



2017 Illinois Safe Schools Symposium Corporate Partners



Gender and Sexuality Center





MEDICAL EDUCATION COLLEGE OF MEDICINE







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Welcome to the 2017 Safe Schools Symposium!!!

The Illinois Safe Schools Alliance works to promote safety, support, and healthy development for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) youth. We envision a world in which youth develop to their fullest potential, learning in safe and nurturing schools, living in communities that accept and honor differences, where <u>everyone</u> has the freedom to express their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Since our founding in 2007, our organization has hosted annual youth summits throughout Illinois. Summits are a time for students from school districts big and small, urban, suburban, and rural, to come together to share campaigns, organizing strategies, and to <u>dream big</u> about how beautiful this world should be.

As we celebrate our 10th Anniversary, we decided to grow our Fall Summit to bring students, teachers, administrators, policy advocates, parents, and health and wellness leaders together to share knowledge with each other and to build relationships that will help guide us through these confusing (and often scary) political times.

Thank you for being here to share your wisdom with us all!

Let's do this!!!

With Gratitude,

Owen Daniel-McCarterExecutive Director
Pronouns: He/Him

Associate Director Pronouns: She/Her





Shout out to the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance Youth Committee!!!

Shout out to Illinois Safe Schools Alliance Staff and Board Members!

Shout out to our **AMAZING AmeriCorps VISTAs** aka **UNICORNS!**

Shout out to all of our wonderful **volunteers**!

Shout out to conference **presenters** and **plenary panelists!**

Shout out to **Alex Gino!**

Shout out to UIC **Gender and Sexuality Center** & **College of Medicine**!

Shout out to our **Corporate Sponsors** and fierce **Community Partners**!

Special shout out to **Maggie Rose** from **Escanaba, Michigan** who truly made this whole day come together/possible/organized!



Illinois Safe Schools Symposium 2017

Schedule Grid



	Corridor	Main Hall	Room D	Room E	Room F	Room G	Room H	Room I
7:45-8:15a	Registration							
8:15a		Welcome						
8:20-9:20a		Keynote						
		Speaker:						
		Alex Gino						
9:30-11a				Meeting Our				
			Making	Students	Youth-Only		Regional	
			Health and	Where	Understanding	Youth	Youth-	
			Wellness	They're At:	and Working	Centered	Centered	
			Youth-	Youth-	Against	Lawyering	Parent	
			Accessible	Centered	Oppression		Advocacy	
				Pedagogy				Self-Care
11:15-12p		Youth						Space
	Community	Activism						
	Partner	Plenary						&
12-12:40p	Tables	Lunch						
12:40-1:25p	Tables	Legislative						Central
		Advocacy						Illinois Needs
		Plenary					1	Assessment
1:35-3:05p		Designing With	Erasure of			Building		
		& For Youth:	LGBTQ+	De-	From One Nib	Gender	Youth-Only	
		Sexual &	History in	Colonizing	To Another	Inclusive	Queer Sex Ed.	
		Reproductive	School	Education	1074104161	School	Queer Sex Eu.	
		Health Care				Guidelines		
3:15-4:45p		Building Safer	The Legal			Restorative	Advocating	
		Schools in	Landscape:	Know Your	Youth-Only	Approaches	for Queer-	
		Central and	The Paths	Rights in	Madness	to School	Inclusive Sex	
		Southern	Toward	School!	Mapping	Discipline	Ed. In School	
		Illinois	Inclusion			2.00.0	23 20301	
4:55-5:20p		Debrief						
5:20-5:30p		Closing						

Help us Evaluate the Symposium! We want to hear from <u>you</u>. [©]

It's easy! Just got to https://surveynuts.com/code and then type in the codes below for each corresponding workshop.

Workshop Session 1:

Making Health and Wellness Youth-Accessible: WELLNESS

Youth-Centered Lawyering: LAWYER

Understanding and Working Against Oppression: **ANTI-OPPRESSION**Meeting Students Where They're At: Youth-Centered Pedagogy: **STUDENTS**

Regional Youth-Centered Parent Advocacy Panel: PARENT

Workshop Session 2:

Designing with and for Youth: Improving Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare with Human-centered Design: DESIGN

Erasure of LGBTQ+ Folks In High School History: HISTORY

From One Nib to Another: NIB

Building Gender Inclusive School Guidelines: GUIDELINES

Queer Sex Ed: SEX ED

De-Colonizing Education: **DECOLONIZE**

Workshop Session 3:

Building Safer Schools in Southern & Central Illinois: **BUILDING** The Legal Landscape: The Paths Toward Inclusion: **LANDSCAPE**

