



***Students get it. Communities want it.  
CHOICES keeps teens into school!***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CHOICES EDUCATION GROUP RELEASES UPGRADED DROPOUT PREVENTION AND EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS WORKSHOP**

*25-year-old program continues to serve teens for under \$5 per student.*

**SEATTLE, WA**—<Sept 6, 2011>—CHOICES Education Group, a Seattle-based nonprofit, announces a new release of its highly successful dropout prevention and educational success program. CHOICES, a two-hour workshop delivered in school classrooms over two days, has been delivered to more than six million students in the last 25 years. The new release, which is more interactive, focused and compelling for today's teens, further supports CHOICES' growing efforts to mitigate the high school dropout epidemic.

"Every school day 7,000 students become dropouts--posing a very real problem for communities nationwide." said Leo Muller, Executive Director of the national not-for-profit. "In fact, as of September of 2009, the unemployment rate of high school dropouts far exceeded that of any other education level (at 15.4%). CHOICES helps kids at a crucial point in their lives, when they are old enough to think realistically about their future but are young enough to still do something about it."

For less than \$5 per student, the newly refreshed CHOICES Workshop:

- Helps teens realize how much of life happens after high school and the long-term impact of decisions made during the next four years.
- Shares with teens how important self-discipline is to their future success.
- Illustrates the clear connection between levels of education and the number and variety of career options available for each.
- Demonstrates how much money it takes to live on a dropout's wages and the possible long-term impacts of dropping out of school.
- Challenges teens to make a personal commitment to graduate from high school.
- Shows teens what to expect from a job interview, including how preparedness and attitude make a difference.
- Provides an understanding about how using time well can make them more successful and help them prepare for the future.
- Teaches how choices about life and education can have both short and long-term consequences.
- Explains the importance of goal setting and offers guidance on setting personal goals to thrive by twenty five.
- Brings business and community volunteers into the classroom to provide credibility to the message.

"The CHOICES program was designed to make a positive difference in the lives of eighth graders by encouraging them to make good decisions and stay in school." explains Alana Parker, a CHOICES presenter from Muscle Shoals in Alabama. "The updated version accomplishes this mission in new and exciting ways by encouraging students to see the value in making positive decisions through age-appropriate examples and role play. The program is non-stop; therefore, the students are constantly engaged and never have the opportunity to become distracted or uninterested. Not only is the updated CHOICES program beneficial to and fun for the students, it's an absolute blast to present!"

View the [CHOICES Workshop Summary](#) for more details.

### **About CHOICES Education Group**

CHOICES Education Group is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit social enterprise started in 1985 with initial funding from Pacific Northwest Bell (now CenturyLink). CHOICES has been delivered to more than six million students in the U.S., Canada and Australia since 1985, and currently serves more than 700 teens every school day. . More information about CHOICES is available at [www.choices.org](http://www.choices.org) or by calling 1-888-CHOICES (1-888-246-4237).

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