intellectual

Passionate about cultivating critical thinking, Dr. West plays an integral role in shaping U.S. education policy. He lends guidance on how to create learning that’s accessible and impactful.

JIM AVILA
ABC News & White House Correspondent

An award-winning journalist, Avila reflects on current events and shares a valuable perspective on how national issues affect us all.
IN THE NEWS

CATHERINE RAMPELL
Opinion Columnist at The Washington Post

One of America’s youngest syndicated columnists, Rampell covers economics, public policy, politics and culture. With humor and insight, she sparks dialogue and leads audiences at polar ends of the spectrum to common ground.

DAN RATHER
Legendary Broadcaster

Rather remains more relevant than ever as a widely followed and active voice on social media. Founder of the multimedia production company, News and Guts, he draws from years of global experience to bring a patriot’s perspective to current events.

JUAN WILLIAMS
Award-Winning Journalist

Known for his objectivity, Williams speaks from the frontlines of American communities and brings fresh insights to top social and political issues in the news.

JOHN ZOGBY
Seasoned & Successful Forecaster

Hailed a “maverick predictor,” Zogby is a skilled pollster and trends spotter who predicts how demographics and public opinion will affect communities and education.

MARIA HINOJOSA
Emmy-Winning Journalist

A trailblazer in news and investigative reporting, Hinojosa shares with audiences stories about America’s ever-changing cultural landscape.

TAMARA KEITH
NPR White House Correspondent

Co-host of the NPR Politics Podcast, Keith brings audiences along one of the most interesting beats in news coverage as she shares analysis and insight into President Trump, Congress and the inner-workings of Washington politics.
LEADERS WITH LESSONS

LINDA ALVARADO
Entrepreneur & Education Advocate
A personification of the American dream, Alvarado overcame a childhood marked by poverty to earn an academic scholarship, start her own construction company and become the first Hispanic owner of a MLB franchise.

ALBERTO CARVALHO
Expert on Education Transformation
The Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Carvalho is credited with successfully turning his district around and elevating it to one of the nation’s highest-performing urban school systems.

JONATHAN KOZOL
Educator & Social Justice Advocate
A former inner city teacher, Kozol is a passionate public education activist. He confronts the mania of high-stakes tests, the privatization of public schools and the inequalities of urban schools.

TIM URBAN
Creator of Wait But Why Blog
One of the Internet’s most popular bloggers and writers, Urban combines depth with humor to prove that complex long form thinking can captivate our short attention span world.

MICHAEL ERIC DYSON
Public Intellectual & Best-Selling Author
A two-time NAACP Image Award winner and American Book Award recipient, Dyson melds scholarly insight with contemporary culture as he examines controversial issues of the day.

ANAT BARON
Business Leader & Entrepreneur
An entrepreneur and brand builder, Baron is an innovative leader known for her ability to problem solve and strategize. She guides organizations in embracing change and overcoming obstacles.
LEADERS WITH LESSONS

GREGORY BOYLE
CEO of Homeboy Industries

Creator of the largest gang intervention, rehab and re-entry program in Los Angeles County, Father Boyle provides opportunities for reformed urban youth.

TAWAKKOL KARMAN
Nobel Laureate & Human Rights Activist

A passionate education advocate and supporter of peaceful resistance, Karman is credited with creating groundbreaking political, social, educational and cultural change in Yemen.

CLAUDE STEELE
Social Psychologist & Stereotype Expert

Known for his groundbreaking research on stereotypes and identity, Steele offers a fascinating examination of how we limit a child’s potential by setting low expectations.

LEE PELTON
President of Emerson College

A passionate, inspirational voice on the value of a liberal education, Pelton enforces the importance of leadership development, civic engagement and diversity in higher education.

MARY FRANCES BERRY
Former Chair, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

A law professor and civil rights historian, Berry is known for helping end apartheid. She continues to educate, transform and inspire with her vision for social reform and equality.

RICHARD CARMONA
17th U.S. Surgeon General

Homeless in his childhood and a high school dropout, Carmona ultimately became U.S. Surgeon General. He speaks on the infinite potential of the human spirit and the importance of education.

APBSPEAKERS.COM // 617.614.1600 // PAGE 22
LEADERS WITH LESSONS

GEOFFREY CANADA  
Child & Community Advocate  
As the founder of Harlem Children's Zone, Canada has dedicated his life to addressing the needs of at-risk children and families, and improving education inequities.