Know Your Rights In School: KYR Madness Mapping: MADNESS

Restorative Approaches to School Discipline: **RESTORATIVE**Advocating for Queer-Inclusive Sex Ed In Schools: **ADVOCATE**



Session Descriptions

Workshop Session 1: 9:30-11am

Making Health & Wellness Youth-Accessible Room D

Facilitators: Carolyn Wahlskog (She/Her),
Femmily Blake Robison (He/Him/They/Them)
Geared Towards: Health Care Providers & Youth
Description: This workshop will outline the
myriad of obstacles young people face when trying
to access supportive health care. Led by two
advocates who focus on connecting youth with
affirming care, the workshop will then turn to a
discussion of how providers can counteract
adultism in access to care and support exploration
of options

Facilitation Style: Presentation

Youth-Centered Lawyering Room E

Facilitators: Candace Moore (She/Her), Owen

Daniel-McCarter (He/Him) **Geared Towards:** Attorneys

Description: This professional development workshop will unpack ways that adultism is engrained in the legal system. From advocating for a transgender inclusion policy at the school board level to defending a student at an expulsion hearing, how do we - as legal advocates - center the youth we are advocating for, share information we hold with young folks, and maintain a trauma-informed lens? This workshop will support participants with concrete practice skills to shift power dynamics when working with youth.

Facilitation Style: Circle Discussion using Popular Education (Pop Ed.)

Education (Pop Ed)

Understanding & Working Against Oppression (Youth Only!) Room F

Facilitators: Syd Bakal (They/Them), Jamie Curtis (They/Them)

Geared Towards: Middle & High School Students **Description:** Led by two members of the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance Youth Committee, students will discuss how oppression affects lives of young folks, with a particular focus on adultism.

Participants will dream and scheme about ways to resist the way oppression manifests itself in

activism, schools, and communities.

Facilitation Style: Popular Education (Pop Ed)

Meeting Our Students Where They're At: Youth-Centered Pedagogy Room G

Facilitators: aj Jennings (they/them), Karen

Krausen-Ferrer (She/Her)

Geared Towards: Teachers, School

Administrators & Youth

Description: This workshop will be an interactive activity that explores ideas from the book "To Teach: the Journey, in Comics" by Bill Ayers. Facilitated by a current and former classroom teacher, this workshop will explore how teachers and school administrators can create environments and curriculum that are youthcentered. Attendees will leave having had opportunities to think, engage, reflect, and plan for how to make their classroom and school environment more youth centered.

Facilitation Style: Activity Based

Regional Youth-Centered Parent Advocacy Panel Room H

Facilitators: Phyllis Gallisath (She/Her), Jenny

Cowgill (She/Her)

Geared Towards: Parents, Adult Allies & Youth **Description:** This workshop will begin with a discussion about what it means to be truly youth-centered and ways in which folks can put that ideal into practice. Each facilitator will then discuss their experience of being a parent advocate alongside their child, in less well - resourced areas of the state. They will share their unique perspective around developing community and resources for LGBTQ+ youth, while listening to their child and centering their needs and vision. This workshop will end with time for audience questions.

Facilitation Style: Panel + Q & A



Plenary 1: 11:15-12pm

Youth Activism Plenary! Main Hall

Facilitator: Jamie Curtis (they/them) Illinois Safe Schools Alliance Youth

Committee

Panelists:

Evan Pruynski (he/him)

Illinois Safe Schools Alliance GSA Network

Hira Zeeshan (she/her)

Asian Americans Advancing Justice

Xanat Sobrevilla (she/her)

Organized Communities Against Deportations

Will Pettway (any pronouns)

Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health

Geared Towards: All

Description: Panelists will discuss their activism and community engagement, the challenges they face in accomplishing that work, and the wisdom they have learned in persevering through it that they would like to share with the audience.

Facilitation: Moderated Panel

Plenary 2: 12:40-1:25pm

Legislative Advocacy Plenary! Main Hall

Facilitator: Rodrigo Anzures-Oyorzabal (he/him) Illinois Safe Schools Alliance Policy & Advocacy Manager

Panelists:

Mike Quigley (he/him)

U.S. Congressman

Greg Harris (he/him)

Illinois State Representative

Khadine Bennett (she/her/hers)

American Civil Liberties Union

Mike Ziri (he/him)

Director of Public Policy at Equality Illinois

Geared Towards: All

Description: This panel will include folks who have experience working on law and policy, especially as it pertains to students' rights in public schools across the state of Illinois. They will consider questions about the future of IL public schools, how trans inclusion in schools can be secured, how to advocate for legislative changes, and more.

