



**Partners**  
in **S**ex **E**ducation

*Presents*

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual  
Sex Educators  
Community  
Conference

Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> 2018

@PartnersInSexEducation  
#SexEdCommunity

# Welcome

Welcome to our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sex Educator's Community Conference. This conference was born out of the idea of connecting the educators working in the Greater Boston area, so that we might serve as resources for one another.

With the second conference in 2015, we began to give an award – our “Youth advocating change” award – to a young person advocating for positive change in sex education, working towards social justice, and fighting to end the shame and stigma that impedes the growth of young people into healthy, happy adults. This year, we are honoring **Elijah Oyenuga**, who as a speaker for Boston GLASS teaches high school students about gender and sexual orientation in Boston Public Schools.

We are also incredibly grateful to have **Chessey Prout** with us. Chessey is a survivor and author of the fantastic “I Have the Right To: A High School Survivor's Story of Sexual Assault, Justice and Hope.”

As always, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the many great presenters who have given their time and energy to make this conference a success. The work for truly comprehensive sex education, for justice and inclusion, and for freedom from stigma and shame, includes creating a community we can turn to for support.

Thank you all for being here.



# Conference Schedule

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**9:00-9:15**      Opening remarks

**9:15-10:15**      Workshop One

**10:30-11:30**      Workshop Two

**11:40-12:00**      Networking Event

**12:00-12:45**      Lunch

**12:55-1:15**      Chessy Prout

**1:30-2:30**      Workshop Three

**2:40-3:00**      YAC: Elijah Oyenuga

**3:15-4:15**      Workshop Four

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# Workshop One 9:15-10:15

## **Sexually Explicit Media and Our Youth** *with Jess Alder and Nicole Daley*

*Dining Room*

Just as “media literacy” programs have been helping youth understand how a steady flow of advertising, entertainment and social media influences their perceptions, a “pornography literacy” curriculum might help youth interpret and make sense of the sexually explicit media to which they are exposed. Join us in a new sexually explicit media curriculum being delivered to high school students

## **Unique Sexuality and Gender Knowledge Needs in Intellectually Disabled Students** *with Andrew Triska*

*Shumway Room*

This workshop will focus on the sexuality and gender identity knowledge needs of intellectually disabled students of all ages, particularly those areas of knowledge that are underemphasized in general sex education curricula or specific to intellectually disabled students.

## **Examining and Re-framing Inclusion Practices in the Classroom** *with Cambridge Health Alliance*

*Tolley Room*

Inclusion efforts often suggest simple vocabulary changes as a cure all solution and assume the rest will fall into place. While these efforts are important, they are only one element of practicing inclusion in the classroom. Educators will practice asking questions that will reframe their content and process for a more socially just classroom.

# Workshop Two 10:30-11:30

## **Making Sense of Abstinence with *Bill Taverner*** *Dining Room*

What if Abstinence Education were reconceptualized with a positive, skills-based, choice-oriented frame that encouraged critical decision-making, and applied the same learning principles known to work in sexuality education? What if, instead of demanding abstinence-until-marriage, it discussed the knowledge and skills needed once a person changed their decisions? This workshop comes with a copy of the Making Sense of Abstinence curriculum.

## **More than the Question Box: Integrating Broad Understandings of Sex and Gender into Your Regular Sex Ed Class with *Cindy Beal, (CB)*** *Shumway Room*

Balancing boundaries of content placed on us by agency/school and our commitment to comprehensive education can be tricky. We will explore ways to bear witness to young people of all genders and to create a more gender and sex expansive sexuality education experience. This workshop will include a lens for noticing opportunities, specific exercises and tools, and we will share tips with one another.

## **Sex Education: Historical and Hysterical with *Jane Detwiler*** *Haynes Room*

Turn on your cell phone or tablet to participate in this workshop on sexuality education through history. Using Kahoot, a game based classroom response system played by the whole class in real time, we will explore ideas about sexuality since the early 20th century.

## **HPV – Demystifying the Viral STDs with *Elizabeth Boskey*** *Tolley Room*

There is a great deal of misinformation about herpes, HIV and HPV. In this workshop, participants will explore some of the common myths and misconceptions about these common viral STDs and get an overview of the current state of art in testing, treatment & prevention.

# Workshop Three 1:30-2:30

## **Protection Methods 101** *with Angélique Bouthot* *Dining Room*

What are Protection Methods, how do they work, and how can people access them? We'll discuss hormonal and non-hormonal methods, barriers, emergency contraception, and more. A great intro workshop and a great refresher for people looking for inclusive ways to discuss these methods quickly and effectively

## **Consent – Ask For It** *with Ukumbwa Sauti* *Shumway Room*

Consent: Ask For It will define and give broad and detailed context for the concept of consent, illuminate various perspectives about why it is vital not only to sexual, physical and emotional safety, but also in other social frameworks. This class is interactive.

## **Answering the “Virginity” Question Through an Anti-Oppressive Lens** *with Jenna Emerson* *Tolley Room*

Virginity has a long history of privileging and oppressing certain bodies. This workshop will explore the social construction of virginity and its implications in the sex ed classroom today. We will look at the different types of virginity questions and practice responding through an anti-oppressive lens.

# Workshop Four 3:15-4:15

## **Exploring Identity and Lifting Youth VOICES with Lola Akintobi**

### *Dining Room*

Sexual health programs are most successful when they recognize the cultures of participants. In order to move towards more culturally competent programming, let's talk about identity! In this workshop, participants will explore how to lead an activity on identity that compliments sexual health programming.