MARY ROBINSON  
Former President, Ireland  
President of the Mary Robinson Foundation—Climate Justice, Robinson is a vocal advocate for leadership and education. Known for challenging the status quo, she sparks conversation and motivates change.

JOHN B. KING  
President Obama's Secretary of Education  
As a child, King was transformed by education. As an adult, he is transforming education. An inspiring leader who has witnessed the influence of teaching and learning at all levels, he offers a big picture look at education and opportunity.

BAKARI SELLERS  
CNN Political Analyst, Lawyer & Activist  
A public servant who believes education is one of the cornerstones of our nation’s future, Sellers is tireless in championing the power of teaching and learning.

JOHNNETTA COLE  
President Emerita, Bennett & Spelman Colleges  
Cole draws from her experiences as an educator and humanitarian to lend a unique perspective to such critical issues as race, gender, and all other forms of inequality.

FREEMAN HRABOWSKI  
President of UMBC  
A renowned educator whose passion for STEAM has transformed his campus, Hrabowski partners with businesses and the community to foster skills, ensuring graduates are employable.
**STORIES THAT CHANGE LIVES**

**STEVE PEMBERTON**  
Inspirational Child Advocate

In *A Chance in the World* (a 2018 film), Pemberton chronicles his journey from a neglectful foster home to becoming a Chief Diversity Officer. He reminds us all that we can make a difference in life.

**RON SUSKIND**  
Pulitzer Prize Winner & Education Advocate

A passionate champion of the disenfranchised, Suskind inspires with his incredible story of how his son, Owen, who has autism, emerged from the shadows of the spectrum to become a thriving young adult.

**ALFREDO QUIÑONES-HINOJOSA**  
Renowned Neurosurgeon

Known around the globe as “Dr. Q,” Quiñones-Hinojosa went from migrant worker to Head of Brain Tumor Surgery at Johns Hopkins. His remarkable story is being developed into a movie by Disney.

**TIM SHRIVER**  
Chairman, Special Olympics

Passionate about promoting the gifts of the marginalized, Shriver has helped drive exciting new Special Olympics programs in athlete leadership, health, education, and family support.

**JEFF BAUMAN**  
Boston Marathon Bombing Survivor

After losing both legs on that tragic Boston day, Bauman persevered in the face of insurmountable challenges. His journey towards recovery is detailed in his book *Stronger* and the 2017 movie of the same title.

**TERERAI TRENT**  
Educator & Oprah’s Favorite Guest

From humble beginnings in Zimbabwe to countless appearances on Oprah, Dr. Trent believes in education as the path out of poverty. She and Oprah have partnered to open schools in Africa.
ANNE GEDDES
Renowned Infant Photographer

Geddes, whose iconic work is beloved worldwide, is driven by her deeply held belief that children must be protected, nurtured and loved.

ERNIE HUDSON
Actor & Activist

The star of such hits as Ghostbusters, Law and Order, and Fox’s recent series, APB, Hudson shares life lessons on fatherhood, overcoming adversity and following your dreams.

MEL ROBBINS
CNN Commentator & Creator, Five Second Rule

The woman behind one of the most popular TEDx talks in the world, Robbins challenges us to use cognitive shortcuts to remove the negative thoughts that hold us back in life and work.

JACK ANDRAKA
Teen Prodigy, Inventor & Scientist

At age 15, Andraka created a novel paper sensor that detects pancreatic, ovarian and lung cancer in five minutes for as little as three cents. He champions STEAM and universal Internet access.

STACEY BESS
Teacher & Author

Subject of the movie Beyond the Blackboard, which chronicles her years teaching a K-12 class in a homeless shelter, Bess shares heartfelt stories about the lessons students can teach us.

RYE BARCOTT
Entrepreneur & Veteran

After witnessing extreme poverty in Nairobi’s Kibera slums, Barcott created Carolina for Kibera, a collaborative NGO. He advocates giving communities what they need to solve their own problems.
CHRIS GARDNER
Inspiration, *The Pursuit of Happyness*

An entrepreneur and single parent, Gardner penned the autobiography, *The Pursuit of Happyness*, which inspired the hit film of the same name. He works to help others reach their full potential.

