

**2014 SPRING CONFERENCE**

**GLSEN<sup>®</sup>**

**MASSACHUSETTS**

**#GLSEN\_MA**



**SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2014**  
**MADISON PARK VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**



Welcome to the GLSEN Massachusetts 2014 Spring Conference!

We are pleased to be joined by over 300 students and educators from across the Commonwealth. Collectively, we are building community and sharing resources for creating safer, more affirming schools for LGBTQ youth, educators, and allies.

At GLSEN Massachusetts, we want every student, in every school across the state, to be valued and treated with respect, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. We believe that all students deserve a safe and affirming school environment where they can learn and grow.

We accomplish our goals by working in classrooms and hallways across the Commonwealth to improve school climate and champion LGBTQ issues in K-12 education.

- We conduct research to inform our evidence-based solutions for K-12 education.
- We create developmentally appropriate resources for educators to use throughout their school community.
- We partner with local organizations and decision makers to ensure that comprehensive and inclusive safe schools policies are considered, passed and implemented.
- We partner with dozens of organizations to leverage our shared expertise into creating great schools and better opportunities for every student.
- We empower students to affect change by supporting student-led efforts to positively impact their own schools and local communities.

Every day GLSEN Massachusetts works to ensure that LGBTQ students are able to learn and grow in a school environment free from bullying and harassment.

During the conference today, we will explore strategies for strengthening GSAs and learn new ways to integrate LGBTQ content into our schools and communities. Thank you for being here and for all the work you do in our schools and communities to ensure that each member of every school community is valued and respected.

Please enjoy the GLSEN Massachusetts 2014 Spring Conference!

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# BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## MADISON PARK TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Diane Ross Gary, Ed.D., Headmaster

### To GLSEN Conference Participants:

The Members of Madison Park Technical Vocational High School's GSA are glad to welcome you and are proud to host the **2014 GLSEN Conference!** Madison Park is Boston's only Technical Vocational High School offering over 19 different career programs ranging from Culinary Arts, Building Trades, Information Technology, and Allied Health. We belong to a school with 1,400 students from across Boston, many coming from all over the world. We have been told for a long time that 10% of the population is gay but recently learned from a study from the National Bureau of Economic Research that about 20 percent of the population is attracted to their own gender. That means that there could be 140 to 280 students in our school dealing with and struggling with issues around sexuality.

That said our GSA does not have close to that number in our membership. We know we had to do something to help students dealing with their identities. In September we started discussion of how we could provide a safe time and place for students to come together, gather information and discuss with others their struggles. We thought a conference would be the thing to organize, but we didn't have the resources to make it happen.

So we worked on our mission statement and came up with the following:

**The mission of Madison Park's Gay Straight Alliance is to provide a safe environment for students and staff, regardless of race, sexual orientation, and/or how they identify themselves. We want to provide a safe zone, free of discrimination, that helps individuals deal with social issues/problems we face in today's society. We want to support students by not being judgmental while building self esteem. Madison Park's Gay Straight Alliance is a place to build a support system while having fun!**

After finishing and reviewing our mission statement we again found ourselves even more concerned about students dealing with issues of identity and still wanting to put on a conference to provide a place for young people to come together to find some answers. That's when we found out that GLSEN was looking for a place to hold their 2014 Conference and we wanted it here at Madison Park. After a few calls and some paperwork we were granted approval; then planning meetings with GLSEN began and now we are opening our doors for this exciting day.

Again welcome to our school. We hope you take something positive from today, learn something new and most importantly that you make new friends, that you have fun!

*Delisa*  
*Edith*  
*Rebecca Johnson*  
*Mary*  
*Zulmarie Gonzalez*  
*Pat He (Advisor)*  
*John Gary*



## Schedule-at-a-Glance

8:45 AM - 9:30 AM	Registration
9:30 AM - 10:45 AM	Opening Celebration & Keynote Speakers
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM	Workshop Block 1
12:15 PM - 12:45 PM	Lunch & Networking
12:45 PM - 2:00 PM	Workshop Block 2
2:15 PM - 3:30 PM	Workshop Block 3
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Conference Closing & Call to Action

## Opening Celebration

**9:15 AM - 10:45 AM**

### ***Conference Keynote Speaker***

**Eliza Byard, Executive Director**

*Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network*

Eliza Byard is the Executive Director of the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN). GLSEN is recognized worldwide as an innovative leader in the education, youth development and civil rights sectors fighting to end bias-based bullying, violence and discrimination in K-12 schools and while promoting a culture of respect for all.