Facilitation: Moderated Panel



Workshop Descriptions 2: 1:35-3:05pm

Designing with & For Youth: Improving Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare with Human-Centered Design Main Hall

Facilitators:

Laura Paradis (She/Her), Mary Foyder (She/Her), Amanda Geppert (She/Her), Shannon Delaney (She/Her), Michael Johnson (MJ) (He/Him) **Geared Towards:** Youth & Healthcare Providers **Description:** Too often, healthcare services are designed without consideration for, or understanding of, the lived experiences and desires of young people. As a result, young people do not receive the care they might want or need. In this highly interactive workshop, participants will learn and practice approaches to engage each other in building positive sexual and reproductive healthcare experiences with and for young people. We'll share stories, listen deeply, and incorporate what we learn into novel ideas around the systems and structures to support adolescent-centered care.

Erasure of LGBTQ+ Folks in High School History Room D

Facilitators:

John D'Emilio (He/Him), Jerome Pohlen (He/Him) **Geared Towards:** Youth, Teachers & School Administrators

Description: This workshop will look at the way in which high school history curriculum teaches (and more often, fails to teach) students about LGBTQ+ history, and notable LGBTQ+ folks throughout history. That discussion of looking at high school history curriculum through a critical lens will be balanced with a presentation of LGBTQ+ history that is often left out of that curriculum.

Facilitation: Presentation Style + Q&A + Activity

From One Nib To Another Room F

Facilitators:

Arthur Brown (He/They), Syd Bakal (They/Them) **Geared Towards:** Youth, Parents & Adult Allies,
Teachers & School Administrators

Description: Led by two members of the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance Youth Committee, this workshop will focus on a discussion of the experiences and perspectives of non-binary individuals.

Facilitation: Presentation & Audience

Participation

Building Gender Inclusive School Guidelines Room G

Facilitators:

Rodrigo Anzures-Oyorzabal (He/Him), Heidi Truax (She/Her), Deanna Durica (She/Her), Julie Morris (She/Her), Marcus Campbell (He/Him)

Geared Towards: Teachers & School

Administrators and Law & Policy

Description: This workshop will be led by folks with a range of experiences working in public schools. From the perspective of a school superintendent to that of a school counselor, this workshop will provide attendees a wide array of insights on the process of drafting, passing, and implementing inclusive policies in school settings.

Facilitation: Moderated Panel

Queer Sex Ed (Youth Only!) Room H

Facilitator:

Searah Deysach (She/Her) **Geared Towards:** Youth

Description: Searah will lead young folks in a presentation on queer sex education, including a discussion of safe sex practices, healthy

relationships, consent and more.

Facilitation: Traditional Presentation Style + Q&A

Decolonizing Education Room E

Facilitators:

Souzane Ntamubano (she/her)

Geared Towards: Youth, Teachers & School

Administrators

Description: This workshop will uncover the myriad ways public school curriculum is constructed is heavily colonized. It will then turn to a discussion of how to counter that perspective.

Facilitation: Presentation



Workshop Descriptions 3: 3:15-4:45pm

Building Safer Schools in Southern & Central Illinois Main Hall

Facilitators: Jordee Yanez (He/Him), Chris Wade (He/Him), Kellen Carter (He/Him), Zach Wells (He/Him), Len Meyer (They/Their), Hannah Bangs (She/Her)

Geared Towards: Youth, Teachers & School Administrators, Parents & Adult Allies, Law & Policy, Health Care Professionals in Southern/Central IL

Description: This workshop will begin by discussing what resources currently exist in Southern & Central IL. It will then turn to a discussion of what resources folks would like to have access to, and a path to seeking out or developing those resources. We will end with the conduction of a youth Needs Assessment survey on behalf of the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, the results of which will be used to quide us as we build out resources into Central & Southern IL. Facilitation: Panel + Audience Discussion

The Legal Landscape: The Paths **Toward Inclusion** Room D

Facilitators: Alex McCray (He/Him), Juliet Berger-White (She/Her), Nicki Bazer (She/Her) Geared Towards: Youth, Attorneys, Teachers and Administrators

Description: From a diverse range of experiences in advocating for inclusive policies in public schools, this workshop will delve into each of those areas of expertise with a discussion of the current legal landscape in schools, steps for advocacy within school, and discussing Alex's personal experience with advocating for inclusive policies in his school.

Facilitation: Traditional Presentation Style

Know Your Rights in School! Room E

Facilitators: Alissa James-Andersson (she/her), Nathan Petithomme (He/Him)

Geared Towards: Youth, Lawyers, Teachers & School Administrators

Description: This workshop will focus on the Constitutional rights students are guaranteed, as it pertains to school settings. This conversation will be framed by first conducting a basic civics lesson, then delving into a more specific and nuanced conversation about how folks' Constitutional rights

Facilitation: Traditional Presentation+ Activity

Madness Mapping (Youth Only!) Room F

Facilitators: The Icarus Proiect

Geared Towards: Youth

Description: This workshop will focus on mental and emotional wellness, with a particular focus on the concept of Madness Mapping, Madness Mapping is a practice in which individuals create a type of "living will" that delineates what is helpful to that individual when they are experiencing a mental health crisis, which they then share with people they feel comfortable holding that information. That way, that individual's loved ones can be equipped with the knowledge of what that person needs to feel supported when experiencing a mental health crisis and may not be able to express it.

