The Education Trust promotes high academic achievement for all students at all levels, pre-kindergarten through college. Our goal is to close the gaps in opportunity and achievement that consign far too many young people—especially those from low-income families or who are black, Latino, or American Indian—to lives on the margins of the American mainstream.

The Education Trust
1250 H Street, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
202.293.1217
www.edtrust.org
Based on more than 200 interviews with educators, industry leaders, advocates, parents, and youth in Louisiana, *Speak Unto Us* follows education policy into practice through the stories of two young men — Tre and Cody — promised a chance through a high school career diploma. But their stories unfold to reveal the human costs of academic under-preparation in a changed America and the dangers of good intentions misaligned.

**PLAYWRIGHT’S NOTE**
Each year in America, thousands of graduates like Tre and Cody leave our high schools without the skills they need for the world that awaits them. Their stories and struggles, isolated American tragedies unfolding just beyond the school doors, illustrate the devastating human costs of academic under-preparation for the individual. But in a nation beset by growing wealth and education gaps and economic uncertainty, the collective societal costs of leaving large concentrations of young Americans without the skills, knowledge, and opportunities they’ll need, are costs we together bear — and can ill afford.

**ABOUT BROOKE**
A former high school dropout from an urban public school system, playwright-researcher Brooke Haycock has served as artist-in-residence with The Education Trust for more than a decade. Her issue-focused docudramas, based entirely on interviews with students and educators, transform research into performance, exposing the stories behind the data and driving straight to the heart of debate around equity in schools. She holds a bachelor’s degree from The University of California–Santa Barbara and a master’s from Johns Hopkins.

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