

TRUE COLORS XXXI: THIS IS ME! PRESENTERS

Ephraim Adamz

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Ephraim Adamz is an American DJ, Filmmaker, Actor, and Pop Performer born in New England. He has worked on film sets such as Sisterhood of The Traveling Pants 2, The Pink Panther 2, College Road Trip with Martin Lawrence and Raven Symone, Assassination of a High School President starring Bruce Willis. In 2016 Ephraim was showcased in the Out CT Film festival for directing scenes of same gender romances in music videos. Between 2014-2019 Ephraim has DJ'ed at over 250 LGBT events including Pride Festivals, Nightclubs, Drag Brunch's, Fundraisers, and Non-Profits. That's an average of nearly all 52 weekends of the year. Setting the record for most booked DJ in CT that is openly gay.

Tal Adashek

Tal Adashek is a freshman at the University of Maine Farmington. Her interests include travel, Judaism, history, psychology, pop culture, photography, music and art. Tal has exhibited her nail polish paintings in New Hampshire. She is an avid reader and loves her hanging out with her friends.

Brian Aguilera

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Brian is currently a senior majoring in MCB at UConn. He is part of the student staff in the Rainbow Center and Co-President of the Queer Collective, a new LGBTQ+ student organization that offers open and safe discussion spaces for students in the LGBTQ+ community. Brian is graduating this coming May and will be starting Graduate School in the Fall.

Nishelli Ahmed

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Nishelli Ahmed is a Health Educator at the University of Connecticut. She obtained her B.S. in Health Education from the University of Florida and M.P.H. from the University of Connecticut. She has presented sexual health information over the past five years. She has also presented Rubberwear at previous True Colors Conferences. Her time in the Health Education Office is well spent co-supervising the UConn Sexperts.

Kelsey Alexander

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Kelsey Alexander is a queer, mostly-female, white person who spends her days talking with young people about violence in their own relationships and communities. Kelsey loves hiking, podcasts, and playing the ukulele. Kelsey is an anti-racist feminist.

Lynne M. Alexander

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Lynne M. Alexander is a dual master's student in the Department of Public Policy focusing on Public Administration and the School of Social Work with a concentration in Practice with Individuals, Groups and Families. They work with the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program as a Graduate Teaching Assistant and Instructor. They currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition (CTAC). Their research interests include queer pedagogy, classroom inclusion and culturally competent clinical social work care for LGBTQIA+ individuals and survivors of gender-based violence.

Marie Alford-Harkey

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Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey (she, her, hers) is the president and CEO of the Religious Institute, a national multifaith nonprofit dedicated to advocating for sexual, gender, and reproductive health, education, and justice in faith communities and society. Religious Institute programs address reproductive health, rights and justice, full inclusion of

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LGBTQ people in faith communities and society, comprehensive sexuality education, and prevention of sexual abuse, harassment, and misconduct in faith communities.

Gabriel Alvarez

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Gabriel is a 20 year old transgender male of color who is triple majoring in photography, non-profit business and medicine. Currently he peruses activism through photography and hopes to one day open a nonprofit. His life mission is to provide medical care to low income LGBT+ people of color.

Gane Alvarez

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I am a trans masc person of color, 20 year old college student going for a nonprofit activism degree to create an organization focused on queer poc. I go to CCRI and am a triple major planning on bryant university or brown. I am also a photographer and do my activism through film media.

Ryan Amador

RYAN AMADOR is a singer, songwriter, and theatermaker with two full length albums and five EP's of original music. He is best known for his queer-related music videos "Define Me" & "Spectrum", as well as his hit song "Instead" with over 3 million listens on Spotify. Most recently, Ryan directed premieres of live theatrical work in Cincinnati and New Orleans, and is currently in development on several music and theater projects.
ryanamador.com

Julia Anderson

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Julia Anderson (she/her/hers) is the Rainbow Center Program Coordinator at the University of Connecticut. Originally from Georgia, Julia now lives and works in Connecticut. She earned a Master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs from UConn last year.

Remy Andersen

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Remy is a trans, nonbinary, queer Business major from the University of Maine. Though originally hailing from the depths of Nebraska, they are a lover of tea in all forms, a former muttonbusting champion and a frequent advocate for pineapple on pizza.

Shannon Andros

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Shannon Andros is GSA Advisor at Norwich Free Academy, and teachers history at NFA's Sachem Campus

Addy Ankrah

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Addrisa Ankrah is current Graduate Student at Montclair State University in New Jersey. Addy is working on her Master's of Social Work degree to work with LGBT individuals and families.

Amy Ansah

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Born and raised in London England Amy uses diversity and personal experience to teach tool and inspire student through healthy self expression improvisation and making there own song she is also an advocate to non violence of teens and women and inspires the homeless to inspire themselves to higher new beginnings . Everyone deserves a chance to be uniquely who they are so they can inspire the world through Good and bad times she is currently working

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on a documentary overcoming trauma. Positively which will inspire anyone going through pain or challenges that they are not alone and can learn through others how to get through without being self destructive

Andy Archer

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Andy Archer is a body-based therapist, educator, spiritual leader and community organizer based in New Haven, CT. Andy's healing work is rooted in a philosophy of fierce compassion, collective responsibility and intrinsic respect for the lived experience of others. They believe that claiming our power begins with finding our voice, and that by examining our experiences of injustice and trauma on an internal, embodied level we can begin to uproot the conditions for our oppression.

Tracey Armaos

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Tracey and her husband host a weekend for transgender families, founded in 2015. The weekend is filled with fun activities in a nurturing environment, it has been life changing for all and fills their heart and soul. Tracey is very active in the LGBTQ+ community, she volunteers and provides support whenever she can. She finds these connections to be invaluable. Tracey hopes you find comfort with peer support and the relationships you gain in your journey.

Suzanne Artis

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Suzanne Artis is a librarian at Metropolitan Learning Center. She focuses a lot of energy on social justice and equity and what better place to do that than in the library. Libraries are the epitome of equity! She advises the Justice Club at MLC, which focuses on creating a safer school space and recognizing the importance of intersectionality, including racism, genderism, sexism, ableism, and classism.

Justin Bank

Jason Bartlett

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Jason Bartlett is the Director of Youth Services and Liaison to the Board of Education for the City of New Haven. Jason has focused on disengaged youth and creating safe spaces for New Haven's young people. Jason was formerly the Deputy Director of National Black Justice Coalition advocating nationwide for same gender loving people of color. Jason also served as a State Legislator from Danbury and Bethel, CT and was the first African American legislator to publicly come out in the country.

Kriti Behari, MA

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Kriti Behari is senior research assistant with the ESTEEM Project. She graduated with an MA from Stony Brook University in 2018. She is interested in the development and maintenance of depressive disorders, as well as in psychotherapy interventions and their adaptation, implementation and personalization.

Shakeira Bell

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Shakeira is a Tenth Grade Strings major at Co-op highschool in New Haven

Patricia Bengtson

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I am an ally, advocate, activist, GSA advisor and teacher at Rockville High School in Vernon. My greatest joy comes from being with the smart, funny and wonderfully accepting young people in my midst. It gives me hope for our future in these disturbing and divisive times. I dedicate my work to my delightful students.

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Cara Bergstrom-Lynch

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Dr. Bergstrom-Lynch is Associate Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Criminology, and Social Work at Eastern Connecticut State University. She teaches courses in sexuality, GLBT studies, families, and gender. Her book, *Lesbians, Gays, and Bisexuals Becoming Parents or Remaining Childfree: Confronting Social Inequalities*, was recently published by Lexington Books. She and her wife live with their two daughters (ages 7 and 9) in Manchester, CT.

Debi Berube

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Special Education Department Head at H.H. Ellis Technical High School and staff volunteer with the Ellis Tech GSA.

Jeff Bianco

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Jeff is the chair of GLSEN Connecticut. He is also an out elementary school educator. He holds two masters degrees, an MS in Elementary Education and an MEd in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in Equity, Ethics and Justice. Jeff believes that all students deserve a safe space in school regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Jessica Bibeau

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School Social Worker and GSA advisor at H.H. Ellis Technical High School.

Christine Bisceglie

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School Counselor Stamford Public Schools. Academy of Information Technology & Engineering . Run GSA in Stamford Public Schools since 1998. 2017 Award recipient of Connecticut Education Association (CEA) Human and Civil Rights Awards, The Harvey Milk – Sylvia Rivera Award for Challenging Discrimination Related to Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation for promoting the rights and concerns of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning and Intersex (LGBTQQI) community in the district. True Colors trained facilitator. Proudly Queer and very out in school district

Tyler Bizier

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Tyler Bizier is a first year Theater Design Tech major at UConn originally from Madison, Connecticut. He loves to be involved with any LGBTQ+ organizations as well as any type of music or art groups. Tyler was co-president of his high school GSA, a student staff member of The UConn Rainbow Center, as well as the recipient of the 2018 Taffy Bowes Humanitarian Award. Tyler is an advocate for the transgender community and to uses his artistic outlet to spread love and awareness.

Andrea Blair

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I'm a college sophomore that spends a lot of time reading and working on art hopefully we can have a great time together

Laurie Bonjo

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Dr. Laurie Bonjo serves as counseling faculty at Southern. Dr. Bonjo's pronouns are they/them/theirs or she/her/hers. An out-and-proud bisexual genderqueer counselor educator, Dr. Bonjo has worked with the queer community and individuals who identify as trans for 10+ years. Dr. Bonjo teaches courses designed specifically to help clinicians develop

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competence with the full spectrums of gender and sexual diversity. Additionally, Bonjo conducts advocacy research aimed at improving the status of LGBTQIA+ persons across the lifespan.

Briana Boutot

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Briana Boutot is a Connecticut native currently living in Hartland, Connecticut. A senior at the University of Hartford majoring in criminal justice, she plans to attend law school to become a personal injury attorney. After graduation, Briana hopes to begin a career as a paralegal to prepare for her future.

Sherry R. Boyd

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Sherry R. Boyd a professor of Humanities at North Lake College in Irving, Texas. Dr. Boyd is an accomplished vocalist and theatre artist holding a Bachelor of Music, Master of Arts in Theatre, and a Ph.D. in Fine Arts. Currently, Dr. Boyd is on sabbatical serving at Hartford Stage as a 2018-2019 Fellow in Education and Community Engagement. She is working with Hartford Stage's theatre education programs, professional development, and community engagement events.

Dr. Monica Brase

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Dr. Monica Brase is a science teacher and co-advisor of the GSA at Windsor High School. She has been an educator in the greater Hartford area for almost 20 years.

Nicolle Bratkovics

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Nicolle Bratkovics is a Language Arts teacher at Metropolitan Learning Center who loves reading and is an ally for the LGBT community.

Bren D.

I'm a cool kid who likes bread and social justice. I've been with True Colors since August, 2018. I kind of fell into the position.

Graham Bridgeman

Graham is a student at Yale Divinity School. He is particularly interested in addressing disenfranchised grief and spiritual trauma in LGBTQ communities.

Paige Buchan

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Paige is a sophomore at Norwich Free Academy and has been involved with GSA for 2 years. Paige is a twin.