Facilitation: Audience Participation

Restorative Approaches to School Discipline

Room G

Facilitators: Juan Padilla (He/Him or use name),

Khadijah Lee (she/her)

Geared Towards: Teachers & School

Administrators

Description: U.S. schools overwhelmingly take a punitive approach to disciplining students. This workshop will provide examples of alternatives to "traditional" means of addressing harm in school including restorative practices that consider conflict from the perspective of opportunity for growth, community-building, and healing. This workshop will also include a discussion of advancing restorative justice practices in school through the law, with focus on Senate Bill 100.

Facilitation: Presentation

Advocating for Queer-Inclusive Sex Ed In Schools Room H

Facilitators: Scout Bratt (They/Them), E Marshall (They/Them), Jenifer Leininger (She/Her), Zaiden Sowle (She/Her)

Geared Towards: Youth, Teachers & School Administrators, Health Care, Parents & Adult Allies

Description: During this workshop, attendees will hear from facilitators who have experience in actively advocating for queer inclusive sex ed. This discussion will consider why medical accuracy, inclusivity, body positivity, and autonomy over one's body are essential components of a sexual health education. We will discuss a framework for approaching school administrators about creating an inclusive curriculum around sexual health. Jai near...

Facilitation: Panel + Q&A

apply in schools.

Workshop Facilitators

aj jennings

Pronouns: they/them High School: Leslie High School, Leslie, MI Bio: ai was a pre-school teacher for 11 years before

starting at the

Alliance, aj has a BA in

women's and gender studies and an M.Ed in instructional leadership. aj is the Curriculum and Professional Development Director at the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance. They love books, cooking over a campfire, queer stuff & making jam!

Contact: aj@illinoissafeschools.org



Pronouns: He/Him/His

High School: Williamsville High

School, Williamsville, IL

Bio: Alex is 20 years old and is majoring in Nursing at Fontbonne University in St. Louis, MO. During his time at Williamsville High School, Alex fought for equality for

transgender students, creating a policy that allows transgender students access to restrooms and locker rooms that align with their gender identity. He spends his free time with his adorable cat named Charli.

Contact: alex.gregory0918@yahoo.com

Alissa S. James-Anderson

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers High School: Lindblom Math & Science Academy, Chicago, IL Bio: Alissa is a member of the Illinois Safe Schools Youth Committee. Alissa is 16, and will be talking about LGBT rights in school.

Contact: ajanderson10@cps.edu

Amanda Geppert

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

High School: Burncoat Senior High

School, Worcester, MA

Bio: Amanda leads the Ci3 Design Thinking Lab at the University of

Chicago where

she develops innovative community-

and clinic-based interventions to advance the health of young people around the globe. Amanda is an interdisciplinary human-centered designerresearcher-scholar interested in the development and evaluation of community-based participatory design processes that seek to build individual capabilities and community capacity.

Contact: ageppert@bsd.uchicago.edu



Pronouns: Him/They High School: Deerfield High

School, Deerfield, IL

Bio: Arthur is a 17 year old trans nonbinary boi, a graduated member of the Youth Committee for the Illinois Safe Schools

Alliance (ISSA). Arthur continues

to work with ISSA and is currently working on projects for LGBTO+ youth in their community. They are also an avid cat lover and poet.

Contact: arthurbrown0118@gmail.com

Candace Moore

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

High School: West Aurora Senior

High School, Aurora, IL

Bio: Candace Moore is a Staff Attorney for the Education Equity Project of the Chicago Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights where she advocates for the educational

rights of young people through a lens of racial and social justice. She was instrumental in Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights' re-launch of the Education Equity Project. Candace's work has focused on organizing legal advocacy resources to address disparate discipline and barriers to enrollment for students throughout Chicago and its surrounding communities. She also works in partnership with community-based reformers and institutional policy makers to achieve sustainable

and meaningful solutions. Email: cmoore@clccrul.og

Carolyn Wahlskog

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers **High School:**

Naperville Central High School,

Naperville, IL

Bio: Carolyn is a licensed clinical worker working with Youth Outlook, 360 Youth Services and Transformative Justice Law

Project's Name Change

Mobilization. She is passionate about community building and supporting individuals, organizations and systems to reduce barriers that prevent queer folks from accessing affirming education, mental and physical healthcare, family and legal supports. She is also happy to help you access the best donuts across the state.

