

Featured Speakers

Al Duncan, Master of Ceremonies



Al Duncan is an award-winning youth advocate, publisher, and an internationally recognized authority on soft skills. As the world's leading speaker for at risk youth and troubled young people, he has delivered Duncan Nuggets®, live and in person, to over one million young people around the world. Al is the author of four books including the bestseller, *My Success Journal For Young People*. He is the recipient of the President's Call to Service Award and the National PTA Life Achievement Award for his work in the field of youth development and empowerment. Born to teen-aged parents, raised in a poverty stricken neighborhood in North Philadelphia, being molested as a child, and his father's addiction to crack cocaine, left Al devastated, but not defeated. He went on to enjoy careers as a professional saxophone player, a professional chef, and he is the former executive producer and host of his own television show. At the age of 24 he walked away from his musical career in order to raise his youngest brother who was 12 years old at the time. <http://www.alduncan.net/>

Mandy Schendel, Emcee



Mandy Schendel, at the age of 11, created her own nonprofit, The Difference Maker Organization, which is now a national nonprofit corporation (www.thedifferencemaker.org). The Difference Maker Organization's mission is teaching children and teens how to become leaders through volunteer service. A senior at Azusa Pacific University, Schendel is also a published author of a motivational book, "Do Something" where she shares the challenges and triumphs of running a national company, working as a professional actress for Disney, as well as her long-time involvement in pageantry.

Schendel, who was crowned Miss Washington 2012, earned the distinction of being in the Top 10 for Miss America this past January. Schendel also won the Preliminary Swimsuit award, was named a Top 7 finalist for the Miss America Quality of Life award, and earned over \$21,000 in scholarship monies. www.MandySchendel.com