



COMMONWEALTH CORPORATION

MAR/APR 2006

CommCorp Joins STAND UP Campaign

Commonwealth Corporation announced its participation in a national campaign to address America's education crisis. Known as STAND UP, the initiative is a community-based coalition of more than 50 organizations, districts and schools around the country.



Calling on all Americans to demand excellent high schools that prepare every student for college, work and citizenship, STAND UP mobilizes parents, teachers, principals, community leaders, con-

cerned citizens, business leaders, policymakers and philanthropists. The STAND UP web site (www.standup.org) provides valuable information and resources to help make sure high schools are serving all students well.

Announced by Bill and Melinda Gates on the Oprah Winfrey Show

on April 11, STAND UP's coalition includes four Massachusetts-based organizations: Commonwealth

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State House Event Highlights ECCLI's Impact

On March 29th, Commonwealth Corporation participated in a legislative briefing at the State House, which highlighted the successes of Massachusetts' Extended Care Career Ladder Initiative (ECCLI) and the Direct Care Worker Scholarship Program. The event was co-sponsored by Senator Harriette L. Chandler and Senator Mark C. Montigny, and featured program participants, nursing home administrators and representatives from the long-term care industry.

CommCorp has been operating the ECCLI program since 2000, and in that time has served more than 6,500 people from 142 long-term care facilities in the state. ECCLI has also improved

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CommCorp's Eleni Papdakis, Senator Mark Montigny, and Carolyn Blanks from the Massachusetts Extended Care Federation all spoke at the briefing in Nurse's Hall at the State House.

STAND UP

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Corporation, Jobs for the Future, Youth Build USA, and the Center for Collaborative Education.

“Too many of our youth in Massachusetts leave school unprepared for the demands of our 21st century economy,” said Commonwealth Corporation President Jonathan Raymond. “Currently about 10% of the civilian labor force of the state between the ages of 18 and 24 is unemployed and out-of-school. Programs like Diploma Plus and the STAND UP campaign are working to change that, but we need everyone to join us.”

In Massachusetts, the high school graduation rate is no higher than 76% and possibly lower. Larger cities like

Boston, New Bedford, Springfield and Lawrence have significantly lower graduation rates. Those who do graduate need more education than their grandparents just to maintain the same standard of living, yet only one in three ninth-graders leave high school in four years ready for the rigors of college and the world of work.

Commonwealth Corporation is committed to improving high schools across Massachusetts so all students are prepared for success in college and work. The Diploma Plus program, funded through a number of public and private sources, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is one strategy that is working.

ECCLI's Impact

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the quality of patient care provided in long-term care settings and the quality of work life for long-term care employees. The Direct Care Worker Scholarship Program, administered by the Massachusetts Extended Care Federation (MECF), has been providing free training and state testing to people seeking a career as a certified nursing assistant in long-term care since 2001.

Senator Montigny, who sponsored the original legislation creating ECCLI, spoke about his own personal experience working with a local nursing home when his father needed long-term care. Senator Chandler invited a direct care worker and nursing home administrator from her district to speak about ECCLI.

Dailia Rudder has worked at Notre Dame Long Term Care Center since 1993, and with help from the ECCLI



*Katherine Lemay and Dailia Rudder
from Notre Dame Long Term Care Center*

program, realized her dream of becoming a licensed practical nurse. She spoke of the challenges of working her way through school as a single mother, and about what it has meant to her to reach her goals. Katherine Lemay, also from Notre Dame and the Intercare Alliance, spoke about the impact ECCLI has had there and at their partner agencies.

Other speakers included Carolyn Blanks from MECF and Marianne Mastrangelo from the American Red Cross. Venilde Santana, a direct care worker from the VNA of Eastern Massachusetts, also spoke. Co-sponsors for the event included MECF, Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Aging Association, Massachusetts Council for Home Care Aide Services, and the Massachusetts Workforce Board Association.

Commonwealth Corporation is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids are available upon request to persons with disabilities. (617) 727-8158; TDD/TTY (800) 439-2370; www.commcorp.org; 529 Main Street, Boston, MA 02129

Mitt Romney, Governor; Kerry Healey, Lt. Governor; Jane C. Edmonds, Director, Mass. DWD; Jonathan Raymond, President, CommCorp