

# SPEAKER PORTFOLIO

2025-2026 Academic Year



TIGGER STAVOLA FOUNDATION  
DRUG PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

EST. 2013



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A key component of the Tigger Stavola Foundation's drug prevention education offering is the motivational speaker program.

Our foundation is pleased to offer these vetted, professional speakers free of cost to our Partner Schools.

Please review our portfolio to select a speaker who fits your school's needs in terms of audience age and topic.

To ensure the efficient allocation of resources, prior approval from the Foundation is mandatory to engage with any of our listed presenters.

Please reach us via the contact information below with any questions or to contract a speaker.

Cheryl Stavola  
cheryl@tiggerstavolafoundation.org  
732-245-8724

# Dr. Matt Bellace

Delivering Better Highs and Healthier Lows

**Audience:** Grades 3rd through 12th

**Topics Covered:**

- Natural highs
- Coping Mechanisms
- Impact of substance use on brain development
- Increasing self esteem



Dr. Bellace has a PhD in clinical psychology with a subspecialty in clinical neuropsychology, the study of the brain and behavior. He was twice awarded the Student Intramural Research and Training Award (IRTA) in neuroscience by the National Institutes of Mental Health. His clinical training included working with patients at the Comprehensive Epilepsy Center at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (Philadelphia), assessing learning disorders in a pediatric neuropsychology private practice and performing cognitive behavioral therapy at Drexel University's Student Counseling Center.

Matt started out speaking to small groups at local high schools and colleges, but quickly grew to national conferences, professional organizations and the military. He has spoken in forty-eight US states, Canada and Switzerland. Annually, Matt's program reaches over 100,000 people.

As a stand-up comedian, Matt has performed at clubs and colleges across the country, including Gotham Comedy Club and The Comic Strip in New York City. Matt's comedy credits include truTV's hit show *The World's Dumbest*, the 2005 Just for Laughs Festival in Montreal, National Public Radio and The New York Times.

Matt is the author of the bestselling books *A Better High* (Wyatt MacKenzie, 2012), which is a humorous look at the comparison between natural highs and chemical highs. His most recent book uses humor to reimagine how we deal with pain, loss and failure, titled *Life Is Disappointing and Other Inspiring Thoughts* (Wyatt MacKenzie, 2021). He was a contributing author for the National Geographic Kids series *This or That* and online magazine *Edutopia*.

<https://www.mattbellace.com/>

# Geo Derice

## Unlocking & Maximizing a Student's Full Potential

**Audience:** Grades 6th through 12th

**Topics Covered:**

- Bullying prevention
- Building resilience
- Optimizing potential during school years
- Focus & engagement in a distracted world
- Student leadership



Geo Derice is a dynamic motivational speaker, entrepreneur, founder of 20/20 Living Inc. and author of "The Thirst Is Real," a transformative guide dedicated to helping students unlock and maximize their full potential. Geo provides inspiration and practical strategies to foster success among today's youth.

His remarkable ability to connect with students has earned him praise from FindSpark, the nation's largest meet-up group for interns and recent graduates, which named him one of the top 30 black professionals whose careers inspire others. Geo also partners with youth empowerment organizations like the Yogi Berra Museum and Foundations for Life.

Growing up in Brooklyn, NY, Geo excelled as a scholar-athlete, winning numerous awards and embodying the principles of excellence and hard work instilled by his parents. He returned to his high school to coach the football team for three years. Many of his former players credited his mentorship for their successes.

Geo's relatable, heartfelt approach makes him a compelling choice for those seeking a motivational speaker who truly understands and uplifts the student experience. He inspires tomorrow's leaders to create environments that are welcoming and fosters growth and opportunity.

Geo has presented at several schools in Monmouth County as well as in NYC teaching students how to create a vision and leave their mark as leaders. He inspires tomorrow's leaders to create environments that are welcoming and that foster growth and opportunity.

<https://geospeaks.com>

# Robert Hackenson, Jr.

Don't Get Lectured, Get Entertained!

**Audience:** Kindergarten through 12th

**Topics Covered:**

- Vaping & Marijuana
- Drug, Alcohol & Tobacco
- Social media dangers & cyber safety
- Bullying prevention
- Building self esteem



Since 2004, Robert Hackenson, Jr. has traveled the globe speaking and keynoting for schools, colleges, organizations and corporations. As a professional youth motivational speaker, Robert is effective at conveying important educational messages through his ability to engage and relate to students. He has been doing this for a decade with students (grades k-12), parents, and professional educators.

Robert's highly interactive performances speak with your students instead of at them, keeps their attention, and delivers relevant messages. He uniquely infuses educational lecture with magic, illusions, stories, and more! This not only keeps your students captivated, but everything he does is used in a way to reinforce the educational lessons.