Sky Buchan

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Sky is a sophomore at Norwich Free Academy and has been involved in GSA for 2 years. He is a twin.

Lucas Brunt

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Lucas Brunt (he/him/his) is a junior at the University of Connecticut studying Human Development and Family Studies. Lucas aspires to be a social worker for LGBTQIA+ youth. Lucas is also a Resident Assistant for Gender Inclusive Housing at UConn and a student employee at the Rainbow Center. Outside of school and work, Lucas enjoys writing and playing video games. This is Lucas's 5th True Colors Conference and his second time presenting.

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RJ Buonaiuto

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Hello, my name is RJ Buonaiuto. I'm a History Education major at Southern Connecticut State University. I was born in Connecticut and plan on teaching in the state when I graduate. I have interests in European, Political, and LGBTQIA+ History. I am gay and polyamorous.

Mobile Burrell

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Christina "Mobile" Burrell is an advocate for equity and fierce believer in the possibility of creating a world that everyone feels good calling home. Mobile's work on behalf of folks with marginalized identities within the US includes racial minorities, LGBTQ+ folks, youth in foster care, and more. Mobile strives to hone many skills to better serve families who most need it. This skilled group facilitator continues to work on building community and facilitating dialogue to propel positive change!

Quinn Busca

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Quinn is a student and member of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance at Windsor High School.

Josh Carbajal

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Josh is a Community Psychology Master's student at the University of New Haven. He is the former spokesperson and president of an LGBT+ organization, with a focus in transgender advocacy. Josh also co-leads a support group for young transgender adults at the New Haven Pride Center. He has attended True Colors conferences since 2011, and has presented at the conference since 2017.

Zane Carey

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Zane is a queer advocate currently getting his Masters in Public Administration at UConn. He came out as trans in middle school and has been rocking it ever since. He loves policy, his cat, and knitting.

Sasha Carney

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My name is Sasha (they/them pronouns), and I am a first-year at Yale College hoping to major in English or Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies. I'm originally from Ottawa, Canada but now live in London, UK. I love creative writing, backcountry canoe tripping, 80s music, rugby, and sitcom TV.

Toni Cartisano

Toni Cartisano is a retired physical education teacher, and an active board member for Stonewall Speakers.

Nicole Catarino

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Nicole is a freshman at the University of Connecticut pursuing an English major with a concentration in creative writing. She identifies as bi-romantic asexual and has been working with her Rainbow Center as long as she's been on campus. She loves writing poetry, creating music, reading, theater, her two cats, and any and all forms of bubble tea~

Pablo Causa

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My name is Pablo Causa. I've been part of a Planned Parenthood Program called STARS (Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality) for approximately 2 years now. This will be my first time presenting at True Colors and hope to bring my knowledge and curiosity to the table. Very excited to be doing this workshop.

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Josh Chandler

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Josh Chandler is a student at SCSU, and a drag performer known as Ava Cado. Josh is part of Planned Parenthood's Generation Action, and is working with CTEquality on LGBTQ+ youth events and open mics across CT.

Emerson Mason Cheney

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Emerson Mason is a polyamorous pansexual transgender man who has been living as male since 2011, and began testosterone in May 2017. He is a transgender rights activist, public speaker, artist, and drag queen by the name of Vanity Jade Merlot. Not only does he volunteer with True Colors every year, he also volunteers with the GLSEN CT chapter as the fundraising coordinator.

Aiden Ciaffaglione

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Current Psychology & Political Science undergrad student at the University of Maine. This will be my 4th year presenting my workshop at True Colors! Feel free to email me or ask any questions!

Alberto Cifuentes, Jr.

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Alberto Cifuentes, Jr., has been a volunteer for GLSEN Connecticut for 14 years and has served many roles, including Co-Chair, Student Leadership Team Adult Coordinator, Professional Development Coordinator, and Safe Schools Summit Coordinator. He is a community social worker specializing in community organizing and policy advocacy for marginalized populations, especially LGBTQ+ youth. He is currently a doctoral student and graduate research assistant at the University of Connecticut, School of Social Work.

Ethan Clark

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My name is Ethan Clark, I work as a Student Teaching About Responsible Sexuality at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England. My role as a STAR is to go into my local communities and schools to spread the word about sexual education. I have been a STAR for four years and am extremely dedicated to making the world safe-sex friendly. This is my second year presenting at True Colors and I couldn't be happier.

Kenneth M. Cohen, Ph.D.

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Ken is a licensed Clinical Psychologist at Cornell University's Counseling and Psychological Services where he provides individual and group therapy to sexual minorities and supervises staff and trainees. For many years he taught the course "Gender and Sexual Minorities" and presents workshops for mental health and social service providers nationally. Ken writes about LGB development and mental health issues and co-edited "The Lives of Lesbians, Gays, and Bisexuals: Children to Adults" (Harcourt Brace).

Alyssa Cuomo-Periello

I am the treasurer of Salve Regina's Women and Gender Studies club. I am in my freshman year at Salve Regina.

Jimmy Conroy

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Jimmy Conroy is a non-binary and bisexual musician and label-head, playing drums in Another Hospital and running DIY label Nap Time Records with their bandmates. They have seen personally the power that creating art in a scene that respects queer identities can have. DIY music played a large part in their coming out as NB and playing in a band with other LGBT members has allowed them to be more expressive with their identity.

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Mel Cordner

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Melissa Cordner is the Youth Activities/GSA Coordinator at True Colors. They've been working with queer youth since they were one and intend to keep doing so! They have five fish, two cats, and over 300 rubber duckies.

Amayia Cordova

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Ben Crowley

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Ben is a Black, Queer, Transmasculine Individual, Women Gender Sexuality Major at the University of Maine. He is a Three Rivers Community College Alumni. He is a lover of Ferrets, Tiny houses and Welcome to NightVale. Best friends with his ESA, Rusty and an avid Opponent of the abomination that is Pineapple on Pizza.

Mr. Sperry CT Leather 2019

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This is Ryan Sperry, Mr. CT Leather 2019, and contestant for Mr Mid-Atlantic 2019. He's currently a member of the Northeast Ursamen and previously sang with the HGMC. 1 part leather Sir, 1 part singing canary, 2 parts social butterfly and 3 parts book nerd. Too many parts? Never!

Barbara Curry

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Barbara is an award winning television producer/director who spends her spare time as a vocal advocate for transgender rights in the workplace. She is a member of the CT Stonewall Speakers and a trainer for True Colors. "I'm Beautiful Dammit" is a long-running popular guided discussion on self image.

Cadis C. Dahl

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As a transgender adult, (FtM) my experience and passion for neuroscience and the creation of new modules for anxiety based disorders/everyday anxiety, has grown to encompass my whole self. Dealing with some anxiety disorders of my own, my view is that it is possible to have your "Life Worth Living" under any circumstance.

Makayla Dawkins

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Makayla Dawkins is a senior at James Hillhouse High School. She was the Vice President of her student council, a member of the James Hillhouse math team and has taken various college courses throughout the school year. She is a student representative on the New Haven Board of Education and on the Connecticut State Board of education. She is also an educator for Planned Parenthood's STARS program and firm believer in sexual education. When she isn't reading or advocating for her peers, you can catch her at a concert, in the mall, or at work. She aspires to be a New York Times best selling author and a traveling educator. Kayla is her girlfriend of 4 years.

Daniel Davidson, MPH, MSW

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Daniel is Assistant Director of the Community Research and Implementation Core at CIRA where his role is to help foster the development of research projects that are relevant to the needs of communities impacted by HIV/AIDS. Daniel holds a Bachelor's in American Studies from Brown University and Master's in Social Work and Public Health from UConn. He also performs and teaches in Hartford with Sea Tea Improv, Connecticut's only professional improv theater.

Erika Dawson Head

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Erika received her BA in 2012, a double major in Political Science and Sociology from Central Connecticut State University. In 2015 she received her Master's Degree in Counseling with a Specialization in Student Development in

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Higher Education. Erika currentlCatiey is a Director of Diversity for the College of Information and Computer Science at UMass Amherst. Her previous role was in Human Resources. Erika is driven by her strong belief in diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Morgana De Luxe

Michael Morgan, also known as Morgana De Luxe, is a legend in the Drag community. They have been doing DRAG professionally since the 1990's, having helped form the Imperial Court of CT. They have reigned as Empress of CT with their fiance Trevor, who is also doing this workshop. They can't wait to meet all the youth and help them transform into their beautiful and handsome selves!

Richard de Meij

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Richard is a Social Justice, Educational Equity, Diversity and Child Advocate, and Educator of World Languages, at Hartford Public High School. He is also a multicultural, multiethnic and multilingual (8 languages) Linguist, Speech-Language Pathologist and Edu-Technologist. Richard is a Christian, West Indian, Afro-Latino Dutchman from the happy island nation of Aruba, educated in Aruba, Europe and the United States. Richard enjoys world travel, studying world religions, languages & cultures, and practicing ballroom and folkloric dances.

Jennifer Degenhardt

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Jennifer Degenhardt, B.A., M.Ed., taught middle and high school Spanish for 24 years and is currently teaching college level students. She began writing when her high school students were not succeeding with traditional textbook lessons. Her books highlight cultural, social, economic and political themes necessary for continued conversation, both in- and out of the classroom, all deal with identity to some degree and how important it is to know who you are.

Dallas Denny

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Dallas Denny has been a leader in the transgender rights movement since the 1980s. Her work as advocate, writer, editor, speaker, and community builder have played a significant role in the advancement of rights for transsexual and transgender people in North America and around the world. For more information, visit her website at www.dallasdenny.com.

Desmond Is Amazing

Desmond Napoles (AKA Desmond is Amazing) is a performer, drag kid, awarded LGBTQ advocate, outspoken gay youth, editorial model, public speaker, founder of his own drag house, fashion designer, muse, and icon. Most importantly, he is an inspiration to many and a representation of hope for the future to come.

Sarah Dottor

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Sarah (they/them/theirs) is currently a grad student pursuing their MSW at the UConn School of Social Work. They graduated from UConn Storrs in May 2017 with a B.S. in Pathobiology, but now are exploring a home in this new field. Their free time is spent at martial arts, where they have earned a black belt in Tang Soo Do during 8 years of training. Sarah believes in the power of visibility and knowledge, as well as advocacy for what one understands to be right.

Ammon Downer

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Ammon is a Senior at Coop Highschool and a theater major.

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Judy Downing

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Judy is an avid ally and listener, Wiccan, and Reiki practitioner. She is the proud mother of a "mostly gay" transgender son. When she is not misreading some words and phrases as relating to LGBTQ*, she is slowly writing a book about her experiences as Emerson Mason's mom.

Gia Drew

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Gia is Program Director at EqualityMaine where she oversees all education, outreach, and youth programs, and advocates for policies and laws that protect the LGBTQ+ community. Before becoming a LGBTQ+ activist, Gia was a high school teacher and coach, working in several New England states and in Maryland. In that time she transitioned on the job becoming one of Maine's first transgender teachers and one of the first transgender athletic coaches in the country.

Evan Dundon

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I am a student at Salve Regina University. I am co-president of the Women and gender studies club. And I am a member of the LGBT community.

