



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JASMYN Hosts Annual “Teaching Respect for All” Conference –Event Provides Educators and Others with Information for Creating Safe Schools for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Students–

Jacksonville, FL (January 5, 2016)—JASMYN will host its annual “Teaching Respect for All” conference on Friday, January 22, 2016 (a Duval County School professional development day). The event will be held at the UNF Herbert University Center. Registration begins at 7:30 and the conference will begin at 8:00am and end at 3:00pm.

Now in its eighth year, this day-long series of educational sessions and workshops provides counselors, social workers, current and prospective school teachers and administrators with the knowledge and tools to successfully create a school culture where all people, including LGBT people, are respected, free to express themselves and able to reach their full potential.

Participants will develop an awareness and understanding of LGBT concerns and be exposed to current research and strategies to help them respond sensitively and effectively toward anti-gay harassment and discrimination.

This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Christopher White, Ph.D., Director of the Safe and Supportive Schools Project for the GSA Network. The Gay Straight Alliance Network (GSA Network) is a next-generation LGBTQ, racial and gender justice organization that empowers and trains queer, trans and allied youth leaders to advocate, organize and mobilize on intersectional movement for safer schools and healthier communities.

JASMYN's local work with GSA's in the Duval County Public Schools follows many of the best practices established by the GSA Network.

JASMYN youth panels, where JASMYN young people speak about their own experiences and engage in discussion with conference participants, are always a highlight of the day.

Teaching Respect for All is **free**, but pre-registration is required at <https://2016teachingrespectforall.eventbrite.com> Registration includes lunch and a valuable resources.

About JASMYN

JASMYN is a non-profit, youth-centric organization providing support, leadership development, risk reduction, social opportunities, and advocacy for LGBT and questioning youth in Northeast Florida. Over 20,000 young people have benefited from JASMYN since its establishment in 1994. Nationally recognized for its programs and services, in 2009, its mission was broadened to include the role JASMYN plays in building partnerships and collaborations that advance the human rights of the LGBT community. For more information, visit www.jasmyn.org.

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Attachment: Photo of Dr, Christopher White.