Email: carolyn.wahlskog@youth-outlook.org









Chris Wade

Pronouns: He/Him

High School: Farmington East High

School, Farmington, IL

Bio: Chris became personally active in HIV community with involvement in issues and projects surrounding Mental Health, Sexual and

Reproductive Health, and

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Questioning (LGBTQ) amongst all demographics but with emphasis on communities of color.

Contact: chris-wade@live.com



Pronouns: She/Her

High School: Immaculate Heart of Mary High School, Westchester, IL Bio: Deanna has served on the Berwyn South School District 100 board for 5 years. In that capacity, she was lucky enough to work with the Alliance when the district



developed an administrative procedure for gender support. She is a public health professional with a focus on child health.

Contact: ddurica@bsd100.org

E Marshall

Pronouns: They/Them High School: Dr. Phillips High

School, Orlando, FL

Bio: E is the Sexual Health Project Assistant in Chicago Public Schools' Office of Student Health and Wellness. They oversee implementation of



sexual health education and LGBTQ student support throughout the district. E discovered their passion for sex ed as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Burkina Faso!

Email: elmarshall2@cps.edu

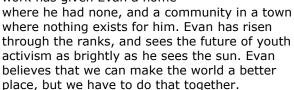
Evan Prusynski

Pronouns: He/Him

High School: Ottawa Township

High School, Ottawa, IL Bio: Evan is an Alliance Youth Committee member and the GSA

Network National Youth Council Representative of Illinois, GSA work has given Evan a home



Contact: evan.pru@gmail.com



Pronouns: He/Him/They/Them High School: Homewood Flossmoor High School, IL Bio: Femmily is currently a nursing student, and worked previously as a health educator/youth worker at

Broadway Youth Center doing sex education, HIV/STI testing, and counseling. Before that, Femmily did rape crisis work with survivors of sexual violence. Femmily also loves hippos!!!

Email: femmilyblake@gmail.com

Greg Harris

Pronouns: He/Him

Bio: Greg Harris is an Illinois State Representative and Assistant Majority Leader. Representative Harris is happy to help people learn more powerful and effective ways to educate

their elected officials and organize to make change. Democracy is a participatory sport and not a spectator sport, and as an openly gay elected official, he wants to be sure the many voices in our community are heard and respected.

Contact: greq@gregharris.org



Pronouns: She/Her

High School: Liberal Arts and Science Academy High School,

Austin, TX

Bio: Hannah is a recent college graduate working with The Alliance as an AmeriCorps VISTA this year.

Her work is focused on helping the Alliance provide better support to LGBTQ+ young folks in the central Illinois area. She is originally from Austin, TX, and enjoys playing music and hanging out with her cat, Jasper.

Contact: Partnerships VISTA@illinoissafeschools.org







Heidi Truax

Pronouns: She/Her

High School: South Albany High

School, OR

Bio: Heidi is a self-proclaimed body-positivist, queer activist, and rad-ist. She's been with Chicago Public Schools since 2009 and currently serves as a school

counselor, a Master Counselor with the district and a lead RAMP reviewer for the American School Counselor Association. Heidi is currently writing her dissertation on matters of mind body dualism for trans* youth in Chicago as she seeks her PhD in Counselor Education.

Contact: heidi.truax@gmail.com



Pronouns: She/Her

High School: Amundsen High

School, Chicago, IL

Bio: Hira is a Muslim, Pakistani Immigrant Female. She is a Senior at Amundsen High School. Hira has been involved in organizing for almost two years and her program's

work is focused on making our Chicago, and hopefully Illinois, a real sanctuary for POC, people with different immigrant backgrounds, and people

of different sexual identities.

Contact: <u>hirazeeshan1000@gmail.com</u>

Jamie Curtis

Pronouns: They/them

High School: Lindblom Math & Science Academy, Chicago, IL **Bio:** Jamie is a leader with the Alliance Youth Committee. This summer, Jamie, along with three others, developed Know-Your-Rights materials for high school

students. Jamie feels it is important for youth to know their rights in the spaces they occupy and

what they are legally entitled to.

Contact: jasminekcurtis22@gmail.com





Pronouns: She/Her

High School: Dublin Coffman High School, Dublin, OH **Bio:** Jennifer leads community, policy and advocacy initiatives for the Gender Program at Lurie

Children's. She specializes in working with schools and

organizations to be more inclusive of gender diversity. Jennifer continues to develop and implement educational sessions to support the inclusion of gender expansive youth and their families in their schools and communities.