Regina Dyton

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Regina S. Dyton Regina arrived in Hartford CT in 1972 to attend the University of Hartford where she began to come out to herself as a lesbian...and gradually to others. Self realization prompted contemplation: "To whom and where do I belong?" Not seeing a place for her whole self in the LGBT or Black community, much of Regina's work as a community organizer and activist has centered on building inclusive communities where everyone is welcome to bring their entire selves

Dr. AJ Eckert

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Dr. AJ is a family medicine and osteopathic physician who specializes in LGBTQ+ Healthcare.

Alanna-Marie Edwards

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I am a 14 year old student attending New Haven schools. I identify as bisexual.

Kayla Emery

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Kayla Emery is a senior at Hill Regional Career High School. She is a center for the Lady Panthers Career Basketball team. When she goes to college, she wants to be Forensic Analyst, majoring in Biology at UConn. She volunteers her time fundraising and building houses for low income families with Habitat for Humanities. She is also an educator for Planned Parenthood's STARS program. Makayla is Kaylas girlfriend of 4 years.

Kimberley Fais

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Kimberley is a teacher, artist, and activist. She serves as a regional representative for New England Aces and co-leads the LGBTQ-affirming Oasis Youth Group in the greater New Haven area.

Steven Feldman

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Steven Feldman (he/him/his) currently serves as the Graduate Assistant for the UConn Rainbow Center while pursuing a Master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs. He holds a B.A. in Music and Gender & Sexuality Studies from Muhlenberg College as well as a M.A. in Musicology from Stony Brook University. Steven enjoys drinking iced coffees from Dunkin', binge-watching shows on Netflix, and singing to Beyoncé with his friend, Jackie Harrison.

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Jose Feliciano

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José Feliciano is a program coordinator, creative placemaker, educator, and researcher. He creates, cultivates, and advocates for education, cultural and inclusion-based change that deepens intercultural understanding for communities and culture bearers. He believes that by breaking down barriers to collaboration, people can learn from each other to create positive change that supports all communities and individuals. You can find out more about his work at: www.culturescholarremix.com

Tony Ferraiolo, CPC

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Tony Ferraiolo is known as a compassionate and empowering Life Coach and a motivating and thought-provoking trainer. Since 2005 Tony has provided trainings to over 15,000 people around the country. Tony has dedicated himself to both promoting competent and respectful health care for the transgender community, by educating providers, and advocating on behalf of patients. Also, training educators on providing a safe and respectful space for transgender children in a school environment. He encompasses a unique ability to make light of a sometimes-challenging situation which puts his audience at ease to fully participate in his trainings and leaves his audience with a greater awareness of how to move forward in supporting their patients, staff, co-workers, students, and children.

Katey Ferreira

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Katey Ferreira is the Digital Marketing Manager for Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, focusing on the social media and search marketing programs. She holds a bachelor's in government from Smith College, and a master's in human rights and international politics from University of Glasgow in Scotland. She has focused on the intersection between digital media and women's empowerment throughout her career to date, working on issues like domestic violence, sexual assault, and poverty alleviation.

Bonnie Fineman

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Bonnie Fineman is the Director of Arts and Humanities for Windsor Public Schools, and manages the development of curriculum and programming for English language arts, social studies, world language, art, music, and ESL. Prior to her current role, she was a high school English teacher for 15 years. She was a mentor for True Colors and the foster parent of two LGBT youth. She, her wife, and son live in Windsor because of its inclusiveness.

Mary Fitzgerald

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Mary is a first year Master of Social Work student at Southern CT State University. She is doing her field placement at the Sexuality and Gender Equality (SAGE) Center. She identifies as part of the Ace Community and is committed to advocating for LGBTQ rights and equality.

Emily Fox

413 5371999

emilyfoxtrot@gmail.com

Emily Fox has taught social dance to people of all ages and abilities at venues in Western MA for 14 years and specializes in teaching beginners. She is passionate about helping individuals and couples of all kinds discover their enjoyment of dance. Through incorporating techniques designed to reach students in many ways, including demonstrating steps, dancing with students, verbal cueing, giving tactile feedback, and providing written handouts, students have not only developed their ability to dance, but have also gained pride and confidence in learning a new skill that connects them with family, friends, and the larger dance community.

TRUE COLORS XXXI: THIS IS ME! PRESENTERS

Jake Fox

bluetwo2003@gmail.com

Hi, I'm Jake and I am part of The Sound School Sexuality and Gender Alliance (SAGA). I go by he/him/his pronouns and identify as pansexual. True Colors was an amazing experience for me the first year I went and I want to help make True Colors a great experience for everyone else.

Kate Fractal

781 2487400

k8fractal@gmail.com

Mx. Kate Fractal is queerborn computer science and math educator. Kate often bridges communities by living at the edge of identity labels. She has taught for seven years, and offers professional development and curriculum consulting in computer science education, inclusive classrooms, and cross-curricular integration.

Sarah Gannon

860 3334022

sarah.gannon@ppsne.org

Sarah Gannon is the Manager of Adult Education and Professional Training for Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE), where she provides trainings for teachers, social workers, and other youth serving professionals. For the past 8 years, Sarah has provided comprehensive sexuality education workshops for teens; youth in foster and adoptive care; people with developmental disabilities; and other members of the community. Sarah has an M.A. in Art Therapy from Albertus Magnus College.

Josh L. Garcia

203 9997235

prism@owls.southernct.edu

I am a junior and a Recreation and Leisure major with a concentration in community youth development. I am the President of Southern Connecticut State University LGBTQIA+ Prism organization. I am an openly gay cis man. I try to make my University more aware of the LGBTQIA+ community and educate them as well. I also love Llama.

Justin Gazard

860 5143712

jpgazard@hgmc.org

Jack Georges

8603722243

extraemail16@gmail.com

My name is Jack, and I am studying civil engineering at CCSU. I am a demipansexual non-binary transman and am looking forward to this year's conference!

Samantha Gerson

310 9803118

sigerson217@gmail.com

Samantha Gerson is a Social Worker in Los Angeles County. She received a Bachelors in Advanced Clinical Social Work from NYU in 2015, with a concentration in Child and Adolescent Mental Health studies related to trauma. She received her Master's at USC in Advanced Clinical Social Work, with an emphasis on trauma. She currently works as a Director of Social Services at Maclay Healthcare, and hopes to one day open her own mental-health-focused center for survivors of trauma. Samantha's passion and focus has primarily been on institutionalized vulnerable youth with an emphasis on reparative educational environments.

Jonathan Gillman

8606805269

lookingin@comcast.net

Jonathan Gillman has been the director of Looking In Theatre for over thirty years. He is also the author of "Looking In", a book about the group, and of a novel, "Captivity".

Jill Goldberg

goldberg.jillian@stu-windsorct.org

Jill is a student and member of the the Gender and Sexuality Alliance at Windsor High School.

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Martha Golstein-Shultz

martha.goldstein@gmail.com

Martha is a former Family and Consumer Science and Human and Family Development teacher at Killingly High School. She is currently in the final stages of her Doctorate in Sexual Health Education from Widener University. She is also a dynamic Zumba instructor at the Hale YMCA.

Thomas Goodkind

860 974 1814

tbgoodkind.uconn.edu

Tom continues to be concerned with the great impact of different forms of media that influence the interests, attention, focus, choices, and values of the young today. Tom and his wife Liz Rowell often give talks together at conferences.

Kristin Goodwin

860 4217518

Kristin.m.goodwin@ct.gov

School counselor at Ellis Technical High School.

Zoe Gosselin

gosselin.zoe@stu-windsorct.org

Zoe Gosselin is a student and member of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance at Windsor High School.

Hailey B. Greenhalgh

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Hailey B. Greenhalgh is a Ph.D. student in the Dept. of Political Science and a graduate teaching assistant in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program at UConn. Their research centers on navigating transgender human rights narratives while merging valuable insights from new quantitative datasets. Besides this, they also present a series of workshops on polyamory, long distance relationships, and human rights.

Barbara Gurr

8605386581

barbgurr@gmail.com

Barbara Gurr is an Associate Professor in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program at the University of Connecticut

Charlie Hall

860 9337601

hallari97@gmail.com

Pre-Secondary Education and English major at Eastern Connecticut State University. LGBTQA+ advocate

Brian Hanechak

617 8754921

hanechak@gmail.com

Brian Hanechak is a non-binary software engineer who enjoys board games, pinball, and square dancing. Brian uses the pronoun "he", even though he wears dresses, because a fabulously dressed eight-year-old taught him he could.

Joy Harris

8603144690

19harrisjoy@bristolct12.org

I have been involved with Peer-Ed for four years now. I have been voted as the president of in school peer ed for three consecutive years now. I am currently a senior at Bristol Central High school and 17 years of age. My peer ed is involved in taking on discussions with my peers about topics such as mental illness, bullying, abuse, etc.

Rachael Harris

203 7526930

rharris128333@gmail.com

Hi, my name's Rachael. My pronouns are she/hers/her and I identify as a lesbian. I am a co-president of The Sound School Sexuality and Gender Alliance (SAGA). I believe that it is important for everyone to have a support system and a safe place where they can be themselves.

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Jackie Harrison

410 2531205

harrison.jacquelineb@gmail.com

Jacqueline Harrison (she/her/hers) graduated with degrees in Psychology and Music from Muhlenberg College. Since graduating, Jackie has dedicated herself to working at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia as a research assistant in the department of Neurology. She has the privilege of conducting research and facilitating support group for CHOP's Gender and Sexuality Development Clinic. Outside of the work she loves, Jackie enjoys spending time reading, being silly, and singing with close friends like Steven Feldman.

Brenna Harvey

203 8158264

brenna@seateaimprov.com

Brenna Harvey is an author and comedian from Hartford CT. She is an associate artistic director at the Sea Tea Comedy Theater and teaches sociology and gender studies at the University of Hartford. She currently works as the Youth and Families Coordinator at Charter Oak Cultural Center, a non-profit dedicated to providing free arts education to CT youth.

Rebecca Harvey, Ph.D.

315 2639188

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Dr. Rebecca Harvey is an Associate Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy at SCSU. She holds a Master's Degree in Social Work and a PhD in Family Therapy from Syracuse University. She continues to contribute to the MFT field's theoretical development and clinical practices with regard to sexuality and gender and has published and presented widely on affirmative, culturally competent work with LGBTQ people and their families.

Laura Heneghan

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laura@danajonsonlaw.com

Attorney Laura Heneghan also represents children with disabilities through the special education process and acts as an Educational Surrogate Parent for children in foster care. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Western Connecticut Association for Human Rights and was appointed a Guardian ad Litem in the Connecticut Superior Court for Juvenile Matters in cases of abuse and neglect. Laura is currently active as a Parent Leader of the Northern Fairfield County chapter of SmartKids with Learning Disabilities and volunteers with the Danbury Schools and Business Collaborative as a Mentor to encourage school attendance and positive relationships for students. Laura has 3 children, 2 of whom have disabilities.

Brian Hentz

860 4061447

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Brian Hentz, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in-residence with the University of Connecticut's School of Business, where he teaches courses in professional communication and developmental leadership. He has been an active presenter with Stonewall Speakers for the past decade.

