

**Addressing today's needs.  
Reducing tomorrow's.**



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**SPEAKERS BUREAU FOCUSES ON EARLY EDUCATION**

***Community leaders available to lead discussion about why early learning matters***

INDIANAPOLIS...December 13, 2007 – United Way of Central Indiana (UWCI) announced it's launching a new speakers bureau service to provide talks to civic groups, businesses and others interested in early childhood success.

Part of UWCI's Success By 6 initiative, the service involves area business and education leaders in presentations about how making sure children start school ready to learn is vital to strong schools and a strong community. Each speaker takes an active interest in early childhood education as a member of the Success by 6 Leadership Council.

Bob Severson, vice president and district manager of UPS Indiana, chairs the council. Also available are: Rusty Robertson, vice president of Comcast Corporation; Ena Shelly, dean of the school of education at Butler University; Khaula Murtadha, executive associate dean of the Indiana University School of Education at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis; Alonzo Weems, director of workforce diversity at Eli Lilly and Company; Carlyn Johnson, retired from IUPUI; and Ted Maple, director of the Success By 6 program.

To book a speaker, groups can contact Maple by calling 921.1235 or e-mailing [ted.maple@uwci.org](mailto:ted.maple@uwci.org).

Success By 6 is an element of UWCI's Ready to Learn, Ready to Earn community priority, which focuses on reducing future needs by helping children be ready to learn in school and ready to earn after graduation.

UWCI partnered with Mayor Bart Peterson and the City of Indianapolis and the Annie E. Casey Foundation for this early childhood development initiative that works to ensure all children from birth to age 6 have the positive and enriching experiences necessary to begin school prepared to succeed.

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