Robert's presentation topics include: "Bullying Prevention," "Social Media Dangers & Cyber Safety," "Drug, Alcohol & Tobacco Awareness (Sober Thoughts)," "Moving Up to New School," and "Vaping & Marijuana Awareness" to students, teachers and parents at elementary, middle schools, high schools and colleges.

<https://dynamicinfluence.com>

# Stephen Hill

Speak Sobriety

**Audience:** Grades 7th- 12th

**Topics Covered:**

- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) & impact on brain development
- Addiction prevention
- Peer pressure
- Value of strong family and peer relationships



Stephen – founder of Speak Sobriety, young person in recovery, bestselling author, recovery coach and a fierce attorney advocating for treatment over incarceration – is a renowned national speaker on substance use prevention & mental health awareness with a truly inspiring comeback story that everyone must hear.

Stephen has presented in front of thousands of people for over 500 schools, drug free community coalitions, alliances and organizations across the country.

Stephen was able to overcome a severe substance use disorder, work in the field of addiction prevention, treatment and recovery, start his own speaking and coaching company, receive his bachelor's with honors from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, earn his J.D. from Brooklyn Law School, pass the New York bar exam, publish his memoir *A Journey to Recovery*, which was a #1 New Release in Drug Dependency on Amazon, and live a happy and healthy lifestyle with his friends and family.

<http://speaksobriety.com>

# Robb Holla

Empowering Students by Connecting with Them Where They Are

**Audience:** Grades 6th- 12th

**Topics Covered:**

- Vaping awareness
- Impact of substance use on brain development
- Cyber bullying & social media safety
- Truth in Marketing to Teens



Robb Holla's life story? It's the kind you'd expect him to be a failure. But, plot twist: he's now a leading light as an author, speaker, and youth motivator. It's solid proof that where you start doesn't lock in where you'll finish. Growing up was rough for Robb—dealing with a tricky speech impediment, recovering from serious burns as a toddler, and facing down bullies didn't hold him back. Instead, these challenges pushed him to make a big impact.

Here's the deal with Robb: he's got this incredible way of connecting with teenagers. He doesn't just talk at them; he gets on their level, makes them laugh, and leaves a mark that sticks. They don't just listen; they remember.

Robb Holla is everywhere—TV, radio, newspapers, you name it, making waves as the go-to guy for insights on teens and rocking the stage as a youth motivational speaker all over the US and Canada.

He gets it. Today's students live in a world where a tweet, a Facebook post, or a YouTube video can say it all. They've not just adapted to this digital age; they're reshaping it. And Robb? He's right there with them, pouring his heart into connecting and empowering students in ways that really resonate. Whether he's lighting up the stage in North America or dishing out advice as the teen expert everyone wants to hear from, Robb is all about making genuine connections.

And when he's not out there changing lives, Robb's soaking up life in Dallas, TX, surrounded by friends and family who keep the inspiration flowing.

<https://robbholla.com/>

# Gabriel John

Resilience of the Human Spirit

**Audience:** Grades 7th- 12th

**Topics Covered:**

- Dangers of distracted driving
- Substance avoidance
- Profound impact of choices
- Resilience in overcoming tragedy
- Thriving with a disability



From a routine trip to CVS to a harrowing plunge into darkness, Gabriel's life changed in an instant. A catastrophic crash, twelve surgeries, and permanent blindness—his journey is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. Through sheer will, unwavering determination, and the unwavering support of loved ones, Gabriel emerged from the depths of despair with a newfound appreciation for life.

Now, he shares his story with audiences nationwide, weaving together the threads of pain, loss, and ultimate triumph. With music as his guide and his guitar as his voice, Gabriel imparts a powerful message on the dangers of distracted driving and the profound impact of our choices.

Each step forward is a testament to the strength within us all, showing how stumbling blocks can transform into steppingstones toward a brighter future.

Join Gabriel on his journey as he navigates through darkness, illuminating the path to hope, resilience, and the transformative power of one small choice.

# Shawn Metz

You are Not Your Past - You are Who You Choose to Become

**Audience:** Grades 6th- 12th

**Topics Covered:**

- Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
- Dangers of vaping
- Consequences of addiction
- Peer pressure
- Importance of family
- Self Esteem Building.



In recovery from addiction since July 5, 2011, Shawn's mission is to inspire, redirect thinking, reroute choices and save lives. Through hundreds of compelling presentations at various facilities to serving on panels, Shawn reaches people in a way that insists they hear what he has to say. From teens thinking about drinking or getting high the first time to those who want to turn themselves around, his authentic, heartfelt, real-life story grabs your attention and makes a difference.

Shawn Metz is a captivating, motivational speaker determined to steer younger audiences against the inevitable dangers of substance abuse. Through instilling self-confidence in his listeners and the power of goal-oriented change, he retells his personal compelling story of the positive realities when one takes control of their own life.