Ignacio Heredia

8603152290

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Ignacio Heredia is an Educator & Youth Development Coordinator for Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE). Part of the role as an educator is the development and provision of comprehensive educational programs to youth and adults. Ignacio provides programs for schools, youth in foster care and adoptive care, people with developmental disabilities, parents, and members of the community. Ignacio also coordinates a peer education program in New London called STARS, Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality. The focus of the program is teen pregnancy prevention, prevention of sexually transmitted infections, gender equality, and the promotion of healthy relationships through responsible choices.

TRUE COLORS XXXI: THIS IS ME! PRESENTERS

Brocko Hoelck

8604255637

20190543@nfastudents.org

Brocko is a senior at Norwich Free Academy and has been involved with GSA since his sophomore year.

Ry Horan

203 736 7018

ryanehoran@gmail.com

Hello! My name's Ryan Horan and I'm a co-president from The Sound School Sexuality and Gender Alliance (SAGA). My pronouns are she/her/hers and I identify as a lesbian. I have a passion for helping people and making sure they have a safe place, whether that's at home or at school.

Sophie House

Sophie House is a queer lawyer, researcher, and Sunday school teacher from New Haven, Connecticut.

Brittany Huffman

4018671635

brittany.huffman@ppsne.org

Today's presenters are part of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England's peer education program STARS, which stands for students teaching about responsible sexuality. STARS are high school students from across RI and CT that are trained by PPSNE educators.

Adrian Huq

2036065889

adarahuq917@gmail.com

I am a 16 year old from Derby, Connecticut and a high schooler in New Haven. I identify as polysexual and trans nonbinary. My hobbies include writing, painting, dance, and hanging out with friends. I love being a part of the LGBTQ+ community and I am so excited to be attending True Colors for the first time!

Emma James Burke

8606896929

emmajamesburke@gmail.com

Emma James Burke is an LGBTQ advocate and comedian from Hartford, CT. They are a member of Sea Tea Improv's Touring Company and a staff member at Sea Tea Comedy Theater. They are currently an intern at True Colors and teach an after school improv program at Wamogo High School as well as coaching the high school's Region 6 Players.

RJ Jarvis

rylejarvis01@gmail.com

I have been working at True Colors since August, 2018. I have many passions for social awareness and correcting people on my pronouns.

Marcel Jennings

Ka'diva Jeremy

2039997842

jeremy@cwyc.org

Jeremy Cajigas sits on the youth advisory board at the Citywide Youth Coalition and interns for Planned Parenthood of Southern New England. With them they created and successfully launched the states first LGBTQ+ camp for youth of color. Jeremy has worked on issues such as Racial Profiling, Police Brutality, Immigration Rights, LGBTQ+ Rights, Juvenile Justice Reform and the Miseducation of our Education System among many other issues. Jeremy has dedicated his time to help make the New Haven community better. Jeremy exudes the spirit of a new generation of youth who are politically conscious and committed to improving the community for the better.

Ny'aire Johnson

nyairejohnson06@gmail.com

I am a 16 year old that goes to a New Haven high school. I identify as bisexual. This is my first year attending True Colors and I like tacos.

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Dana Jonson

203 4825158

dana@danajonsonlaw.com

Attorney Dana Jonson has been protecting the civil rights of students with disabilities through the special education process in Connecticut for almost 15 years. Dana also acts as an Educational Surrogate Parents for children in foster care, our most vulnerable population. Prior to working as an attorney, Dana was a teacher and administrator in the Boston Public Schools. Dana has 4 children with varying special needs, 3 of whom identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. Dana's experiences provide a unique perspective in her advocacy for students. She frequently presents both locally and nationally on a variety of areas pertaining to special education and related issues.

Nancy Jones

8608872505

jonesn@nfaschool.org

Nancy Jones is GSA Advisor at Norwich Free Academy, and is an intervention specialist at NFA's Sachem campus.

Mia Joseph

mia189493@gmail.com

Mia is a lead organizer for Students for Educational Justice. A senior at Metropolitan Business Academy, she's worked tirelessly over the last three years to improve the lives of students in the city of New Haven. She tackles issues like juvenile justice reform and the miseducation of our education system, among many others.

Mita Kale

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mita.kale@uconn.edu

Mita (she/her/hers) is currently a sophomore at UConn majoring in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. She is the Vice President of Revolution Against Rape and is also a student employee at the Rainbow Center.

Amanda Kallen

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Dr. Amanda N. Kallen is Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) at Yale School of Medicine. Amanda completed her M.D. from the University of Connecticut and Ob/Gyn residency and REI fellowship at Yale. Amanda's clinical interests include pediatric/adolescent gynecology, LGBTQ family building and fertility preservation. An NIH-funded physician-scientist, Dr. Kallen is recognized for excellence in teaching, clinical care, and research.

Natalie Katrenya

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Natalie is a senior at Woodland Regional HS as well. She is a bisexual woman and is currently seventeen. She is on Woodlands Girls swim team, has a leadership position in GSA as well as one in the Leos Club, she also is part of Woodlands band program.

Carly Kawanishi

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Carly is a second year medical student at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University. She has served as a leader in community service work in her hometown of Los Angeles and has continued these pursuits upon moving to New Haven. A lifelong LGBTQ ally and lover of spoken word poetry and creative expression, she's a passionate advocate for equal rights and opportunities for all things that make life worth living.

Joe Keach-Longo

860 4636761

jlongo3rd@gmail.com

Joe Keach-Longo is a 4th grade humanities teacher at Clover Street School in Windsor CT. Joe has MA in reading and language arts from Saint Joseph University and BA in theatre and 20th century gay history from Goddard College. Joe and his husband are former True Colors mentors/foster parents. Joe currently holds the title of Mr. Connecticut Bear 2018/19 and uses his title to educate and fundraise for True Colors and the Connecticut chapter of GLSEN.

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Andre Keitt

860 9836473

Dawn Kelk

203 5057205

dawn.kelk@gmail.com

Dr. Dawn A. Kelk, PhD, HCLD is Director of the In Vitro Fertilization Laboratory at Yale Fertility Center & Associate Research Scientist at the Yale University School of Medicine. Dr Kelk's lab freezes eggs & sperm as well as creating embryos to help both couples and individuals build their families. Dawn is originally from Canada, has a teenage daughter and is especially passionate about helping to create LGBTQ families.

Amoy King

king.amoy@stu-windsorct.org

Amoy is a student and member of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance at Windsor High School.

CJ King

I was born in January, 2002. I am a African American gay teenager who is interested in Biology and Pre Med. I dedicate a lot of my time to education and learning new things. My extra circulars include: sexual peer education (S.T.A.R.S. at Planned Parenthood), Evolutions at the Peabody Museum, Yale Pathways to Arts and Humanities, Hemispheres (Yale International Relations Program), WorldCLASS (World Culture and Language After School Studies Program at Yale), Gender and Sexuality Alliance, Students for Social Justice, UNH Global Ambassadors and SciCORPS at the Peabody Museum. I have a passion for music, learning the dialect of different regions, science and pistachios (salt and roasted).

Debby Kirk

860 7617103

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Debby Kirk is the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries and also the Open and Affirming Liaison for the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ

Eric Kohlenstein

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Eric Kohlenstein is the guitarist, vocalist, and primary songwriter for the Philadelphia-based indie rock band Another Hospital. He is a Music Industry student at Drexel University, with a minor in music theory and composition. He is also partner in the band's record label, Nap Time Records. Through music, Kohlenstein explores themes of homosexual identity and social consciousness. He is vocal in his support of the LGBTQ+ community through his participation in the DIY music community.

Cris Knowles

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cristina.knowles@uconn.edu

Cristina has a Bachelor's degree in biology from the Univeristy of Connecticut and is currently pursuing a Master's in Human Development & Family Studies. She studies asexuality and hopes to reduce stigma and increase positivity through awareness and education.

Irwin Krieger, LCSW

203 9887018

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Irwin Krieger, LCSW provided psychotherapy for the LGBT community for over 30 years, including extensive work with transgender youth and their families. He now provides clinical supervision, as well as training for mental health professionals and school personnel. Irwin is the 2017 recipient of the CT NASW's Lifetime Achievement award and the author two books: Helping Your Transgender Teen: A Guide for Parents, and Counseling Transgender and Non-Binary Youth: The Essential Guide. Website: www.IKriegerTraining.com

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Harry Landesberg

landesberghannah@gmail.com

My name is Harry Landesberg and I am a senior at Fairfield Ludlowe High School. I am the president of the GSA and the Feminism club and I identify as a lesbian. I am very passionate about social justice, music, and art.

Hilary La Riviere

207 3316218

thehilanaproject@gmail.com

Hilary and Ilana have been Partners in Crime for over 7 years. They work as Certified Intentional Peer Support Specialists in Maine, collaborating on projects and presentations from the psychiatric survivor perspective. The Hilana Project offers trainings, consultations, and presentations on numerous social justice and mental health topics such as harm reduction within self-injury, gender beyond the binary, and alternatives to traditional mental health treatment. When not at work, they enjoy befriending wild animals, puns, imitating sloths, and showering people with t-rex hugs.

Shawn Lang

860 5439113

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Shawn M. Lang is the Deputy Director with AIDS Connecticut (ACT). Having been with the organization for 27 years, she oversees ACT's care and treatment; and prevention programs, and is responsible for public policy activities on the state and federal levels. In 2016, out of a field of 900 nominees nationwide, Shawn was chosen as a one of ten White House Champions of Change for Advancing Prevention, Treatment and Recovery. She lives in Hartford with her 21 year old son.

Molly Lanz

Molly is a student at Dodd Middle School and a member of Oasis Youth Group. She enjoys playing trumpet and reading.

Riley Lanz

Riley is a student at Cheshire High School and a member of Oasis Youth Group. He enjoys playing percussion in marching band.

Hannah LaRocca

2154781437

lazyeyeph@gmail.com

Lazy Eye was originally the solo project of Temple student Hannah LaRocca up until September 2017 when she was joined by Connor LaRocca, Amber Ferreira and Maddie Blank. Since becoming active in Philadelphia DIY, Hannah has prioritized creating & participating in spaces for other queer artists through booking & promotion. A band of all queer members, Lazy Eye makes music that touches on self-love & acceptance, queer existence, and rejecting the gender binary.

Brandon Lopez

lb568220@gmail.com

Susan Lugli

207 8078240

slugli@mxcc.edu

Susan Lugli is a Professor of Business and co-advisor for SPEAK (Students Promoting Equality, Acceptance, and Knowledge) at Middlesex Community College.

Jack Lattimore

9199432492

jack.lattimore@yale.edu

My name is Jack. I am a junior at Yale majoring in Statistics and Data Science and Education Studies. I grew up in both England and North Carolina. I am passionate about education and social justice and enjoy reading, theater/performing arts, and strategy games!

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James Lecesne

James@Jameslecesne.com

JAMES LECESNE wrote the short film TREVOR, which won an Academy Award for Best Live Action Short and inspired the founding of The Trevor Project, the only nationwide 24-hour suicide prevention and crisis intervention Lifeline for LGBT and Questioning youth. He has written three novels for young adults, and created The Letter Q, a collection of letters by Queer writers written to their younger selves. Lecesne was the executive producer of After The Storm, a documentary film that tells the story of 12 young people living in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. And his Off Broadway solo show (The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey) continues to tour the country.

