

## KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

September 30, 2005

*Bringing Out the Best in All Students*

**Crystal Arlene Kuykendall, Ph.D.**

**Author: *From Rage to Hope: Strategies for Reclaiming Black and Hispanic Students***

Dr. Crystal Kuykendall's keynote address will provide insight on how best to meet student needs and improve school climate and teaching styles. She will also share information on school-related obstacles to learning and ways those obstacles can be overcome.

Crystal A. Kuykendall is truly a gifted and gracious public speaker. She has spoken on four continents and is considered by many to be one of the most powerful, dynamic and inspiring speakers in the world, giving over 150 speeches annually. Her audiences laugh, cry and experience an incredible array of emotions as she weaves her magic behind a microphone. Audiences connect instantly with her high energy, charm, charismatic delivery and moving messages. She not only facilitates self-analysis, she inspires personal and organizational change, growth and powerful results in personal and professional pursuits. It doesn't matter who she addresses--cafeteria workers or CEOs, educators or entrepreneurs, private or public employees, youth or senior citizens--the results are the same and she receives thundering standing ovations wherever she goes.

Crystal's speeches reflect her own unique background replete with personal victories and many professional responsibilities. A former school teacher, university instructor, and Executive Director of the National Alliance of Black School Educators, she has also been Director of Urban and Minority Relations for the National School Boards Association and Director of Marketing for RLA, Inc. as well as Director of the Citizens Training Institute of the National Committee for Citizens in Education. She holds a Doctorate in Educational Administration, a law degree, and life memberships in NCNW, the National Urban League, NAACP and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She also received the Honorary Doctorate, Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, in 2002. A member of the D.C. Bar Association, she has been President and General Counsel of her own firm, Kreative and Innovative Resources for Kids, Inc. (K.I.R.K.) since 1989. Appointed by U.S. President Jimmy Carter to the National Advisory Council on Continuing Education, she served as Council Chairperson from 1979-1981. Author of four books, including the highly acclaimed best seller *From Rage to Hope*, and *Dreaming of a PHAT Century*, she is mother of three, mentor, school and church volunteer the ultimate "Merchant of Hope" for she enriches the lives of thousands.

Other books by Dr. Kuykendall include *Improving Black Student Achievement through Enhancing Self-Image* and *Developing Leadership for Parent/Citizen Groups*.



# LUNCHEON PRESENTATIONS

## September 30, 2005

### *Youth Conflicts: Making the Right Choice*

**Speaker: Guillermo "Willie" Lopez**

Director, Self Awareness Focusing on Education (S.A.F.E.)  
a non-profit youth service organization

Willie Lopez was born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico and, like many other immigrants, came to the "Norte" as a child with his parents hoping for a better way of life. Willie spent most of his childhood in hiding from "La Migra," the immigration authority. Throughout his formative years, he was constantly exposed to the harsh reality of farm labor work, gangs, drugs, and discrimination. With the help of family and strangers, he eventually escaped that life.

He credits his success to his parents and various encounters. His father provided patience and humility. His mother gave him strength and confidence. Complete strangers showed him how words and simple actions can make a difference. When he once asked how he could return the favor, he was told to return it to someone else--he did. That same advice is at the core of his message. The power of those simple words changed his life completely.

Having had extensive experience as a storyteller, Willie is able to capture his audience through his colorful illustrations of his personal real life experiences. Willie is a master at transforming himself on stage from a campesino, to a homeboy, to a child named "Zapolitos", Li'l Tadpole. Willie is bilingual/bicultural in Spanish.

### *Parents! The Critical Key*

**Speaker: Ralph "Bud" Fry**

CEO, Parent Project, Inc.

On April 20, 1999, 12 students and 1 teacher were killed by fellow students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold at Columbine High School. Law enforcement authorities had 15 separate contacts with the killers, documenting their violent, anti-social behavior. The contacts dated back to as early as February 1997, but no one ever connected the dots. Worse, had the parents of either Harris or Klebold simply opened the doors to their sons' bedrooms, the entire incident could have been avoided.

Today's luncheon keynote will focus on the critical and frequently ignored role parents play in helping their children resolve conflicts peacefully.

- How do we engage the parents of violent teens?
- What skills do parents need?
- How do we empower parents to make the difference in their child's life?