With special emphasis on the severity of the growing epidemic of substance abuse, Shawn drives home the message that it's not only okay to leave the party, it's a matter of life and death. With nearly 20 million Americans, some as young as 12 years old, struggling with substance use disorder, Shawn tailors his message to fit his audience as he connects with young and old alike, bridging all socio and economic demographics to facilitate a positive change in people's perceptions, as well as how they think and act.

<https://www.shawnmetz.com>

# Ty Sells

InspiringChange, Empowering Youth, and Building Drug-Free Futures

**Audience:** Grades 6th- 12th

**Topics Covered:**

- Leadership and the Power of Positive Influence
- Youth Empowerment
- Building Resilience & Overcoming Challenges
- Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention



Ty Sells is one of the most sought-after motivational speakers for youth in the country. Recognized as an individual who cares deeply for the well-being of youth, Ty is known for his charisma and leadership. He brings over 30 years of experience in drug prevention, community service, and youth development.

Ty is an Ohio Certified Prevention Consultant. He received his BA in Communication from The Ohio State University and is currently the Director of Training for Youth to Youth International in Columbus, Ohio.

In 2012, Ty received the "Prevention Innovator of the Year" Award by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for his development of creative prevention trainings and consultations with schools and organizations across the state. While working closely with the youth, he has gained first-hand knowledge of the joys and challenges of being young today. Ty has developed a multitude of trainings, workshops, and presentations for both youth and adults to address the many complex issues that confront today's young people.

<https://www.youthto youth.org/tysells>

# Timothy Shoemaker, M.S.

Learn More / Live Better

**Audience:** K- 12, College, Parent & Staff

**Topics Covered:**

- Pre-Prom Safe Celebrations
- Vaping, Drinking, THC  
Opiate Prevention
- Screen Time & Social Media
- Raising Resiliency
- College Campus Safety



In 2009, an American flag was flown over the U.S. Capital in honor of Timothy Shoemaker's distinguished service. He is a multiple-time Summa Cum Laude graduate, holds several graduate certificates and is a member of MENSA. He has keynoted dozens of state and national conferences and spoken at hundreds of K-12 schools across the country.

More importantly, Tim is an absolute crowd favorite for audiences of all ages. His extremely unique presentations combine over 20 years of speaking experience with the latest in technology, to produce an immersive and wildly entertaining environment. Cinematic production elements deliver theater-style sound and eye-popping graphics, while audience microphones are used to bring seated guests into Tim's show.

Giveaways and reinforcement materials leave audiences with more than just a great memory, and our online engagement elements allow teachers to conduct follow-up lessons after Tim's visit. Parent and staff programs can accompany each presentation in either live or remote format. Tim's team handles all of the technology.

A subject matter expert in several student wellness fields, chances are that Tim speaks on your desired topic. And each topic can be age-adjusted for your different audiences. Reserve your date today!

<https://www.TimothyShoemaker.com>

# Mychal Mills and Rodney Salomon

Transforming Youth, Schools and Communities through Holistic Practices

**Audience:** Grades 3rd- 12th

**Topics Covered:**

- Holistic wellness
- Mindfulness
- SEL tools
- Self-regulation
- Strengthening relationships



Konscious Youth Development & Service (KYDS) is a 501c3 non-profit conscious youth development organization that transforms Youth, Schools and communities through holistic practices. KYDS was founded in the Fall of 2014 by Mychal Mills and Rodney Salomon, two passionate individuals looking to support the minds, bodies, and souls of the greater

Asbury Park community and beyond.

Since it takes the transformation of entire communities to sustain the upliftment of our youth, KYDS also offers holistic wellness programming for school educators, administration, educators, parents, and the community. These practices have been shown to reduce stress, increase awareness, strengthen relationships, and make decisions that lead to positive outcomes.

Our programs help youth self-regulate to thrive and instill the ability for educators to be fully present with their students and their needs. This is how KYDS Evidence-Based programming has been positively transforming schools and communities since 2014!

<https://www.konscious.org/>

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“IN NEARLY 30 YEARS OF MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKING  
IN SCHOOLS, I’VE WORKED WITH COUNTLESS  
OUTSIDE AGENCIES. TIGGER STAVOLA IS THE  
BEST I’VE SEEN. THEY BELIEVE DEEPLY IN THEIR  
MISSION, AND WORK HARD TO CHANGE THE LIVES  
OF NEW JERSEY TEENS.”

**Matt Bellace, PhD, Clinical Neuro  
Psychologist, Comedian & Motivational  
Speaker**

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“YOU SPOKE AT MY HIGH SCHOOL WHILE I WAS A  
STUDENT THERE. YOUR STORY CHANGED MY LIFE,  
AND I HAVE NEVER TOUCHED DRUGS. YOU MADE  
ME SCARED OF THEM, SO THANK YOU FOR SAVING  
MY LIFE!” -

**Partner School Student**

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SNAP BELOW FOR SPEAKER INQUIRIES



CONTACT US:

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