Ari Leigh

785 4106601

aleigh9889@gmail.com

A Kansan who settled in Massachusetts, Ari is an autistic, genderqueer, trans person with a complex (a)sexuality. After serving as a librarian, police intern, camp counselor, soup kitchen manager, and seminarian, they have settled comfortably into the role of polyamorous-queer homemaker while doing trauma recovery work. Since 2011 they have facilitated over 30 workshops on topics ranging from Gender 101 to exploring the complex intersections of gender, sexuality, religion, shame, and identity.

Liv Liberti

860 3297408

livietish@gmail.com

I have a severe anxiety disorder, depression, adhd, dyslexia, and schizophrenia that have been affected by being pansexual.

Diana Lombardi

860 8291122

diana@drlombardi.net

Diana graduated in 2011 from the University Of Connecticut School Of Social Work with her Master's Degree; her concentration was in Community Organizing. She is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Trans-Advocacy Coalition (CTAC). Diana worked to pass the gender inclusive Anti-Discrimination law in Connecticut in 2011 and other laws. Diana is a member of the National Association of Social Workers and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.

Tom Long

757 4395585

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Dr. Thomas Lawrence Long is a professor of English in the UConn School of Nursing and on the core faculty of Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies. A queer community organizer for over 20 years in Virginia, he has been editor of a gay literary journal and has published scholarly studies of queer cultures.

Lana Lozinski

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lanalozinski@gmail.com

Daughter of Arab and Slavic immigrants, Lana is an 18 year old transgender female. Lana is currently a college freshman but spent her senior year in high school dual enrolled in college and high school. Driven by her own personal struggles Lana now inspires to be a clinical psychologist serving individuals like herself.

Carole MacKenzie, LCSW

860 7293677

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Carole MacKenzie, LCSW, a graduate of Smith College School for Social Work, is a clinical social worker and sex therapist in private practice in Hartford, where she sees gender diverse clients ranging from 4 to 64 years old. With the help of her little dog, Virginia Woof, Carole teaches Human Sexual Behavior in the psychology department at the University of Hartford. She is a long-time supporter of True Colors and a member of AAECT, PFLAG, and WPATH (World Association of Transgender Health).

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Sophie Magadieu

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Sophie Magadieu is a senior Falmouth High and the president of GLSEN Southern Maine's Students for Safe Schools Leadership Team and their school's GSA. Sophie is also a poet, an artist, and a social activist.

Juno Maldonado

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juno.maldonado@ppsne.org

Juno Maldonado is a UCL graduate, Connecticut-based digital organizer, and a passionate human rights activist. She works with Planned Parenthood of Southern New England as their Social Media and Community Relations Specialist, focusing on advocacy work. An avid reader and a lover of pop-culture- she wholeheartedly believes in the power of storytelling. Her favorite quote is "Technology and social media have brought power back to the people."

Sarai Mapp

suartis@crec.org

Sarai Mapp is a student at the Metropolitan Learning Center and co-leader of Justice Club, as well as an avid reader!

Tracy Martinez

news.pflaghartford@gmail.com

Tracy Martinez is a mother of two who works for the Dept. of Defense. Tracy joined PFLAG Hartford in February 2014 and has served on the board for over 3 years, first as Newsletter Editor and then as Speaker Chair. She regularly facilitates in both Manchester and Hartford support meetings and enjoys supporting people's involvement with advocacy of the LGBTQ community.

Katy Massa

artist.1031@yahoo.com

High School Senior - Academy of Information Technology & Engineering, Stamford . GSA leader. President of the school Art Club, Honor Student. President of the National Honor Society

Qwin Mbabazi

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qMbabazi@glad.org

Qwin is an LGBTQ Activist from Uganda who currently moved to the USA and has done a lot of grass root mobilizing, programmatic implementation and fundraising for a number of LGBTQ organizations and communities in Africa. Her passion for LGBTQ equality and visibility is both local and international and she is currently utilizing these engagement skills at GLAD as the Community Engagement Coordinator.

Nichol McCarter

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Nichol McCarter is the University Assistant for the CCSU LGBT Center and her pronouns are she/her/hers. She graduated from CCSU with a B.A. in English and was the founder of the non-monogamy peer discussion group on campus. Currently, she is a candidate for a master's degree in English with a concentration on queer ecocriticism and animal studies at the University of Massachusetts- Amherst. She deeply believes in the philosophy that "there can be no peace without justice for every living being" and focuses on educating others on the oppressive nature of binary and hierarchical systems of categorization.

Erin McConocha, MPH

646 3444060

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Erin is Project Coordinator of the ESTEEM lab at the Yale School of Public Health where she works with Dr. John Pachankis and his research team. The ESTEEM lab investigates the impact of stigma on mental health outcomes in LGBTQ communities and develops evidence-based LGBTQ-affirmative mental health interventions. Erin received her

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MPH in Social and Behavioral Sciences from the Yale School of Public Health and her BA in Molecular Biology/Biochemistry from Middlebury College.

Sampson McCormick

2022975962

bookingsampson@gmail.com

Sampson McCormick is an experience, a down to earth comedic force of nature and one of the most sought after voices of diversity in comedy for nearly two decades. One of the first out LGBT men of color in the business, the award winning entertainer has appeared on BET, TV One, VICELAND and in 2018 made history as the first comedian to ever perform at a Smithsonian museum.

Ellis McGinley

8604207651

mcginleyct@gmail.com

Hi! I'm Ellis McGinley, a junior creative writing major at ACT High School in Willimantic, CT. I'm from Ashford, where I grew up with an assortment of dogs and other pets. I'm a performer and a published poet, and this is my second time workshoping at True Colors! In my free time, I enjoy reading, playing early 2000s games for the DSLite, and binge-watching reality television with exclusively two or lower stars on Netflix.

Justine McGowan

860 5457221

justine.mcgowan@hhhealth.org

Justine McGowan received her BA in Psychology from Southern Connecticut State University and her MSW from the University of Saint Joseph School of Social Work. She works at The Institute of Living as a clinician for The Right Track Program/LGBTQ Specialty Track. Justine has a passion for helping others which made social work an easy career choice for her. She also enjoys dancing and has been a Zumba instructor for 6 years!

Bryce McKinzie

2034943250

dee1187@hotmail.com

Bryce is a non-binary transman Drag King who was been volunteering with the Imperial Sovereign Court of All Connecticut for over 9 years. This is their 16th conference and 13th volunteering for True colors. During their spare time they go to school to obtain a Master's in Counseling with a focus in LGBT issues at Goddard College. They are beyond excited to work with all the individuals who want to perform DRAG.

Serena McHugh

I am the president of the Alliance at Salve Regina, where I am a student in my senior year. I am also an RA and have had experience with our campus' security.

Mitchell McKittrick

4133104224

mitchellmckittrick@gmail.com

Mitchell McKittrick is currently a sophomore Ethnic and Gender Studies student at Westfield State University. He has presented and several conferences and schools, and this is his 4th year at True Colors! He currently serves as the Diversity/Inclusion Representative for the Student Government Association and is the chairperson of the SGA Diversity/Inclusion Committee.

Lyric McVoy

203 9090674

lyric.mcvoy@uconn.edu

I'm a junior English Education major at UConn! I love working with others to educate them on LGBTQ+ issues, and have presented at TCC three times before now!

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Susana Mello

I am a freshman at Salve Regina and a studio art major. I am also the secretary of the Women and Gender Studies club as well as a member of the Alliance

Micaela Mellow

8603771692

micaela.mellow@uconn.edu

I'm a junior at UConn majoring in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. I am planning to go to grad school for Social work. I've been in recovery from an eating disorder for 2 years.

Leesandra Mendoza

2038191404

mendozaleesandra0@gmail.com

Well hello there caught me by surprise. I'm Leesandra and I go to Common Ground High School. I'm a biromantic who loves long walks on the beach, poetry, and puns. But I am also a social activist who wants to represent Queer Hispanics. I want to be an art therapist so I may help others who struggle with mental illness.

Mike Miarecki

860 7482535

mmiarecki79@gmail.com

I am an LCSW specializing in working with the LGBTQAI+ community. I also promote suicide awareness in my practice and in the community with the goal of stopping preventable suicides.

Anyilah Middleton

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Anyilah Middleton is a member of STARS, Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality since 2017 while in high school. STARS, founded in 2001, it is a regional peer education program for high school students organized by Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE). The focus of the program is teen pregnancy prevention, STD and HIV prevention, Gender Equality, and the promotion of healthy relationships through responsible choices. Anyilah Middleton has represented PPSNE and has taken leadership in the STARS program.

Stephanie Miranda

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I am a senior psychology major at Salve Regina. I am an active member of the Alliance and Women and Gender Studies clubs. I am also a member for the LGBT community.

Meistro Mitchell

anthony@students4edjustice.org

Anthony is a sophomore in high school. A creative writer and spoken word poet, they started to get involved in social justice during their freshman year. Ant believes that the people who would be best for fighting for inequality were the ones effected by it. They are currently a student organizer for SEJ.

Fiona Mohring

Fiona is the Director, Health & Group Benefits at Stanley Black and Decker. She is the CT Chapter co-lead of SBD's Pride & Allies employee resource group. Fiona has a BA in Latin American Studies from York College of PA and a MPH from UCONN. She lives in West Hartford with her wife and four children

Jack Monarca

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Jack is a first year student in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling graduate program at the University of New Haven. He was heavily involved in LGBT advocacy during his undergraduate career and is currently a staff operator at Trans Lifeline and the co-facilitator of a trans young adult support group at the New Haven Pride Center. He has presented at True Colors before in 2017 and 2018.

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Ronnie Morabito

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My name is Ronnie, and I am an asexual/aromantic non-binary person. I am studying Psychology at CCSU, and am striving to one day become a counselor/therapist with a focus on mood and anxiety disorders.

Keene Morrow

860 2081370

keene@clearwater.org

Originally from Connecticut, Keene has been all over putting their environmental science and geography background to good use teaching, sailing, and making maps.

Chevelle Moss-Savage, LPC

804 6212603

cms@heal-virgina.org

Chevelle Moss-Savage is a Licensed Psychotherapist and the founder of “Helping Everyone Accept and Adapt to Life”, (H.E.A.L-LLC). She has more than twenty years of experience working in mental health as a therapist, group facilitator, trainer/instructor both in the private sector and university setting. Although she is a licensed clinician, she is also versed in promoting multicultural awareness through intersectionality training with hopes of eradicating stigmas related to mental health, disabilities, faith traditions, or LGBTQ+ identities.

Hale Muncey

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Hale is currently an undergraduate student studying Interdisciplinary Studies at Southern CT State University. They are a Student Ambassador at the Sexuality and Gender Equality (SAGE) Center. Hale is non-binary and is passionate about helping other people feel safe and comfortable with their identity.