### ***Student Keynote Speaker***

**Deja Carr, Student**

*Pioneer Valley Performing Arts School*

Deja Rene Carr is a poet and musician. Born in the Bronx, she now calls Hadley, Massachusetts her home. She is a student at the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts School where she focuses on creative writing, music and African American studies. Carr is also the lead singer of Who'da Funk it?, the Pioneer Valley's premiere local female-driven band known for their genre and gender-bending music. In her music and poetry, Carr reflects on the realities and triumphs of her own life while critiquing and commenting on society at large.

### ***Welcome***

Skailer Qvistgaard, Board Member  
GLSEN Massachusetts

### ***Masters of Ceremony***

Marc Desrivieres & Reti Johnson, Students  
Madison Park Technical Vocational High School

### ***Keynote Introduction***

Caroline Barkowitz, Student  
Dedham Middle School

### ***Musical Performance***

Mike "MRF" Flanagan  
Recording Artist & Music Educator

### ***Conference DJ***

Rachel Cayabyab (aka DJ Lady Spindrift)

## **Workshop Block 1**

**11:00 AM - 12:15 PM**

### **1.1 The Trevor Project: Empowering Youth to Save Lives! [Room: 7-236]**

Wondering how you can make an impact? Learn about The Trevor Project! We'll discuss language, stereotypes and how to respond to signs of suicide.

Presenter(s): Kate McGravey, Manchester Essex Regional School District  
Jaclyn Kinsman, North Reading Public Schools

### **1.2 How different life can be. [Room: 7-228]**

This presentation by LGBTQ and allied youth will focus on the various issues faced by them, including bullying, derogatory remarks, jokes and creating safe supportive environments.

Presenter(s): Corey Robichaud, Glenda Torres & Maricela Georgilakis  
nAGLY (North Shore Alliance of LGBT Youth)

### **1.3 LGBTQ Youth and the School-to-Prison Pipeline [Room: 7-233]**

LGBTQ youth are disproportionately affected by school discipline policies and are often pushed out. Participants will reflect on how to take action to stop the school-to-prison-pipeline.

Presenter(s): Jason Lydon & Johannes Wilson, Black and Pink  
Justice Williams, Body Image for Justice

### **1.4 Dating Abuse: How to Help a Friend [Room: 7-234]**

Dating abuse can happen in any relationship, straight or LGBTQ. Come learn about dating abuse and how to support a friend who is experiencing it.

Presenter(s): Cassandra Luna, The Network/La Red

### **1.5 When a Teacher Makes a Gender Transition [Room: 7-269]**

We will share the successful experience of a faculty member's gender transition at Milton Academy, K-12, as well as communications strategies, documents and lessons learned.

Presenter(s): Marshall Carter & Sam Landau, Milton Academy

### **1.6 Strengthening Youth/Adult Collaboration [Room: 7-237]**

This workshop will provide participants with helpful tips for achieving healthy, successful collaborations between youth and adults in school and community based settings.

Presenter(s): Jessica Flaherty & Giftson Joseph, BAGLY, Inc.

### **1.7 Teaching "Out" [Room: 7-270]**

This workshop is a space for LGBTQ people to discuss the personal, professional, and political impact of being an LGBTQ teacher, particularly in a K-12 setting.

Presenter(s): Ryan Ambuter, Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School

## **Workshop Block 2**

**12:45 PM - 2:00 PM**

### **2.1 Supporting Transgender Youth in Schools [Room: 7-237]**

This workshop will serve as both a Trans\* 101 and a resource for those looking for more knowledge about the rights of transgender students in schools.

Presenter(s): Ryan Ambuter, Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School

### **2.2 When They Jump to Conclusions: Education on LGBTQ Topics [Room: 7-236]**

LGBTQ youth are often approached as “experts” on LGBTQ topics, by their parents and peers. Join QSA students in this engaging discussion on this multi-layered issue.