## **Guy Problems: Forms of Societal Oppression Experienced by Men & Boys with E. Winter Tashlin**

### *Shumway Room*

Men's issues' has become synonymous with misogyny thanks to the MRA movement, but there are real issues that men & boys struggle with. This workshop looks at those issues with an eye towards dispelling assumptions, enhancing empathy, and finding points of intersection with the lives and struggles of other people.

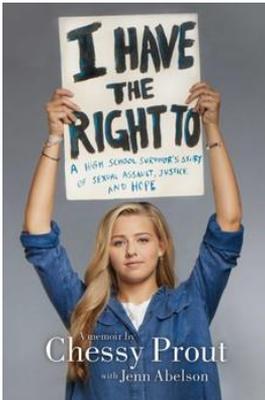
## **Boundaries for Sexuality Educators: Where Do You Draw the Line? with Joleen M. Nevers and Cassy Setzler**

### *Tolley Room*

Sexuality Educators are often confronted with various situations, some of which may require an understanding of their personal boundaries. This session will introduce types of boundaries and ethical principles utilized in most ethical models. Participants will have the opportunity to explore their own boundaries as it relates to their profession.

# Featured Speakers

**Elijah Oyenuga** is a sophomore at Lesley University. He majors in Education and English and hopes to help youth foster a love for learning and education. Elijah also works with Boston GLASS (Gay & Lesbian Adolescent Social Services) as a peer leader and serves on the Education Committee. His role on the Education Committee allows him to work with teachers from middle and high schools in the Greater Boston area to educate, raise awareness and inspire empathy in our youth in order to garner understanding and promote tolerance for LGBTQ youth. Elijah hopes to attend law school and use the law to make the world more accessible and safe for LGBTQ youth.



**Chessy Prout** was a freshman at St. Paul's school in New Hampshire when she was sexually assaulted by a senior as part of an ugly ritual competition among seniors at the school. Two years later she chose to step forward and tell her story, claiming the role of survivor and advocate. She has written and spoken eloquently about her experiences in her quest for justice and

about a “bill of rights” for women and girls. In August 2016 she launched the #IHaveARightTo campaign to help young women give voice to their most basic rights. We are incredibly grateful for her bravery in sharing her journey of healing with us, as a way of telling other survivors that they are not alone.

# Thank you

*First and foremost, thank you to Kim Comatas, who is a perpetual Sex Ed Superhero.*

*Thank you to Bill Taverner, for bringing copies of Making Sense of Abstinence for participants.*

*Thank you to Cecilia Villero and Voula the Vulva for always making the conference that much more crafty and fun.*

*Thank you to Milla Impola and Global Protection/One Condoms, for your continued support, and for making safety more artistic.*

*Thank you to Nicole Mazzeo and Pleasure Pie for buttons and zines, and for all that you do for the Boston Sex Ed community.*

*Thank you to Boston IVF for the best conference fidgets ever.*

*Thank you to the Healthy Youth Act Coalition, and to everyone supporting the Health Youth Act in Massachusetts – it's about time we passed this.*

*Thank you to Elijah Oyenuga, and to Chessy Prout, for reinforcing our hope and faith in the next generation.*

*Thank you to the Partners in Sex Ed folks who worked to make this conference happen.*

*Thank you again to our fantastic presenters and speakers.*

*And last but never least – thank you all for coming, for the incredibly hard work that you do, and for your faith in a healthier tomorrow.*

# Notes

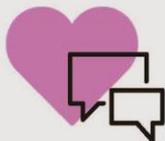
## Building healthy, safe communities begins with our youth.

The **Healthy Youth Act** would give young people in Massachusetts the foundation they need to lead secure, productive lives. The legislation would:

- Ensure districts that offer sex education teach age-appropriate, medically accurate information;
- Require those districts to teach consent, the benefits of delaying sex, how to build healthy relationships, and how to prevent pregnancy and STIs when a person does have sex;
- Require the curricula used be LGBTQ-inclusive
- Continue to allow parents and guardians to take their children out of school-based sex education.

### The *Healthy Youth Act*: Why now?

No one should have to say **#MeToo**, especially our young people.



Nine percent of Massachusetts teens reported experiencing non-consensual sexual contact in 2015. We must combat sexual assault at its roots.

#### STI rates

are on the rise in Massachusetts, and young people are disproportionately affected.



In 2015, 62 percent of chlamydia cases and 41 percent of gonorrhea cases were reported among young people ages 15 to 24. Young people do not have the tools to stay safe and healthy.

The Trump administration is pulling

**\$200 million**

from evidence-based curricula that prevent teen pregnancy. Instead, he is investing in programs proven to be ineffective, like abstinence-only and "fertility awareness" initiatives.



#### LGBTQ youth

are disproportionately impacted by STIs and sexual assault.

Comprehensive sex education is inclusive of all gender identities and sexual orientations and recognizes LGBTQ youth health needs.



### What is the *Healthy Youth Act*?

The *Healthy Youth Act* would ensure every young person who receives sex ed learns how to build healthy lives, relationships, and communities.

Comprehensive sex education teaches medically accurate, age-appropriate information. Unlike its alternatives, comprehensive sex education is actually proven to:

- ✓ Delay the initiation of sex;
- ✓ Reduce the frequency of sex, the number of partners, and unprotected sex;
- ✓ Increase the use of condoms and contraception;
- ✓ Lower STI and unintended pregnancy rates;
- ✓ Reduce bullying for LGBTQ youth;
- ✓ Enhance students' overall ability to learn.

# #HealthyYouthAct