Adam Murray

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Adam is a senior in high school and is eighteen. He identifies as a trans male, and also attends Woodland Regional HS. He is the president of Drama club, has a leadership position on the Thespian Society board, and is also in student government.

Elijah Nealy, Ph.D., LCSW

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Elijah C. Nealy, PhD, M.Div., LCSW is assistant professor of social work at the University of Saint Joseph. He provides training in health/mental healthcare, and clinical consultation in work with transgender and gender-diverse children, youth, and adults and their families. Clergy with Metropolitan Community Church, Rev. Dr. Nealy preaches and provides workshops within faith communities. He is an out transgender man, father, and author of Transgender Children and Youth: Cultivating Pride and Joy with Families in Transition [2017].

Joleen M. Nevers

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Joleen Nevers is the Associate Director for Wellness and Prevention at the University of Connecticut. She has over 15 years of experience working in the field of sexuality and is a certified sexuality educator through the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists. She has presented on sexuality topics at both regional and national conferences. Joleen created and implemented UConn's “Rubberwear” program and the UConn Sexperts, which are both nationally awarded sexual health programs.

Rachel Noiseaux

Rachel is a HR Specialist, Finance Leadership development. She oversees corporate early talent development programs from a Human Resources perspective. She handles recruiting, hiring and the maintenance of both leadership programs and internship programs for multiple business functions.

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Jennifer Norman

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English Instructor at Ellis Technical High School and volunteer with the Ellis GSA.

Maija Niemisto

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Maija grew up in a family of musicians in Northfield, Minnesota. She pursued degrees in environmental studies and marine sciences. She is currently Clearwater's Education Director.

Hailey Nims

barbgurr@gmail.com

Hailey Nims is a freshman at Ethel Walker School for Girls.

Robyn Ochs, MA.

617 4132717

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Robyn Ochs is an educator, campus speaker, grassroots activist and editor of the Bi Women Quarterly, and two anthologies: the 42-country collection Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World and RECOGNIZE: The Voices of Bisexual Men. This spring, she was named by Teen Vogue as one of "9 Bisexual Women Who are Making History," and she was chosen to represent Massachusetts on the Advocate's "50 States, 50 Heroes" list. Robyn is deeply committed to intersectional and sustainable activism, to working with others to build coalitions across identities and across social movements, to supporting emerging leaders, and to continually learning and growing

Alice O'Donovan

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Rev. Alice O'Donovan was the first openly queer person ordained to ministry in the United Church of Christ in CT. Since her 1988 ordination she has served churches in CT, VT, and MA. It breaks her heart that although much has changed, it breaks her heart to know that the Bible is still used as a weapon to abuse teens and adults who wrestle with their sexual identities. She and her spouse share their home with both a dog and a cat. She enjoys photography, walking, good food, time shared with friends. She and her spouse love spending time with their grandkids.

Christy Olezeski

203 7377169

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As a clinical child and adolescent psychologist, my expertise lies in the intersection between trauma, sexuality and gender identity. I am the Director of the Yale Pediatric Gender Program, an interdisciplinary team that provides services for transgender and gender expansive youth in Connecticut. The team includes professionals in the fields of psychology, endocrinology, psychiatry, obstetrics, gynecology, medical ethics and law. This collaboration has led to many speaking engagements, research projects and academic pieces of work.

Katelyn Owens

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Katelyn (pronouns: she/her/hers) is a program coordinator at Triangle Community Center, where she facilitates programs and provides case management out of the Bridgeport office. Katelyn lives in New Haven with her two cats. Katelyn also develops and facilitates trainings and workshops through TCC's LGBTQ Training Institute. Triangle Community Center (ctpridecenter.org) (TCC) is Fairfield County's LGBTQ community center.

Megan P.

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poulinm5@southernct.edu

Megan is an English major at Southern Connecticut State University. She is am the Vice President of LGBTQIA+ Prism. She is an openly queer woman who enjoys writing stories with LGBTQIA+ characters. Also, she has an aspiring career at your local Wendy's.

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Joanne Peluso

860 7784336

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Joanne Peluso is an English teacher at Bristol Eastern High School, a writer, and the advisor of BEHS' Gender and Sexuality Advocacy group (GSA), now in its tenth year.

Sam Perry

860 6142109

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Sam Perry is a junior at the University of Southern Maine with over 7 years of LGBTQ+ activist experience.

Bill Petrosky

860 2784163

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Working in the field of HIV Prevention for 33 years, Bill is an experienced HIV tester and counselor including for couples. Bill is the Director of HIV Prevention at the Gay & Lesbian Health Collective. Bill is presently an active member of the Ryan White Planning Council and the Connecticut HIV AIDS Identification and Referral (CHAIR) Task Force at Yale University.

Nina Pinchin

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As Associate Director of Education at Hartford Stage, Nina is responsible for overseeing curriculum, recruiting/training teaching artists, and assisting the Director of Education in forming new partnerships and increasing Hartford Stage's visibility in the community. In her artistic work, she directs the summer Breakdancing Shakespeare program along with other local projects including this spring's upcoming Little Shop of Horrors at Trinity College. Nina received her MFA from Sarah Lawrence and her BA from Bowdoin College.

Jay Paolini

High School Senior - Academy of Information Technology & Engineering, Stamford . GSA leader. Also a member of the Math Team , Art club and Bridge club. Recipient of RIT Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award for social justice.

Lindsey Pembroke

janus_355@yahoo.com

Lindsey Pembroke (they/them), is on the Board of Directors for the New Haven Pride Center and a co-coordinator for their Transgender Adult Support Group. They are also a trained group facilitator with PFLAG and active in support groups around the State. Lindsey is a key administrator of the 7,000+ person Non-Binary Gender Pride support group on Facebook.

MiKayla Peters

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Senior Hairdressing student and President of the Ellis Tech GSA.

Hailey Phillips

hailey70867@student-schoolsofwestfield.org

Hailey Phillips is a junior at Westfield High School and a co-treasurer of their GSA. They have practiced dance since they were much younger, and they are excited to return to their love of dance while helping others learn.

Sarah Prager

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Sarah Prager is the author of *Queer, There, and Everywhere: 23 People Who Changed the World* (HarperCollins, 2017), named to the Best Books for Teens 2017 by New York Public Library. She is also the founder of the free mobile app Quist that teaches queer history. www.sarahprager.com.

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Matt Pumarejo

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Matt is a seventeen year old high school senior. He is a gay man and attends Woodland Regional HS. He is the president of Woodlands GSA and has been for two years. He also has a leadership position on the Thespian Society board and is on the cheer team.

Michelle Rawcliffe

860 5433978

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Michelle has been teaching health for nearly 20 years with experience in evaluating sexual health curricula, writing sexual health education policies and facilitating the development of Health Educators. Michelle is currently a Health Educator for grades 5-8 at Woodstock Middle School in Woodstock, CT.

Robert Reader

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The Hartford Gay Men's Chorus is celebrating their seventh season. Founded in 2012, the 60+ voice ensemble is celebrated for its musicianship, creative programming and community outreach. Under the leadership of Artistic Director, Michael Winslow, Assistant Artistic Director, Justin Gazard and Executive Director, Robert Reader, the HGMC sings a wide range of music as a catalyst for enriching and educating both participants and audiences by demonstrating to individuals the many ways that beautiful music positively impacts our world.

Taz Reid

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tazmaya.reid@ppsne.org

Taz Reid is an Educator & Youth Development Specialist for Planned Parenthood of Southern New England. Part of the role as an educator is development and provision of educational programs to youth and adults in community-based organizations and schools. Taz also coordinates a peer education program in Stamford CT called STARS, Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality. The focus of the program is teen pregnancy prevention, STD and HIV prevention, gender equality, and the promotion of healthy relationships through responsible choices.

Trevor Reynolds

Trevor has been in the Imperial Court since the early 2000's. He is a past Emperor having reigned with his fiancée Morgana De luxe. They are ecstatic to work with all the younger people that come wanted to learn and perform.

Rev. Moonhawk River Stone, MS, LMHC

518 5061261

hawkstone@aol.com

Reverend Moonhawk River Stone, M.S., LMHC, is an Interfaith Minister, former Schenectady county Human Rights Commissioner, psychotherapist, consultant, educator, writer, keynote speaker in private practice in Schenectady, NY for 35 years. In his psychotherapy practice he works with transgender clients of all ages, with their families, and for over 20 years with K-12 transgender children. His consulting and educational work take him all over the country into corporations, colleges, K-12 schools, clinical and professional conferences

Hunter Robinson

860 7591054

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Hunter Robinson is 24 year old trans male who recently completed his certificate from Recovery University. He runs an LGBTQ Support group through NAMI for young adults that meets weekly in Hartford. He is excited for his first presentation at True Colors.

Yalissa Rodriguez

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Yalissa Rodriguez is a member of STARS, Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality since 2016 while in high school. STARS, founded in 2001, it is a regional peer education program in the New London area organized by

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Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE). The focus of the program is teen pregnancy prevention, STD and HIV prevention, gender equality, and the promotion of healthy relationships through responsible choices. She has represented PPSNE and has taken leadership in the STARS program in several occasions/programs.

Elizabeth Rowell

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Liz, continues to be a dedicated LGBT ally while in Maine and Connecticut. She also serves on the MUUSAN (Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network) serving on the Democratic and Social Justice Committee as well as her UUCEllsworth church's Welcoming Renewal Committee which focuses on Transgender. This church will have their first TDOR service on Nov.20. She has given transgender friendly picture books to the church and loaned them to parents of transgender children. This spring she took the one day training with GLSEN Ct. to be a speaker and is working with this group to try to get a free traveling transgender friendly picture book box as so few libraries have these books that can be so meaningful. She tries in every way that she can think of to try to help all young children learn about those who are transgender or gender creative so that they can grow up feeling validated by seeing others in books like themselves and for cisgender children to become understanding and hopefully supportive life long allies.

Josh Rozovsky, MS, DIS

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A Disease Intervention Specialist and member of the HIV Prevention Team at the Gay & Lesbian Health Collective, Josh manages the STD clinic there and helps people with STDs notify their partners and avoid getting infections in the first place. He is passionate about making sure everyone knows how to protect themselves from illness and reduce the stigma associated with HIV and STDs.

Leo Rubin

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Leo is a sophomore at Norwich Free Academy. They are involved in GSA, Marching Band, and other activities on campus. They value the importance of activism in their LGBT experience.

Ned Ruete

860 7051389

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Mr. Ruete is a world-famous practitioner and teacher of group facilitation. He is trained in several approaches including action research and the Laboratory Method of Training and Learning (aka T groups). Previous True Colors sessions include "My Kid Just Came Out, Now What?" and "Are you the Activist you Want to Be?".

Leah Rumore

Leah Rumore, a Stonewall Speakers board member, works actively to train new speakers for Stonewall Speakers panels, and also helps Stonewall Speakers maintain a presence on social media.

Toni Russo

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Heath Ruszkowski

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Heath Ruszkowski is currently a freshman in college. They were a founding member in their school's SAGA and is helping out with NVCC's Safe Space.

Parker Ryan

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Hello I am parker. I am a transgender man who has been going to true colors for 2 years now. I am a confident public speaker and love the fluid exchange of ideas and educating people

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Alyssa S.