CONSUELO CASTILLO KICKBUSCH
Army Lieutenant Colonel

A staunch advocate for education, Kickbusch overcame poverty, discrimination and illiteracy to become the highest ranking Hispanic woman in the Combat Support field.

JAMES MCBRIDE
National Book Award Winner

An acclaimed author and award-winning jazz musician, McBride unites story with song to create an entertaining program that explores life’s rich lessons.

LEE WOODRUFF
Author & Media Contributor

Known for her down-to-earth, compassionate style, Woodruff tackles the universal topics of life—including family, friends and marriage—with heart and humor.

ROBERT TOWNSEND
Actor & Former CEO, Black Family Channel

Townsend takes audiences on a hilarious ride through his failures and triumphs. From growing up on Chicago’s rough West Side to becoming a performer, he shares the life lessons that changed him forever.

HOLLY ROBINSON PEETE
Actress & Autism Advocate

A successful actress, author and philanthropist, Peete inspires with her incredible story of raising a child with autism. She founded the HollyRod foundation to help people facing difficult life circumstances.
STORIES THAT CHANGE LIVES

CLEVE JONES
Activist & Creator of AIDS Quilt

Once a trailblazer with Harvey Milk, Jones continues to pioneer efforts in human rights and AIDS awareness with the same passion he started with in the turbulent 70s.

JONATHAN MOONEY
Learning Disabilities Advocate

Why worry about drawing outside the lines, when the lines can be redrawn? Mooney advises teachers and mentors on how to educate and relate to youth with disabilities.

KEVIN POWELL
Author, Journalist & Activist

Powell shares his extraordinary life journey from extreme childhood poverty to becoming one of today’s most acclaimed political, cultural and hip-hop voices.

BILLY MILLS
Olympic Gold Medalist & Motivator

A Lakota Sioux raised in one of the poorest communities in America, Mills was orphaned and faced discrimination most of his childhood until a running scholarship to the University of Kansas changed his life.

TERRENCE ROBERTS
One of the “Little Rock Nine”

Among the first to integrate the Little Rock Public Schools, Roberts shares valuable life lessons as he challenges us to continue to build inclusive, tolerant communities.

MYRON ROLLE
Pro Football Player & Rhodes Scholar

A gifted athlete, scholar and philanthropist, Rolle inspires with a message about the value of integrity and how to live an enriched life by continuing to seek new opportunities.
Chris Herren
Former NBA Player

Herren realized his dream of playing for the Boston Celtics only to lose it all to addiction. He shares his life-affirming experiences in *Basketball Junkie* and the ESPN 30 for 30 documentary, *Unguarded*.

Tony Hoffman
Former BMX Pro & Recovering Addict

After a downward spiral of addiction almost cost Hoffman his career and life, he founded the Freewheel Project, a non-profit BMX racing organization devoted to educating youth on the importance of leading drug-free lives.

Ryan Leaf
Former NFL Star & Behavioral Health Advocate

The second pick in the 1998 NFL draft, Leaf was on the track to stardom until he developed a substance abuse disorder. He is now an impassioned advocate for those struggling with mental health and addiction issues.

Sampson Davis
Physician & Inspirational Leader

Surrounded by crime, drugs and poverty while growing up, Davis harnessed the power of education to emerge as a successful physician. He offers preventative guidance to support healthy communities.

Angel Colon
Pulse Nightclub Survivor & Motivator

A survivor of the Pulse Nightclub attack, Colon shares a compelling story of resilience. He advocates for embracing diversity, respecting differences and rising above in times of trouble.

Herman Boone
Remember the Titans Inspiration

The true-life inspiration behind the award-winning film, Boone shows audiences how utilizing teamwork, respect and understanding can surmount any obstacle.
HELPING & HEALING COMMUNITIES

CHERYL BROWN HENDERSON
Civil Rights Activist & Educational Consultant

One of the children involved in the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision, Henderson remains committed to civic leadership and promoting diversity.

ANTWONE FISHER
Best-Selling Author & Screenwriter

Born in prison to a teenage mother, Fisher suffered 12 years of abuse at the hands of his foster family. His memoir, Finding Fish, inspired the feature film Antwone Fisher.

JEFF DUNCAN-ANDRADE
Co-Founder of the Teaching Excellence Network

An acclaimed classroom teacher in East Oakland for over two decades, Duncan-Andrade is known for his unique pedagogy that guides students toward uncommon levels of social and academic success.

