

UT Dean

Academy

June 14 2020

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Final 06/15/00 2:30pm
Josh Gottheimer

6-14-00

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR U.S. DREAM ACADEMY
WASHINGTON, DC
June 14, 2000

CC: Speechwriting

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6-14-08

Ack: Rep. Eleanor Holmes-Norton; Councilman Kevin Chavous; Deputy Mayor Carolyn Graham; Wintley Phipps (President, U.S. Dream Academy).

I want to thank the U.S. Dream Academy, ~~for inviting~~
an its partner, staff, team. ~~me here today. I also want to thank all~~ the staff, students
and teachers at the Ferebee Hope Community Services
Center and Elementary School for ~~giving a home to this~~
~~important program. All of you~~ are helping these
wonderful students realize their full potential. *Then this wonderful program*

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "The future belongs to
those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

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We are here today because Wintley Phipps believed in his

dream -- that all children, given the right tools and

support, can realize their ^{dreams} potential. ~~That's something~~

~~Wintley himself learned at an early age, when, through~~

~~his mother's encouragement, he learned to express his~~

~~faith through music~~ ~~In discovering music, Wintley~~ ~~to speak~~

~~discovered his passion ... and later found his success as~~

~~an award-winning vocalist and an accomplished minister.~~

~~Wintley Phipps overcame many of the same obstacles~~

~~facing the young people here today. But he did not do it~~

~~alone.~~ That's why ^{he} ~~Wintley~~ founded the Dream Academy

~~to give all children the opportunity, tools, and support~~

to give an children the opportunity to
 catch up and get head. - Spoken by the cycle
 he had, so they too can realize their dreams. *Wang*

6-14-10

That's what the Academy does every day, for nearly three-quarters of the students at Ferebee. With strong parental involvement, it gives students the learning environment, the personal attention, and the academic tools they need to build on their experience in the classroom. It teaches them about character building and the importance of maintaining good health; and its Internet-based curriculum, gives them the 21st Century skills they'll need to take advantage of the new economy.

~~This is the opportunity that every child deserves, but not every child receives.~~

can't even hold

class on this

Apr - Feb - Run

And its formula for success is working: In just the last year, math and reading proficiency scores at are up sharply. Suspensions are down, class attendance is up, which shows that more of you understand the importance not only of going to school -- but doing well in school.

We should give every community in the country the tools they need to follow the Dream Academy's lead. For more than seven years now, our Administration has worked hard to do just that – to make sure that every child enters school ready to learn, and graduates ready to succeed.

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In an era of fiscal discipline, we've nearly doubled investment in education and training, making key investments that help children meet high standards.

Investments like the Dream Academy program, which receives funding from a program out of the Department of Labor. I am happy to report that an additional \$200,000 in funding will be granted over the next two years. In addition to federal support, grants from companies like Exxon and the NFL are helping the Dream Academy help more children reach for their dreams.

Our Administration has also taken steps to reduce class size in the early grades, with our program to hire 100,000 new, highly-trained teachers. We've already hired nearly 30,000, ~~and my budget would fund up to 50,000.~~

That would allow us to bring the kind of small environment that has worked so well here, to three million children around the country.

We've also dramatically increased federal investment in after-school and summer school, from \$1 million a year in 1997 to nearly half a billion dollars a year today. My new budget calls for us to double our funding and triple the number of students with access to after-school. Every child, in every low-performing school would have access to quality after-school programs.

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Like the Dream Academy, we're working hard to open the doors of college to every American – through our Gear-Up mentoring program, larger Pell Grants, more affordable student loans, education IRAs, and HOPE Scholarships. That's the largest expansion of college assistance since the GI Bill half a century ago.

We're also working to ensure that every child in America, ~~no matter how rich or poor~~, has access to the technology needed to unlock the promises of the 21st Century. Programs like those at the Dream Academy are revolutionizing the use of technology in education, and creating a range of possibilities that were unthinkable only a few years ago.

Today, thanks in large part to Vice President Gore's E-rate program, more than half of our classrooms are wired, and 95 percent of our schools have at least one Internet connection.

Access is important, but it's only a means to an end. As the Dream Academy has shown, the ultimate purpose of computers is to boost student performance and help children learn. Earlier this month, I announced \$128 million in new three-year technology grants to train nearly 600,000 teachers. And my budget would fund up to 1,000 community technology centers to help young people and adults gain critical technology skills.

Every child in every neighborhood should have access to the right tools to meet high standards. Unfortunately, the progress we've made is being threatened by an education spending bill passed in the House yesterday. It's a bill that demands too little accountability from our schools, and invests too little in them, in everything from after-school to teacher training. I'd veto the bill if it were sent to me in its present form. In this time of unprecedented prosperity, there is no reason to shortchange our children and our schools. I hope we can work with Congress on a bipartisan education spending bill that will help our students continue to make academic gains.

At the dawn of the 21st Century, it's more important than ever to reach out to students at a young age -- to give them the high hopes and high expectations to stay in school, go to college, and succeed in life. That's what the Dream Academy is all about.

Wintley Phipps is fond of saying, "A child without a dream is a child without a future." Because of your work, the children in this room have the opportunity to follow their dreams, and, in this time of unprecedented economic growth, we have the chance to fulfill them. Thank you again for all you have done, and continue to do every day. God bless you.