



## **PBS NewsHour's Judy Woodruff to Host and Moderate WFYI Community Town Hall on Indy's Dropout Crisis**

**Part of *American Graduate: Let's Make it Happen* Public Media Initiative, WFYI's Town Hall to Feature Local Educators & Community Leaders' Perspectives on Improving Graduation Outcomes**

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**Judy Woodruff, co-anchor and co-managing editor of the *PBS NewsHour*, will host and moderate a one-hour WFYI Community Town Hall on improving Indy's graduation outcomes that will air Thursday, January 30 at 9 pm on WFYI 1 Public Television and streamed online at [www.wfyi.org](http://www.wfyi.org).**

The **WFYI Community Town Hall** will bring together a broad group of community stakeholders to discuss the challenges Central Indiana students face in and outside the classroom as identified by teachers, and move toward an action plan to increase youth support systems in the community and improve students' progress in school. **The program will focus on two key themes: Poverty and Effective Interventions for Student Success.** During the broadcast, viewers will be encouraged to take part in the conversation on Twitter and Facebook, by using the hashtag **#AmGradIndy**.

The forum will bring together Central Indiana's business leaders, educators, parents, students and community agencies in a town hall setting to help the community collaborate towards solutions. Participants will include the **Indiana Center for Family, School and Community Partnerships; Day Nursery; Visit Indy; MCCOY** (Marion County Commission on Youth); **Goodwill Education Initiatives; School on Wheels; Simon Youth Foundation; Big Brother Big Sisters of Central Indiana; Herron High School; Indiana Connected by 25; J. Everett Light Career Center; Christel House DORS** (Drop Out Recovery) **School; Second Helpings; Harshman Magnet Middle School** and more.

"WFYI is thrilled to be collaborating with the *PBS NewsHour* on this timely and relevant community conversation on improving Indy's graduation outcomes," said Lloyd Wright, President and CEO of WFYI Public Media. "In order for Indiana to compete in today's global economy, it is essential that our children

receive a strong education that not only places them on the path to a knowledge-based career, but also prepares them to become engaged citizens and community leaders.”

The town hall is part of **WFYI Public Media**'s work in [American Graduate: Let's Make it Happen](#), a public media initiative made possible by the [Corporation for Public Broadcasting](#) (CPB) that helps communities explore solutions to America's high school dropout crisis.

**WFYI Public Media** is working closely with the **PBS NewsHour** on production of its town hall, which is one of a dozen community forums being held around the nation including: **Nine Network** in Saint Louis, MO; **WHRO** in Norfolk, VA; **WTTW** in Chicago, IL; **PBS SoCal** in Los Angeles, CA; **New Mexico PBS** in Albuquerque, NM; **WHUT** in Washington, DC; **WNPT** in Nashville, TN; **CET** in Cincinnati, OH; **DPTV** in Detroit, MI; **WFSU** in Tallahassee, FL; and **WNET** in New York, NY.

WFYI's town hall event builds upon the success of [teacher-driven town halls and interviews](#) held across the country last year, supported by CPB and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The American Graduate Teacher Town Halls invited teachers' perspectives in to this important discussion and equipped teachers with a greater range of strategies for improving graduation outcomes in their schools.

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#### **About WFYI Public Media:**

For more than four decades, WFYI Public Media has served as a center of discovery for all ages. WFYI's diverse public radio and television programs and services provide a foundation for early learning, inspire curiosity and serve as a catalyst for lifelong learning. To learn more about WFYI Public Media's programs and educational services, visit the station's Website — [www.wfyi.org](http://www.wfyi.org), “like” us on Facebook, or follow along on Twitter (via [@wfyi](#) and [@wfyinews](#)).

#### **About American Graduate**

[American Graduate: Let's Make it Happen](#) is helping local communities identify and implement solutions to the high school dropout crisis. American Graduate demonstrates public media's commitment to education and its deep roots in every community it serves. Beyond providing programming that educates, informs, and inspires public radio and television stations — locally owned and operated — are important resources in helping to address critical issues, such as the dropout rate. In addition to national programming, more than 75 public radio and television stations in 33 states have launched on-the-ground efforts working with community and at risk youth to keep students on-track to high school graduation. More than 1000 partnerships have been formed locally through American Graduate, and CPB is working with Alma and Colin Powell's America's Promise Alliance and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

## **About CPB**

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), a private, nonprofit corporation created by Congress in 1967, is the steward of the federal government's investment in public broadcasting. It helps support the operations of more than 1,400 locally-owned and -operated public television and radio stations nationwide, and is the largest single source of funding for research, technology, and program development for public radio, television and related online services.