LONISE BIAS
Community Development Advocate

After losing both sons—Jay Bias and basketball star Len Bias—to drugs and violence, Dr. Bias made it her life’s work to inspire others with a message of hope and perseverance.

BRENDA COMBS
Inspirational Social Activist

From being homeless and living for 10 years under a bridge to becoming a respected teacher, Dr. Combs is living proof that one can overcome great adversity and change the course of his or her life.

ANGELA DAVIS
Feminist & Writer

For decades, Davis has been deeply involved in movements for social justice around the world. Her work as an educator emphasizes the importance of fighting for economic, racial and gender justice.
ERNEST GREEN
One of the “Little Rock Nine”

Green made history as one of the nine students to desegregate education. Sharing his incredible story, he offers valuable insights into race and education in our country.

MICHAEL PATRICK MACDONALD
NYT Best-Selling Author & Activist

Author of All Souls and Easter Rising, MacDonald shares stories of his tumultuous upbringing while examining the relationship between poverty and class that he witnessed growing up in South Boston.

WIL HAYGOOD
Author of The Butler & Showdown

A Washington Post reporter who wrote the true story that inspired the movie The Butler, Haygood passionately discusses the role education played in his life and the leaders who inspired him along the way.

SHANE SALTER
Child Advocate

Salter went from being a foster child and teen dad to becoming one of today’s leading child advocates. He devotes his energies to neglected children through The Shane Salter for Kids Foundation.

SCOTT POLAND
Expert on School Crisis, Suicide & Bullying

Widely considered a pioneer in school suicide prevention, Poland helps schools develop and implement effective assessment and intervention strategies.

JENNIFER NEWSOM
Documentary Filmmaker

The brilliant filmmaker behind Miss Representation and The Mask You Live In, Newsom forces us to question the power of media in influencing our self-image.
FACING ADVERSITY, EMBRACING ABILITY

DR. JENNIFER ARNOLD
Neonatologist & Cancer Survivor

Featured on TLC’s hit docudrama, The Little Couple, Dr. Arnold is a champion for healthcare simulation education and motivates others to overcome obstacles.

MARIO ARNAUZ BONDS
Motivator & Singer/Songwriter

Before he was an author and star on NBC’s Glee Project, Bonds was a child beset by blindness and abuse. Now, he demonstrates what it truly means to overcome adversity.

TIM SHRIVER
Chairman, Special Olympics

Passionate about promoting the gifts of the marginalized, Shriver has helped drive exciting new Special Olympics programs in athlete leadership, health, education, and family support.

JOSH GEORGE
Paralympian

After miraculously surviving a fall from his 12th-story bedroom at the age of four, George went on to become the best wheelchair athlete in the world. Sharing his inspiring journey, he energizes and empowers audiences with his “can do” attitude.

CHRISTINE HA
Blind Chef & Winner, MasterChef

Ha may have lost her sense of sight, but not her sense of self. She swapped finance for food with phenomenal success, and now keynotes on overcoming adversity.

PATRICK “BLAKE” LEEPER
The American Bladerunner

Despite being born without lower legs, Leeper pursued his dream of being an Olympian. Now, he inspires others with his credo: “the only disability is a bad attitude.”
FACING ADVERSITY, EMBRACING ABILITY

NICK VUJICIC
CEO, Life Without Limbs
Born without arms and legs, Vujicic shares his story of a full life. He speaks of purpose, love, and hope, and teaches that anything is possible with faith in oneself.

JONATHAN KAUFMAN
Professor, Motivator & Consultant
A pioneer in the diversity and disability arena, Kaufman—who was born with cerebral palsy—shares innovative approaches to leadership, change management, and more.

JONATHAN MOONEY
Learning Disabilities Advocate
Why worry about drawing outside the lines, when the lines can be redrawn? Mooney advises teachers and mentors on how to educate and relate to youth with disabilities.

GREG GADSON
Decorated Army Commander
After an attack in Iraq cost Col. Gadson both legs, he remained on active duty in the Army. Star of the film Battleship, he inspires with a message of courage, perseverance and teamwork.

HEATHER ABBOTT
Boston Marathon Bombing Survivor
Abbott’s life changed forever when she was struck by bomb shrapnel and lost her left leg. She captivates audiences with her compelling story of pain, anger, optimism and resilience.