Email: jleininger@luriechildrens.org



Pronouns: She/Her

High School: Charleston High

School, Charleston, IL

Bio: Jenny is the co-founder and one of the adult facilitators of the Macon County Youth Pride Group in Decatur, which is on its third year now. Jenny is an artist, an

art teacher, and works for a non-profit called the Decatur Area Arts Council. In addition, Jenny is a raging liberal and co-founded the Macon County Progressives, a political group that works on fighting damaging policies in the current

administration.

Contact: <u>ilscowqill@yahoo.com</u>

Jerome Pohlen

Pronouns: Him/He

High School: Douglas County High School, Castle Rock, CO **Bio:** Jerome is an editor at Chicago Review Press and the author of Gay & Lesbian History for Kids (2015), a finalist for the Lambda

Literary Award.

Contact: jpohlen@chicagoreviewpress.com

John D'Emilio

Pronouns: He/Him/His

High School: Regis High School,

New York, NY

Bio: John began researching LGBT history in the 1970s, and

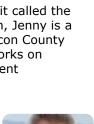
forty years later

he still loves learning more. John has written half a dozen

books on LGBT history and politics as well as on social movements and sexuality more broadly. He taught LGBT studies courses at UIC for 15

years until he retired in 2014. **Contact:** demilioj@aol.com









Jordee Yanez

Pronouns: He/Him/His **High School:** Carl Schurz High School, Chicago IL Bio: Jordee is the Regional

Program Coordinator for the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance which translates into extending the work

of the Alliance to Central and Southern IL. He currently resides in

Springfield but have lived in various parts of IL. He is also in the process of obtaining an MSW through Illinois State University.

Contact: jordee@illinoissafeschools.org

Juan Padilla

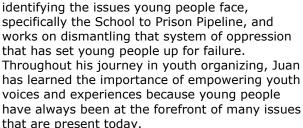
Pronouns: He/Him or use name

High School: Steinmetz College

Prep, Chicago, IL

Bio: Juan is a youth organizer with Communities United. Juan engages young people through

VOYCE, which focuses on



Contact: jpadilla@communitiesunited.org

Julie Morris

Pronouns: She/Her

High School: Lincoln High School, Wisconsin Rapids, WI **Bio:** Julie is the Superintendent of Harlem District 122 in

Winnebago Country. She lives and works in the Rockford Region and is very proud of the work her

district is engaged in around issues of equity for

each of their students.

Contact: Julie.morris@harlem122.org











Juliet Berger-White Pronouns: She/Her

High School: Deerfield High

School, Deerfield, IL

Bio: Juliet is a partner with Hughes Socol Piers Resnick

& Dym, Ltd. where she represents clients in complex litigation matters with a concentration in

the areas of labor and employment, civil rights, educational equity, and whistleblower litigation. She serves on the Alliance's board of directors and collaborated with the Alliance to draft a model school policy for gender inclusion. Juliet lives in Evanston with her three kids and husband, who is a high school English teacher.

Contact: jberger-white@hsplegal.com

Karen Krausen-Ferrer

Pronouns: She/Her

High School:

South Pasadena High School, South Pasadena, CA

Bio: Karen is currently beginning her tenth year in the field of education and second year at Lakeview High School, a Chicago

Public School. Over the years, Karen has worked both as a high school Special Education Teacher and Assistant Principal. She believes as a teacher she is a facilitator and her students are cocreators of their classroom experience. She also has two cats named Boomer and Helo.

Contact: karen.krausen@gmail.com

Kellen Carter

Pronouns: He/Him

High School: Monticello High

School, Monticello, IL

Bio: Kellen is currently serving a year as an AmeriCorps VISTA and helping out the Central Illinois Pride Health Center as their Volunteer Coordinator. After

AmeriCorps, Kellen's next step is to attend graduate and post-graduate school for psychology with the ultimate goal of providing free services to LGBTQ+ youth in the Southern or East Coast area

of the United States.

Contact: volunteer.cipridehealthcenter@gmail.com





Khadijah Lee

Pronouns: She/Her

High School: Prosser Career Academy, Chicago, IL **Bio:** Khadijah is a youth organizer with Communities
United. Being introduced to
VOYCE is early 2016 she came to truly understand restorative



justice practices. She now works tirelessly with VOYCE to engage leaders that come from similar background so they too can fight to change and improve current laws and practices.

Contact: leekhadijab49@gmail.com

Khadine Bennett

Pronouns: she/her **Bio:** Khadine Bennett is
Associate Legislative Director
with the ACLU of Illinois. She
began her ACLU of Illinois career
as a Legal Fellow with the
Reproductive Rights Project
where she was involved in the



Project's litigation and advocacy efforts, including the federal and state court challenges to the Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act and the Campaign for Reproductive Health and Access.