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Alyssa is a Nursing major with a minor in psychology at Southern Connecticut State University. She is am the Treasure of LGBTQIA+ Prism. She is an Ally of the community. Also, her favorite show is Rupaul's Drag Race.

Robin Sanchi

8604255637

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Robin is GSA Advisor at Norwich Free Academy, and is the mother of an LGBT child.

Taylin Santiago

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Taylin Santiago is a member of STARS, Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality since 2015 while in high school. STARS, founded in 2001, it is a regional peer education program in the New London area organized by Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE). The focus of the program is teen pregnancy prevention, STD and HIV prevention, gender equality, and the promotion of healthy relationships through responsible choices. Taylin has represented PPSNE and has taken leadership in the STARS program in several occasions/programs.

Ritch Savin-Williams, Ph.D.

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Ritch is Professor Emeritus of Developmental & Clinical Psychology in Human Development at Cornell University. His books on sexual-minority youths include Mostly Straight: Sexual Fluidity Among Men; Becoming Who I Am: Young Men on Being Gay; The New Gay Teenager; and "Mom, Dad. I'm Gay." How Families Negotiate Coming Out. A licensed clinical psychologist, Ritch has consulted for media outlets such as MTV, 20/20, Oprah Winfrey Show, National Public Radio, Rolling Stone, Time, New York Times, and Washington Post. He blogs for Psychology Today: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/experts/ritch-c-savin-williams-phd>

Laura Saunders, Psy.D. ABPP

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Laura M. I. Saunders, Psy.D. ABPP is a staff psychologist working in Young Adult Services at the Institute of Living/Hartford Hospital. She is also Board Certified in Clinical Psychology. Dr. Saunders is the Clinical Coordinator of The Right Track/LGBTQ Intensive Outpatient program in Young Adult Services for individuals struggling with co-occurring emotional difficulties, minority stress and identity development. This LGBTQ Specialty behavioral health program is the first of its kind in CT. In 2015, Dr. Saunders was named as the co-Employee of the Year for Hartford Hospital. Areas of expertise include child psychopathology, behavior management, parent training and family therapy. She appears regularly in local TV news to provide psychological input on topics relevant to youth and families.

Jill Schoenfuss

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Jill Schoenfuss is the Youth & Community Strategy Director at StayWell Health Center in Waterbury, and serves on the board of the Queer Unity Empowerment Support Team. She has over 25 years of experience in the health and human service field, working primarily for youth serving organizations and programs. She has extensive experience in grant writing, raising millions of dollars for nonprofit organizations. Jill holds a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the University of Connecticut and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Occupational Therapy from Tufts University. She lives with her husband and a misunderstood wheaten terrier in Middlebury, where they raised their two daughters. Jill's personal interests include professional knitwear design for knitting books and magazines and being a science fiction nerd.

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Ilana Schreiber

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Ilana and Hilary have been Partners in Crime for over 7 years. They work as Certified Intentional Peer Support Specialists in Maine, collaborating on projects and presentations from the psychiatric survivor perspective. The Hilana Project offers trainings, consultations, and presentations on numerous social justice and mental health topics such as harm reduction within self-injury, gender beyond the binary, and alternatives to traditional mental health treatment. When not at work, they enjoy befriending wild animals, puns, imitating sloths, and showering people with t-rex hugs.

David Schultz

860 7195356

dschultz@windsorct.org

David Schultz is a teacher and co-advisor of the Windsor High School GSA. He is a community activist and has been an educator for 20 years.

Josie Scully

I am a sophomore at Salve Regina University. I am a member of the Alliance and the Women and Gender Studies clubs. I am also a member of the LGBT community

Joaquin Selmeski

3343065681

selmeskij1@southernct.edu

I am so excited to be at True Colors again, and this time as a presenter! I am a sophomore at Southern Connecticut State University, studying psychology, and am the secretary of our own GSA, named LGBTQIA+ Prism. I have been attending True Colors every year since middle school and have always loved it! Other than being a committed student, I like to run, dance, sing, and hang out with my friends.

Beth Serra

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Beth Serra is GSA advisor at Norwich Free Academy.

Cassy Setzler

860 4869431

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Cassy Setzler is Health and Wellness Specialist for Wellness and Prevention Services at the University of Connecticut. She obtained her B.A. in Psychology and Human Development and Family Studies from UConn and is currently getting her Master's in Public Health at UConn. She has over 5 years of experience presenting on sexual health topics. This is Cassy's 9th time presenting "Rubberwear" at the True Colors Conference.

Marlow Shami

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BIO: Marlow Shami BFA, MS is a Holistic Healing Practitioner, Teacher, & Artist who conducts workshops throughout New England. She specializes in awakening the healing relationship humans experience as a part of the natural world. www.marlowshami.com

Nia Shand

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niaandness@gmail.com

Nia & Ness are a black, lesbian, dancer-poet performance art duo based in Brooklyn, NY. The duo met and became a couple in 2013, and founded their company in 2016. They have performed and given artist talks at multiple venues nationwide, sharing their work that aims at a deeper understanding of their co-reality through intense investigation of their individual identities. They are currently on tour, and you can follow them on their journey on social media @niaandness .

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Kayla Shannon

203 9425277

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Kayla Shannon graduated from UConn with an undergraduate degree in Psychology. She is currently a graduate student enrolled in the Marriage and Family Therapy program at Southern Connecticut State University. She is interested in specializing professionally in the systemic response and how LGBTQ experience affects a whole family system.

Spencer Shimek

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spencer.shimek@yale.edu

Hi! My name is Spencer. I am a junior at Yale College majoring in Political Science and Ethnicity, Race, and Migration. I am originally from Georgia, but was born in Michigan and lived in south Florida when I was young(er). My passions are LGBTQ+ and workers' struggles and social movements, and I enjoy history, coffee, cold weather, and listening to podcasts.

Owen Silverman

owensilverman0@gmail.com

My name is Owen Silverman. I am from New Haven, CT, and I am a senior at the Engineering Science University Magnet School. I have been apart of the Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality Program at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England for four years, and I am very excited to (hopefully) present at True Colors for the second year in a row on allyship.

Aide De Camp (John) Sima

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John Sima is the Aide De Camp to Mister CT Leather 2019 or is sometimes referred to as the "Sash Wife". His contributions to the current reigning Mr CT Leather and the leather community at large at endless. He proudly works for Hydro Dynamic Engineering and has previously been involved with the Imperial Sovereign Court of CT and the CCSU Pride Center.

Kelly Simon

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Kelly Simon is a high school English teacher and GSA Advisor at Westfield High School in Western Massachusetts. She has studied dance with Emily Fox since 2003 and enjoys dancing as a hobby. She has helped Emily teach dance to elementary and high school students alike and is always excited to help others learn.

Kristianna Smith

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Kristianna Smith is the owner of Via Arts LLC. A facilitator, theater artist, and educator, she has spent over a decade working to reinvigorate the human experience through theater arts. Through arts-based programming, Kristianna collaborates with her partners to increase their accessibility to address the difficult topics of privilege, equity, oppression, and creativity within their communities. In 2018, she received The Future Is Now Award from CWEALF for both her personal and professional work.

Kelsey Socha

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Kelsey Socha has a B.S. in psychology from Eastern Connecticut State University and is currently employed as a Case Worker at the Child and Adolescent Day Treatment Program at the Institute of Living. Kelsey goes by he/him pronouns and often has to refer to Kelsey Grammer, even though no one knows who that is.

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Michelle Soto

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Michelle Soto has worked for PPSNE for 8 years, and is the Regional Manager in Education & Training in Rhode Island. In this role, she provides support to a team of educators who deliver sexuality education to community based organizations, group homes, and schools. She also provides on the ground education to youth and youth serving professionals. Michelle holds a Master of Public Health from Southern Connecticut State University.

Juancarlos Soto

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Juancarlos is a community organizer, activist, latino and queer. He currently works at planned parenthood of southern new england where his focus is organizing the latinx community and fighting for reproductive rights for all people. Carrying his grandmothers philosophy in his heart at all times, he never forgets to eat his breakfast, meditate and cause a little trouble.

Ashton Stansel

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Ashton has been a dedicated GSA leader for all four years of high school. He works tirelessly on advocacy and is working to bring a GSA to our middle school.

Caitlin Straubel

508 7535425

cstraubel@childrensfriend.org

Caitlin Straubel, LMHC, is a licensed mental health clinician who specializes in working with gender variant youth and their families. She currently practices at Children's Friend, located in Worcester, MA, where she provides outpatient mental health services and is a project leader on the Gender Wellness Initiative. (Pronouns: She/Her/Hers)

Alice Staples

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Alice Staples is a senior at Baxter Academy in Portland, Maine, and involved in GLSEN Southern Maine's Students for Safe Schools Leadership Team and her school's GSA.

Frank Stellabotte

213 8003056

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Dr. Frank Stellabotte is a Professor of Biology and co-advisor for SPEAK (Students Promoting Equality, Acceptance, and Knowledge) at Middlesex Community College.

Daibhidh Stewart

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Daibhidh is a high school Senior in Hartford, CT with a passion for history, politics, and activism. He is conducting his Capstone project on the history and development of the transgender community in the United States and wants to share his knowledge on the often unknown history of this community first and foremost with those within the LGBT community. He identifies as a gay, trans man.

Toni Storlazzi

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Toni Storlazzi, LPC, is a substance abuse clinician, artist, mother, baker, animal lover, human lover... She uses the visual arts and mindfulness both in her professional life with her clients as well as in her personal life to find calm and to express herself.

Brileigh Suntheimer

860 4127510

briliegh.suntheimer@cthss.org

Senior hairdressing student and Vice President of the Ellis Tech GSA

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Maxwell Switz

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After realizing he was a part of the LGBT+ community in middle school, Maxwell decided to go to a very small high school. Towards the end of high school Max came out as a transgender male and "transitioned" into college. Maxwell is currently an undergraduate at the University of Connecticut. He is working on earning a degree in biomedical engineering. After graduation he hopes to use his degree to advance transgender prosthetics and procedures before eventually going to medical school.

Carolyn Taggart

860 9776347

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Carolyn is currently the Event Operations Coordinator for Student Union & Event Services at the Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas. Carolyn is also a graduate of the Counseling/Student Development in Higher Education program at Central Connecticut State University, former Coordinator of the Pride Center at Eastern Connecticut State University, and co-founder of Queer Your Campus. In their spare time, Carolyn enjoys spending time with friends, playing soccer, making music, watching hockey, going on adventures, and taking the road less traveled. Carolyn can be reached at carolyn.taggart@unlv.edu or QueerYourCampus@gmail.com

Marcus Tart

203 3936616

Mtart1991@gmail.com

Marcus Tart is a New Haven native who has been working with a variety of LGBTQ+ groups in the New Haven area for 4 years. He graduated from UConn with an undergraduate degree in Psychology and is currently a graduate student enrolled in the Marriage and Family Therapy program at Southern Connecticut State University. He is interested in specializing professionally to create safe spaces for young people to explore their identities including a more united, anti-racist and intersectional LGBTQ community.