PAUL DAUGHERTY
Journalist & Social Activist
Determined to help daughter Jillian, who was born with Down syndrome, define herself as a contributing citizen of the world, Daugherty blazed a new trail for those born with intellectual disabilities.
**HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY**

**PETER EDELMAN**
Law Professor & Author

A lifelong antipoverty advocate, Edelman outlines why the income-level disparity in the US is now wider than ever and delves into what is happening to the people behind the statistics.

**BRENDA COMBS**
Inspirational Social Activist

From being homeless and living for 10 years under a bridge to becoming a respected teacher, Dr. Combs is living proof that one can overcome great adversity and change the course of their life.

**KEVIN POWELL**
Author, Journalist & Activist

Called “transformative,” Powell shares his extraordinary life journey from extreme childhood poverty to becoming one of today’s most acclaimed political, cultural and hip-hop voices.

**MICHAEL PATRICK MACDONALD**
NYT Best-Selling Author & Activist

Author of All Souls and Easter Rising, MacDonald shares stories of surviving an abusive family upbringing amidst a tangled relationship between poverty and class in South Boston.

**LUCILLE O’NEAL**
Author & Motivator

O’Neal raised four kids alone, including NBA’s Shaq. Having overcome poverty and addiction, she now embraces the power of community, education and faith to positively affect life.

**CONSUELO CASTILLO KICKBUSCH**
Army Lieutenant Colonel

A staunch advocate for education, Kickbusch overcame poverty, discrimination and illiteracy to become the highest ranking Hispanic woman in the Combat Support field.
CHRIS HERREN  
Former NBA Player

Former NBA Player Chris Herren realized his dream of playing for the Boston Celtics only to lose it all to addiction. He shares his life-affirming experiences in Basketball Junkie and the ESPN 30 for 30 documentary, Unguarded.

PATRICK KENNEDY  
Former U.S. Representative

Fighting tirelessly to provide millions of Americans with mental health treatment, Kennedy is an impassioned speaker who refuses to accept the status quo.

RYAN LEAF  
Former NFL Star & Behavioral Health Advocate

The second pick in the 1998 NFL draft, Leaf was on the track to stardom until he developed a substance abuse disorder. He is now an impassioned advocate for those struggling with mental health and addiction issues.

JUDY COLLINS  
Folk Singer & Activist

Having struggled with alcoholism and the tragic loss of her son to suicide, Collins shares a heartfelt story that offers solace to others overcoming life-altering circumstances.

SEAN ASTIN  
Mental Health Awareness Advocate

Son of the legendary Patty Duke, Astin is an acclaimed filmmaker and actor best known for his roles in the Lord of the Rings trilogy, The Goonies and Rudy. A vocal advocate for mental health awareness, he candidly and compassionately shares his experience with Duke’s bipolar disorder.

RICHARD DREYFUSS  
Actor & Social Activist

Academy Award winner Dreyfuss eloquently discusses coping with mental illness, substance use disorders, and his personal search for meaning in life.
MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

BRIAN CUBAN
Mental Health & Recovery Advocate

Younger brother of Shark Tank’s and Dallas Maverick’s Mark Cuban, Brian draws from personal experience as he examines the factors that led to his eating and substance use disorders.

KATHY CRONKITE
Mental Health Advocate

Best-selling author of On the Edge of Darkness, Cronkite fights the stigma attached to mental illness by educating people about depression and how to get help.

JOE PANTOLIANO
Actor & Mental Health Advocate

Director of Hope’s Messengers and founder of NKM2, two mental health advocacy projects, Pantoliano puts a face on mental health issues with humor, courage, and compassion.

DAVID & NIC SHEFF
Mental Health Advocates & Authors

Authors of such books as Beautiful Boy (soon a feature film) and more recently, Clean and Tweak, this father-son pair share a candid look at addiction, and how society addresses and treats such illnesses.

WILLIAM COPE MOYERS
Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation

The author of Broken: My Story of Addiction and Redemption, Moyers navigates the maze of addiction and provides new insight, understanding, and hope.

CHRISTOPHER KENNEDY LAWFORD
Actor, Motivator & Author

In recovery from drug addiction for over 27 years, and author of several books on the subject, Lawford was named a UN ambassador on matters of social issues and advocacy.
TONY HOFFMAN  
Former BMX Pro & Recovering Addict

After a downward spiral of addiction almost cost Hoffman his career and life, he founded the Freewheel Project, a non-profit BMX racing organization devoted to educating youth on the importance of leading drug-free lives.