Contact: kbennett@ACLU-il.org

Laura Paradis

Pronouns: She/Her

High School: John Foster Dulles High School, Sugar Land, TX **Bio:** Laura is Design Researcher and Strategist with Ci3's Design Thinking Lab at University of Chicago. For ten years, she's practiced participatory design engagements with a variety of



people including public school teachers, arts administrators, product managers, researchers and youth. She reminds herself that the verbal word "ta" in Mandarin is genderless and can

represent he, she, or it.

Contact: lparadis@bsd.uchicago.edu

Len Meyer

Pronouns: They/Their

High School: Ritenour Senior, St.

Louis, MO

Bio: Len is a St. Louis native who now lives in Bloomington, IL and serves as Executive Director of Central Illinois Pride Health Center.

They are married to the love of

their life and have four senior pups. Len is a vegan

and a huge animal rights supporter. **Contact:** cipridehealthcenter@gmail.com

Marcus Campbell Pronouns: He/Him

High School: Lindblom Math

and Science Academy

Chicago, IL

Bio: Dr. Campbell loves students and what they bring to a world they inherited. As Principal of Evanston Township High School,

he believes that students and young people make a world a better place through their activism and

curiosity!

Email: campbellm@eths.k12.il.us

Mary Foyder

Pronouns: She/Her

High School: Genesee High

School, Genesee, MI

Bio: Mary is a human-centered, interdisciplinary designer with a background in graphic design and brand strategy. She has worked on

a range of things from running

shoes to dog kibble, to microfinance and birth control. Mary is extremely passionate about design for sexual and reproductive health and has had the privilege to collaborate with clients like the Chicago Dept. of Public Health, the CHAT program, Bedsider, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen & Unplanned Pregnancy and the Ci3 Design Thinking Lab at the University of Chicago.

Contact: mary@maryfoyder.com

Michael Johnson (MJ)

Pronouns: He/Him High School: Morgan Park High School, Chicago, IL Bio: Michael is a youth worker and participatory design specialist studying to become an Urban Planner at the University of Illinois at

Chicago. He is an avid lover and advocate of art and its role in reshaping the world

and he also loves biking!

Contact: mjohnson36@uchicago.edu





Mike Quigley Pronouns: He/Him High School:

Bio: Mike Quigley was elected to Congress to represent Illinois' 5th District on April 7, 2009. A former Cook County Commissioner who began his career through community service in the

Lakeview neighborhood, Mike has served his community for more than thirty years. His election to Congress was an opportunity to take his unique style of reform-minded politics, which Chicagoans have known for years, from Cook County to Washington.

Contact: https://quigley.house.gov/

Mike Ziri

Pronouns: He/Him

High School: Springfield High

School, Springfield, IL

Bio: As Director of Public Policy at Equality Illinois, the state's civil rights organization for LGBTQ people, Mike spearheads an aggressive legislative agenda in Springfield that advances justice.

aggressive legislative agenda in Springfield that advances justice for LGBTQ individuals, builds and strengthens relationships with officials and political leaders throughout the state and in Washington, D.C.,

throughout the state and in Washington, D.C., and develops policy initiatives to ensure the equal protection and treatment of LGBTQ people. He also staffs the election-related activities of the Equality Illinois Political Action Committee.

Contact: mziri@eqil.org

Nathan Petithomme

Pronouns: He/Him

High School: Lindblom Math & Science Academy, Chicago, IL **Bio:** Nathan Petithomme is a leader with the Alliance Youth Committee and a high school senior. He loves activism, politics, and movies. His

love for activism has drawn him to

the Alliance to connect with GSAs all over the state and see the cause for having a Know Your Rights campaign that equips youth with the information they need to engage in their school

community.

Contact: npetithomme1@cps.edu



Pronouns: She/Her

High School: Newton North High School, Newton, MA Bio: Nicki is an education attorney and has been involved with advocacy work around LGBTQ issues for the past 5 years. She lives in Evanston and

has two children in grade school so issues of inclusion and equity in public schools are important to Nicki, both professionally but also

personally.

Contact: nbb@franczek.com

Owen Daniel-McCarter

Pronouns: he/him

High School: Oak Park River Forest High School, Oak Park, IL

Bio: Owen has been a licensed attorney in Illinois for ten years and has practiced in the fields of identity

documents, criminal

defense/records, civil rights

litigation, and policy advocacy. He is currently blessed to be the Executive Director of the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance where he supports in guiding the organization in achieving its mission and vision of building a world in which youth develop to their fullest potential, learning in safe and nurturing schools, living in communities that accept and honor differences, where everyone has the freedom to express their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Owen is a Pisces with a Cancer rising. **Email:** owen@illinoissafeschools.org

Phyllis Gallisath

Pronouns: She/Her High School: GED - IL

Bio: Phyllis is from Rockford, IL and mother of a 17 year-old transgender son. She advocates for the LGBTQ community and specifically trans

youth. Phyllis founded her local

PFLAG Chapter, along with DiversCity Youth-led Teen Group. She is very passionate about advocacy and educating herself about LGBTQ

issues.