Amy Taylor

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Beth Ten Eyck

eteneyck@thompsonpublicschools.org

Beth is a dynamic Health and PE teacher with experience at the high school and elementary school levels. She is a cross country and track coach as well as an amazing athlete. She just completed her 6th year administrator program.

Parker Terrell

203 5255002

parker.terrell712@gmail.com

Parker Terrell is currently the Gender Resource Specialist and also a team member of the Gender Wellness Initiative located at Children's Friend, Inc., located in Worcester, MA. They have been a community educator for the past five years, focusing specifically on facilitating workshops and dialogue around gender identity and expression. (Pronouns: They/them/their)

Kayla Tingey

kaylatingey@gmail.com

I'm Kayla, I'm a sophomore at Coventry High School and I play trumpet in the school band. Playing guitar and ukulele are some of my other favorite things to do. My 4H group is very important to me, and I enjoy working with goats, chickens, and guinea pigs. Last year was my first time going to True Colors and I'm glad to be here again!

Alan Toussaint

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alan24551@live.com

Alan Toussaint is currently the LGBTQ+ Program Specialist for Metro Wellness and Community Centers in St. Petersburg, FL. He is a graduate of the University of South Florida with a Bachelor's of Arts in English. Alan is involved in the LGBTQ+ community in the Tampa Bay area and has been presented at conferences across the country.

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Stephanie Trabka

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Stephanie Trabka received her BS in Business Administration from Sacred Heart University, where she is now currently working towards her MBA. Stephanie is employed at the Institute of Living as a Vocational Counselor. She enjoys working with her clients to help them identify and achieve their goals. In her free time, she loves watching reality TV and willingly admits to it.

Sophia Tramuta

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I identify as a demiromantic demisexual nonbinary lesbian and yes that is a mouthful! I love this community but I love my dog Tripp and my ball python Phanin more. Hi mom! Hi dad! You're probably the only ones reading this so thanks for the support. By the time this is written up I'll be a UConn grad out in the world hopefully doing something meaningful. Much love to everyone involved with True Colors!

Mark Truscio

Mark Truscio is a freshman at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts. He is interested in theater, dance, and creative writing.

May Tuscano

860 8569773

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May is a Marriage and Family Therapist who works with trans and gender expansive youth & families. In this role, she also acts as an advocate for youth transitioning in schools and provides trainings on LGBTQ+ competency for mental health/healthcare agencies, schools, community groups, and other organizations. Additionally, May volunteers as the facilitator of PFLAG Hartford's LGBTQ+ youth group and serves on PFLAG's Executive Board as Facilitation Coordinator.

Kristin Van Ness Scrivano

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Kristin Van Ness has spent the past ten years working in higher education, student affairs, and community based advocacy, education, and leadership development. Her expertise is in family dynamics, specifically around issues of gender and sexuality. By using a collaborative intersectional framework, she has facilitated workshops and trainings for diverse communities (students, parents, families, and professionals) around LGBTQIA+ issues involving anti-bias, cultural competency, identity development, group relations, and communication and conflict management in family systems.

Vinny Venditti

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Hi, my name is Vincezo Venditti, and this is my first time presenting at True Colors. I've come here with Southern Connecticut's club, LGBTQIA+ Prism. As events coordinator, I am more than happy to be here today. I am a Freshman at SCSU and plan to major in International Business. Outside of my academics, some of my personal interests include photography, music, and running.

Robin Ventura

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Robin Ventura (they/he) is a junior at the University of Connecticut studying to gain a Bachelor's Degree with a concentration in Illustration and Animation. Robin aspires to be a comic book creator, and use his intersecting identities as a disabled, Jewish, Latinx member of the LGBTQIA+ community to tell stories. This is his first time presenting at True Colors, and 4th time attending.

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Diane Verrochi

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Diane Verrochi is a nurse educator at the University of Hartford. Verrochi is also a Reiki master-teacher and AAAI/ISMA certified wellness coach.

Michael Vidal

860 6831039

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Michael Vidal (he/him/his) is a social justice educator and facilitator whose work centers on identity-based dialogues across difference. Currently, he serves as a trainer and consultant at the National Conference for Community & Justice (NCCJ) where he works with schools to offer high quality programs for its community members.

Jude Vigants

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Jude Vigants is a New England based freelance illustrator. He has been featured in anthologies such as "All We Ever Wanted" and "Mine: An Anthology for Planned Parenthood".

Katherine Elizabeth Walsh

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Writer for Stigma Fighters as well as working on a book with a publishing company that focuses on mental illness and disabilities

Cody Walston

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Cody Walston is a student and Interim President of SPEAK (Students Promoting Equality, Acceptance, and Knowledge) at Middlesex Community College.

Nea Warren

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Hello, my name is Nea Warren and I'm a senior at Metropolitan Business Academy. This is my last year presenting at True Colors before I go off to college.

David Waterman

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a bicultural práduct of two migrant farm workers...graduate of the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, former student of Center for Creative Youth at Wesleyan University, the Hartford Conservatory and The Artists' Collective and a participant in the Highlander Research and Education Center's Youth Leadership Institute. -A native of the city of Hartford, david elliott began to create change by empowering youth and young adults through educational and artistic methods. He is a formally trained and self-taught artist, who has performed in various shows and worked in several art mediums.-printmaking, sculpture to free-style spoken word, creative directing and producing to Commedia dell' Arte, Latin percussion to cake design and digital photography.-A product of the Projects, raised during the embryonic phase of Hip Hop, a social activist...he continues cultivate and blend his creativity into ART

Sophia F. Weber

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Sophia F. Weber is the instrumentation technician for University of New Haven's Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. She is also an organizer with the Waterbury Mutual Aid and Defense Network, and enjoys philosophy, martial arts, music, and film.

David Weinreb

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David Weinreb teaches 5th grade Spanish/English bilingual newcomers at the Fair Haven School in New Haven, CT. David leads initiatives focused on technology, green space, LGBTQ advocacy, and community partnerships. He earned

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his B.A. in History and Urban Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, his TESOL/Bilingual Endorsement, and Master's in Elementary Education at Johns Hopkins University. David loves India, and recently received GLSEN's Teacher Ally of the Year Award.

Brooke Wells

18wellsbrooke@bristol12.org

I am currently a Junior at Bristol Central High School and 16 years of age. I have been in peer ed for two years now and have training in healthy relationships and risky behaviors.

Kimberly West

Kim Westheimer

617 6864893

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Kim Westheimer has led LGBTQ youth initiatives for the past 25 years, leveraging the power of education, advocacy and research in local, state and national governmental organizations and non-profits. Currently a consultant for Gender Spectrum, Kim launched the Welcoming Schools Program at the Human Rights Campaign. She co-authored with Jeff Perrotti, "When the Drama Club is Not Enough", a book that chronicles lessons learned from the Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ students in Massachusetts.

Alex Wicken

20190289@nfastudents.org

Alex is a senior at Norwich Free Academy. He has been involved in the GSA for 4 years. In his sophomore year he organized a rally to support transgender youth in CT.

Michael Williams

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Psychology Major at Eastern Connecticut State University and transgender rights advocate

Ness White

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niaandness@gmail.com

Nia & Ness are a black, lesbian, dancer-poet performance art duo based in Brooklyn, NY. The duo met and became a couple in 2013, and founded their company in 2016. They have performed and given artist talks at multiple venues nationwide, sharing their work that aims at a deeper understanding of their co-reality through intense investigation of their individual identities. They are currently on tour, and you can follow them on their journey on social media @niaandness .

Drew Wiggins

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Hailing from Southern California, Drew has lived in CT for 4.5 years and has worked in education since graduating from UCLA. First as a high school educator in New Haven to then a teacher leadership development coach for Teach For America. He's a part of TFA's LGBTQ Community Initiative and a board member of the Cabo Foundation. Drew is passionate about youth development, social justice, and is an advocate for our country's most vulnerable communities.

Laura Williams

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Laura Williams serves as a Diversity Partner for the Munich Re US P&C Diversity Council, a role that supports all of the Employee Resource Groups including the Women's Network, Green Team, and PRIDE for LGBTQ+ & Allies. Prior to PFLAG, Laura served as Director of Community Outreach for the nonprofit Out Film CT, promoters of the annual Connecticut LGBT Film Festival. She is also a Finance AVP for the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company.

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Michael Winslow

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The Hartford Gay Men's Chorus is celebrating their seventh season. Founded in 2012, the 60+ voice ensemble is celebrated for its musicianship, creative programming and community outreach. Under the leadership of Artistic Director, Michael Winslow, Assistant Artistic Director, Justin Gazard and Executive Director, Robert Reader, the HGMC sings a wide range of music as a catalyst for enriching and educating both participants and audiences by demonstrating to individuals the many ways that beautiful music positively impacts our world.

Wang Winson

617 7373670

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Winson was born and raised in Northeastern Louisiana and lived there until he enrolled at Boston University for his undergraduate degree. After receiving a bachelor's in International Relations, he joined TD Bank and now serves as an Associate in Corporate Banking.

Beth R. Wittenberg

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Beth Wittenberg is a contemporary experimental artist and poet. She hails from New Hampshire where she lives with her wife, 10 lb pomapoo Penny, and 2 cats, Hootie and Raney. She has been creating zines (self published magazines) for 35 years. Wittenberg's activism artwork concerns itself with personal and global politics in a street art/graffiti style. Besides being an artist and teacher, Wittenberg mentors emerging artists.

Allison Wright

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Allison Wright - Staff Attorney Allison has primarily dedicated her work to addressing issues impacting LGBTQ people of color. In 2014, Allison was named one of Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly's Lawyers of the Year for helping a prominent Ugandan LGBTI activist gain asylum following President Museveni's signing of the Anti-Homosexuality Act. currently she's pursuing a claim at the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights on behalf of a transgender youth in Rhode Island.

Emma Wynn

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Emma Wynn earned her Master's degree in Scripture and Interpretation from Harvard Divinity School and is currently Instructor of Humanities & Social Sciences at the Hotchkiss School. She has been involved in LGBTQI education and advocacy work since high school, when she co-chaired the GSA at Phillips Exeter Academy. At Hotchkiss, she co-facilitates a confidential chat group for LGBTQI students and teaches an elective in LGBTQI U.S. History.

Hendrick Xiong-Calmes

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I am an undergraduate student at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. My pronouns are he/him/his and I did a primary academic research paper on effeminophobic attitudes in high school underclassmen my senior year of high school; I am looking to share some of my research with people who have similar interests.

Cynthia Young

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Cynthia is a proud mom of a lesbian daughter and fiercely supports the queer community. She holds a B.A. in English and has taught highschool-level Shakespeare. She is also a die-hard cat lover.

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Greg Xynides

Greg is a Payroll Analyst – Technology & Reporting. Greg works in the Payroll Governance Team as a Payroll Analyst – Reporting and technology and is also a co-lead of the Pride & Allies CT Chapter. He resides in South Hadley, MA with his husband of 10 years (though they have been in a committed relationship for 25 years). Greg loves any and everything related to Harry Potter and has been “officially” sorted into the house of Gryffindor.

Grayson Young

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Grayson is a femme queer girl who is currently a junior in highschool. Her favorite thing is planning her tattoos over a large cup of tea.