SHEILA HAMILTON  
Emmy-Winning Journalist & Radio Host

Hamilton’s world crumbled when her husband was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and ended his life. Sharing her journey from grief to healing, she speaks to the turmoil of mental illness.

DAVID GRANIRER  
Counselor & Stand-Up Comic

After struggling with debilitating anxiety and depression for many years, Granirer founded Stand Up For Mental Health, and now uses stand-up comedy to cope, heal and educate.

CANDY FINNIGAN  
A&E’s The Face of Recovery

An internationally recognized interventionist and addiction specialist, Finnigan helps audiences overcome personal crises with equal parts humor and hope.

PATRICK O’BRIEN  
Broadcaster & Recovering Addict

Perhaps best known for his work as a sportscaster with CBS and NBC, and as the host of Access Hollywood and Entertainment Tonight, O’Brien is now more than seven years sober and counsels athletes, celebrities, and addicts on a daily basis.

RUTH POINTER  
The Pointer Sisters

Known for her deep, soulful voice, Pointer penned the heartfelt memoir, Still So Excited!: My Life as a Pointer Sister, and shares her experiences with addiction, recovery, and redemption.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

JOE TORRE
Legendary MLB Manager
A vocal advocate to end domestic violence, Torre founded the Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation to educate students, parents, teachers, and faculty about the devastating effects of domestic violence.

MIRA SORVINO
Actress & Human Rights Advocate
As a UN Human Rights Ambassador and passionate voice, Sorvino has been at the forefront of the fight against human trafficking for years. Having interviewed victims and survivors around the world, she lends an informed voice to one of today’s most critical issues.

NAOMI JUDD
Grammy-Winning Singer
Country music icon Judd is now sharing with the world the terrifying depression that overtook her following a 2011 tour. Detailing her struggle, she offers an impassioned message of hope and healing.

LIZ SECCURO
Victims’ Rights Activist
Two decades after being drugged and raped by a fellow student, Seccuro brought her perpetrator to justice. She shares her story in Crash Into Me.

VICTOR RIVAS RIVERS
Actor, Author & Activist
In his best-selling book A Private Family Matter, Rivers describes his experiences with abuse and domestic violence. Now he teaches how to break the cycle of violence.

ELIZABETH SMART
Abduction Survivor & Author
Smart made headlines when her abduction became one of the most followed stories of our time. She shares an incredible account of survival, overcoming adversity, and keeping hope alive.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

TAYLOR ARMSTRONG
Reality TV Star & Activist

From the horrors of an abusive relationship to the heights of *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*, Armstrong’s inspiring story is shared in her book, *Hiding from Reality*.

TANYA BROWN
Domestic Violence Activist

Sister to the late Nicole Brown Simpson, Tanya has dedicated her life to advocating domestic violence prevention and mental health awareness. She offers an inspiring message of hope.

LILY ROSE LEE
Survivor of Cleveland Kidnappings

Lee, aka Michelle Knight, the first of the three women abducted by Cleveland kidnapper Ariel Castro, recounts her captivity, escape and the inner strength that has helped her rebuild her life.

MELISSA MOORE
Lifetime TV Host & Abuse Prevention Advocate

The daughter of a serial killer, Moore now hosts Lifetime Network’s *Monsters in My Family*, which helps victims of violence cope with their difficult circumstances.

MILDRED MUHAMMAD
Founder, After the Trauma

The former wife of DC Sniper John Allen Muhammad, Mildred helps domestic abuse survivors regain control of their lives.

DAWN SCHILLER
Human Trafficking Survivor

A survivor of the Wonderland murders, Schiller has championed several advocacy projects to help victims of trafficking and domestic violence.

APBSPEAKERS.COM // 617.614.1600 // PAGE 38
HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW WEBSITE?

APBSPEAKERS.COM

Find speakers quickly and easily by name or topic area.

Use our new "My List" feature to save speakers of interest.

Browse speakers based on your market or event type.

Read the latest information on our speakers and programs.

Customized Recommendations for Your Event

Need a speaker for a specific event type? Our program consultants have a unique understanding of the markets they serve and are the best in the industry at matching the right speaker with the right event.

In The Spotlight