

OHIO STATEHOUSE COLUMBUS, OHIO

2023 SCHOOL CHOICE RALLY

MAY 17, 2023



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DRUMLINE

ARTS & COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

INVOCATION

NATIONAL ANTHEM

EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

WALTER BLANKS JR.

EMCEE

TRACI WOODARD

PARENT

MARIE HANNA

SUPERINTENDENT - OHIO CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

OHIO SENATORS

TYREKE I. FARQUHARSON

TREE OF LIFE GRADUATE

TERA MYERS

PARENT

SAM MYERS

MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN GRADUATE

OHIO REPRESENTATIVES

ROBERT ALT

BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

SENATE PRESIDENT MATT HUFFMAN

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

COREY DEANGELIS

AMERICAN FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN

CLOSING REMARKS

2023 School Choice Rally Partners



yes. every kid.

Center for
Christian
Virtue

Public Policy. Engagement. Education.



Agudath
Israel
of Ohio



WALTER BLANKS JR.

AMERICAN FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN

Walter Blanks Jr. is a spokesperson for AFC and a private school choice program beneficiary. From a young age, Walter recognized that many children are still stuck in underperforming schools and wanted to do something about it. Before joining AFC full-time, Walter was chosen for the first cohort of the American Federation for Children Future Leaders Fellowship, a year-long advocacy and professional development program for graduates of private school choice programs.

At AFC, Walter has a key leadership role with both the Voices for Choice and Future Leaders Fellowship programs. These flagship programs of the National Communications team elevate the voices of students, parents, and educators who have benefitted from school choice programs across America. Walter also serves as a spokesperson for AFC and frequently appears in local and national print and news media. A gifted and in-demand speaker, Walter travels across the country sharing his story and advocating for expanding educational opportunities to more children and families. Walter received his bachelor's degree in Journalism and Media Production from Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

TYREKE I FARQUHARSON

TREE OF LIFE GRADUATE

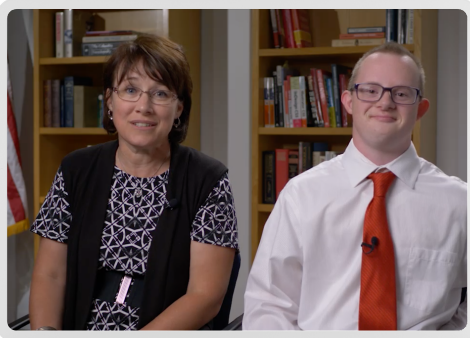
Tyreke Farquharson (Far-kuh-son) is a second-year student at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio where he is pursuing a degree with a double major in Political Science and Global Diplomacy and Politics. He is involved in Associated Student Government and the Black Student Action Association. He grew up in Columbus, Ohio and is the son of a Jamaican Immigrant. Tyreke and his parents were able to utilize the EdChoice scholarship and send him to a private school that fit his learning style and helped him get to where he is today. Because of the education he received in middle and high school he has been able to intern for the Columbus City Council President and earn a full ride scholarship to Miami University. Tyreke plans to enter the field of foreign service to work as a diplomat for the United States Department of State.



TRACI WOODARD
PARENT



MARIE HANNA
SUPERINTENDENT
OHIO CONNECTIONS ACADEMY



TERA AND SAM MYERS

Tera has over 25 years of experience working with individuals with disabilities. She has been advocating for choice in education at the state and federal levels for over 17 years. Her son Samuel is one of the first recipients of Ohio's Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship which she helped to get passed in 2011. Upon passage of the bill Tera partnered with a local private school to start and direct a special needs functional learning program.

In December 2019, she and her son Samuel spoke at the White House for a Roundtable discussion on Education Freedom with the President of the United States. Tera was a 2020 Republican National Convention speaker highlighting her work for Education Freedom. Tera's passion is to help ensure that all students have access to an education that best meets their individual learning needs. Tera Myers serves as the Advisor for Families of Individuals with Special Needs for the American Federation for Children.

SENATE PRESIDENT MATT HUFFMAN



Senator Matt Huffman is currently serving his second term in the Ohio Senate, representing the 12th Senate district. He was elected by his colleagues to serve as Senate President for the 134th General Assembly. In that role, Senator Huffman is responsible for leading the Chamber and setting the policy agenda. He previously served four terms in the Ohio House of Representatives, the last two in leadership positions, including being elected by his fellow legislators to serve as the second highest-ranking member, Speaker Pro Tempore.

Senator Huffman began his public service on Lima City Council in 1992, serving until 2006. In 2007, he began his service in the Ohio House of Representatives. During his time in the Ohio Legislature, Senator Huffman has championed bills to reform the medical delivery system, protect life at all stages and give parents control over their student's education. He has always maintained a strong commitment to the preservation of gun rights.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER COREY DEANGELIS, PHD AMERICAN FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN



Corey DeAngelis is a senior fellow at AFC. He is also the executive director at Educational Freedom Institute, an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute, a senior fellow at Reason Foundation, and a board member at Liberty Justice Center.

DeAngelis has authored or co-authored over 40 journal articles, book chapters, and reports on education policy. His research has been published in peer-reviewed academic journals. He is a regular on Fox News and his work has also been published in the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, the New York Post, and National Review.

DeAngelis received his PhD in education policy from the University of Arkansas. He holds a BBA and an MA in economics from the University of Texas at San Antonio.