Contact: phyllisgallisath@gmail.com





Rodrigo Anzures-Oyorzabal

Pronouns: He/Him

High School: Lincoln Park High

School, Chicago, IL

Bio: Rodrigo is originally from Mexico, and was raised in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. His policy career began in Chicago's City Council in 2015, and he now blends

his organizing and policy experience in his role as Policy and Advocacy Manager at the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance. He's constantly inspired by the young people he works with.

Contact: rodrigo@illinoissafeschools.org

Scout Bratt

Pronouns: They/Them **High School:** Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy, Overland

Park, KS

Bio: Scout works with Chicago Women's Health Center, a feminist health collective based in the Uptown neighborhood.

Scout facilitates body-positive, sex-positive, and queer-inclusive sexual health education with Chicago Public Schools and community-based organizations. They are excited by thinking critically about youth power in school settings, graphic novels, and peppermint ice cream.

Email: sb@chicagowomenshealthcenter.org

Searah Deysach

Pronouns: She/Her

High School: Evanston Township

High School, Evanston, IL

Bio: Searah really loves talking about sex, gender and sexuality to all kinds of folks and has been doing so for the past 16 years. Searah lives on the

north side Chicago with her partner and their rambunctious 2nd grader and she adores road

trips and marshmallows.

Contact: searah@early2bed.com

Shannon Delaney Pronouns: She/Her

High School: Jacobs High School,

Algonquin, IL

Bio: Shannon has acted as communication designer, artist, teacher, and always community enthusiast. Creative collaboration

drives the central focus of her work: empowering the voices of people and communities strive need

to be heard.

Contact: shannon.a.delaney@gmail.com



Pronouns: She/Her/Hers **High School:** Von Steuben

Chicago, IL

Fun fact: Souzane can play the janggu and has played for 2

years!

Syd Bakal

Pronouns: They/Them **High School:** Barrington High

School, Barrington, IL

Bio: Syd last presented "From One Nib to Another" at the Illinois Safe School Alliance's Action Camp this summer. They look forward to collapsing the gender binary today with all of you. They are working with their school to rewrite our

policies for more inclusivity and innovate our curriculum to reflect greater diversity. My current interest is in changing the five-visit limit of mental health services for minors without parental

consent.

Contact: sydbakal@gmail.com

Will Pettway

Pronouns: Any

High School: Walter Payton College Prep, Chicago, IL **Bio:** Will works with the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health

because Will believes in supporting anything that is fun, safe and consensual. \bigcirc

Contact: Pettway.william@gmail.com







Xanat Sobrevilla

Pronouns: She/Her **High School:** Trinity High School,

River Forest, IL

Bio: Xanat Sobrevilla is an organizer with Organized

Communities Agasint Deportations but prior to that she was also an organizer with the Immigrant Youth

Justice League (IYJL) since 2011. As part of IYJL she helped organize National Coming Out of the Shadows Month in March, co-facilitated mental health workshops and Shout It Outs aimed at highlighting the importance of mental health advocacy for undocumented immigrants, and shared her coming out as undocumented story in National Coming Out of the Shadows 2012. Presently with OCAD, Xanat is part of a network of people fighting their deportations and seeking ways to defend undocumented immigrant rights. Xanat emigrated from Mexico City at the age of nine along with her family in 1996 and is currently DACA-mented. She graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2009 with a B.S. in Integrative Biology.

Contact: xanat@iyil.org

Zach Wells

Pronouns: He/Him

High School: Marysville Getchell High School, Marysville, WA **Bio:** Zach is a recent West Coast transplant working for the Central Illinois Pride Health Center through

the AmeriCorps VISTA

program. Zach has a B.S. in Public

Health from UC San Diego and is very excited to be working to address health disparities of the LGBTQ population here in Central Illinois.

Contact: Outreach.CIPrideHealthCenter@gmail.com

Zaiden Sowle

Pronouns: She/Her

High School: Evanston Township

High School, Evanston, IL

Bio: During Zaiden's four years at ETHS, she has worked to make the school's sexual education curriculum

more inclusive for LGBTQ+ identities. She has also worked to create an LGBTQ+ summit for

LGBTQ+ students.

Fun Facts: I am double jointed in all of my fingers and have been involved with the alliance

for five years.

Email: zcsowle@gmail.com







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