Presenter(s): Boston Area Homeschoolers’ QSA

### **2.3 Challenging Ableism: Safe Space for LGBTQ Youth with Disabilities [Room: 7-234]**

This is an interactive workshop exploring the oppression of people with disabilities and how it relates to building safe spaces for LGBTQIA youth with disabilities.

Presenter(s): Jeff Lafata, Empowering People for Inclusive Communities (EPIC)

### **2.4 Owning One’s Truth: Boston Ironsides Rugby and Identity in Sports [Room: 7-228]**

Team diversity, news stories of gay athletes and coming out in professional sports. How rugby has broken stereotypes while discussing Ironsides diversity and dynamics.

Presenter(s): Alejandro Cajigal & Kiwaiu Diaz, Boston Ironsides Rugby Football Club

### **2.5 Reversing the Erasure of LGBT History [Room: 7-270]**

Using Los Angeles Unified School District and Lowell School District as case studies, this workshop examines strategies for introducing vital LGBT inclusive history curriculum into schools.

Presenter(s): Debra Fowler, Debbie Costello & Erin Kehoe, Lowell High School

### **2.6 Got LGBTQ Rights? Bullying and Harassment [Room: 7-233]**

LGBTQ students deserve to attend school safely, participate in classes and activities, and be treated with respect. This workshop will educate on legal rights in schools.

Presenter(s): Maryse Pearce, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders

### **2.7 Fatphobia - Big Invisible [Room: 7-230]**

We’ll be defining, naming and uncovering size oppression and Fatphobia. We’ll discuss how fatphobia is reinforced by patriarchy and why size oppression matters for young girls.

Presenter(s): Deja Carr, Pioneer Valley Performing Arts  
Cora Gales, Hampshire College

### **2.8 Exploring Discipline Disparity within our Schools and Uncovering Bias [Room: 7-269]**

Learn about discipline disparity within our schools through a lens of justice and activism. Analyze possible solutions by participating in games, activities and group work.

Presenter(s): Malulani Sherlock, Susan Wallace & Sharon Tracy, Quabbin Mediation

Note: All printed workshop descriptions appear exactly as they were submitted.

## **Workshop Block 3**

**2:15 PM - 3:30 PM**

### **3.1 Starting a Middle School GSA: A Sustainable, Grassroots Approach [Room: 7-270]**

Practical advice and encouragement for students, staff, parents and community members who would like to establish a sustainable GSA in their local middle school.

Presenter(s): Anna Watson, Friends of the Ottoson Middle School GSA

### **3.2 Queering the Classroom: Providing a Safe Learning Environment for All [Room: 7-230]**

Providing a safe environment for GLBTQ youth promotes a more comfortable, creative environment for all students. Resources and discussion will address your classroom needs.

Presenter(s): Marie Caradonna, WAGLY (West Suburban Alliance of GLBTQ Youth)

### **3.3 Coming out to Parents [Room: 7-233]**

Coming out to parents as LGBTQ is a big decision. Learn what to expect and get support. Interactive workshop and resources for participants.

Presenter(s): Pam Garramone, Greater Boston PFLAG

### **3.4 Responding to LGBTQ Partner Abuse In Black & Latin@ Communities [Room: 7-236]**

This workshop will define partner abuse, the tactics of abuse, and discuss overcoming challenges for seeking support. The workshop will focus on Black/Latin@ LGBTQ communities.

Presenter(s): Ricky Granderson & Corey Yarbrough, Hispanic Black Gay Coalition

### **3.5 Roots & Branches: Using Theater to Explore Identity and Activism [Room: 7-237]**

In this workshop, we will explore how theater can be used to explore your own identity, share your story with others, and as tool for activism.

Presenter(s): Karter Blake & Julia Lillis, Theater Offensive's True Colors: OUT Youth Theater

### **3.6 Changing the Game: The GLSEN Sports Project [Room: 7-234]**

Participation in sports and Physical Education has positive effects health, self-esteem, sense of school belonging and academics. Unfortunately, some research suggests that LGBT students may not have access to these and they may be less likely than their non-LGBT peers to attend Physical Education classes or play sports teams. This session focuses on developing strategies to create inclusive conditions where all students can benefit from participation and learning.

Presenter(s): Jenny Betz, GLSEN National

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