



NATIONAL SPEAKER AND AUTHOR VICTOR WOODS

As Seen on:



From ruthless...

Victor Woods served 6 1/2 years for masterminding a \$40 million credit card conspiracy...

To relentless...

Victor Woods worked tirelessly for over seven years to obtain a major book deal. After receiving 70 rejection notices, Victor self published, marketed and sold 50,000 copies of his book, *A Breed Apart*. Victor's diligence paid off and he eventually caught the eye of Simon and Schuster and closed a major book deal chronicling his life story.

Victor Woods discovered "You CAN make it" with patience, perseverance, and a willingness to learn and change.

Quick Facts

- Founder and CEO of The Victor Woods Corporation
- Founder of The Never Give Up Foundation
- Former radio talk show host of "Real Talk with Victor Woods"
- Author of *A Breed Apart*, an invaluable work of penetrating honesty, depth and passion
- Currently negotiating movie deal based on his life story



"You CAN make it!"

VICTOR WOODS

WHO'S LISTENING

Business Leaders
Administrators
College Students
Politicians
Educators
Law Enforcement Officials

HELP YOUTH IN YOUR CITY

Consider an additional program for youth in your area while Victor is there. His **Transformational Leadership** presentation is specifically designed for at-risk youth as they transition from youth to young adults.

BOOK VICTOR WOODS

You will be inspired by Victor's story. The messages ring true no matter where you are in your own journey.

- Failure Is Not an Option
- Never Give Up
- How to Create Your Own Opportunities
- You Are Not Your Job but Your Skills
- If You Don't Plan, You Plan to Fail
- No One Rises to Low Expectations

ON THE RECORD

"Victor Woods has lived a truly remarkable life and is using his experiences to uplift and educate people with a timely message delivered with grace and passion."

— **Ambassador Andrew Young**, Former United States Ambassador, United Nations

"Your message was right on target. You are certainly a role model."

— **Bob Billingslea**, Vice President, Corporate Urban Affairs and Development, Disney Worldwide Services, Inc.

"I want to thank you for your dynamic keynote address. Your remarkable journeys and thought provoking presentation provided a powerful incentive for us all to re-evaluate the direction of our lives."

— **David Ullrich**, Regional Administrator, United States Environmental Protection Agency

"Victor Woods is a true example of what it takes to overcome life's obstacles. Victor is a true American success story."

— **David McPherson**, Former Executive Vice President, Sony Epic Records

PARTIAL CLIENT LIST

COMPANIES & GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- Disney Worldwide Services, Inc.
- Sony Music
- Remax Realty
- Oklahoma State Senate
- Wisconsin State Capital
- NAACP

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- Fordham University
- University of Michigan
- University of Madison, Wisconsin
- Wichita State University
- Roosevelt University
- Morehouse College, Business School

CONFERENCES

- International Association for Truancy and Drop Out Prevention
- National Criminal Justice
- National Youth-at-Risk
- Midwest TRIO
- Midwest MAEOPP
- National Preventing Crime in the Black Community
- National Urban League

SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN

- Illinois
- Texas
- Ohio
- Michigan
- South Carolina
- Florida
- Indiana
- Louisiana

POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN

- Illinois
- Missouri
- Florida
- Louisiana

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

- Illinois
- Florida
- Oklahoma
- Ohio
- Louisiana
- South Carolina

Leaving behind a life of crime: Empowering author and former felon Victor Woods speaks at the City Center

By [Jennie Grey](#), The Saratogian

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SARATOGA SPRINGS >> Sept. 21-23, the New York State Council of School Superintendents held its 2014 Fall Leadership Summit at the Saratoga Springs City Center; this year, it was called “Leading Transformative Education: Blended Learning with the Common Core.” Fifty-year-old author Victor Woods, who spoke at the convention, hopes to lead transformations as well, using his own life as a former nine-time felon to show young people how to change their paths for good.

“This is the most prestigious educational conference in the country,” he said to the council directors. “Thank you for bringing me here as a presenter. It shows something progressive.”

Theresa Wutzer, associate director of the council, said it was important for superintendents to hear from other speakers than educators.

“Victor’s story is very compelling,” she said. “It lets us consider how to reach the challenging children; how to make connections.”

The Fall Leadership Summit's website describes the event as offering keynote addresses by national experts in the fields of leadership, education and related areas. Woods has become a national expert on turning one's life around. From dropping out of high school, running away, committing larceny and credit card conspiracy, through nine years in state and federal prison, he has become a national speaker, a CNN contributor and a published author with Simon and Schuster. His autobiography, "A Breed Apart," tells the story of his hard-won wisdom.

The author now travels the country giving a message of inspiration, hope and encouragement. He addresses how to reach children, how to keep them in school, how to connect teachers with students and how to keep kids from shooting. He also speaks about bullying, gangs, social media and drugs. Schools, colleges, universities and corporations have welcomed him as a presenter. Woods has appeared on national television, including CNN, Fox TV's O'Reilly Factor, BET and CSpan.

This week, his path led him to Saratoga Springs.

Although Woods grew up in a caring, high-achieving, affluent family, he often found himself the only black child in his neighborhood, his classroom and his school. His intelligence and energy went unmarked, and his frustration grew as he felt more and more isolated.

"I had a lot of missed potential," he said. "Millions of kids are disconnected like I was. But the gift of encouragement is free."

During his prison time, Woods read 300 books, talked with people and did a lot of thinking. He wanted a new life. If he could live through prison, he could do anything, he told himself.

"You are always rewarded for how you treat people, good or bad," he said.

He began speaking in prison, setting goals for himself. He wrote his autobiography to tell his story, and then he fought to get it published. Literary agent Claudia Menza read the book and decided it was a message people needed to hear.

"Victor has been to dark places, and people can relate to him," she said.

Students in Woods's school audiences often come up to him after his presentations and confess things to him. He's heard about alcoholism, drug abuse, bullying and sexual abuse, even incest; and he's been able to speak with school authorities and help these kids.

"Even here, at the superintendents' council, one man told me that his son is in prison," he said.

Robert Reidy, Jr., executive director of the NYS Council of School Superintendents, said no excuses or rationalizations should stop educators from reaching out to every child.

"Victor is absolutely correct," Reidy said. "One of the most powerful forces is a sense of belonging."

Giving options and opportunities is key, Reidy said. Children gain that sense of belonging or go elsewhere, making unhealthy choices.

“We have to pay attention to kids,” Woods said. “They need to know the world opens up for a person who knows where he’s going.”

About the Author

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