



## MEDIA ALERT

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## **Richmond-Area Middle School Students Gather to “Break the Cycle” of Bullying & Prejudice**

Over 250 Students, educators, and volunteers to participate in  
the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Prejudice Awareness Summit

**What:** 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Prejudice Awareness Summit

**When:** Thursday, October 20, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Virginia Commonwealth University, Harris Hall, 1015 Floyd Avenue (Corner of Harrison and Floyd), Richmond, VA

**Who:** This year, over 200 middle school students and educators from 27 Richmond-area public and private middle schools, including schools from Richmond City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Henrico, and New Kent Counties will participate in discussions and activities around diversity, discrimination, and respect.

**How:** Students will participate in “Break the Cycle: Be the Change,” a fast-paced, interactive presentation that examines the concept of prejudice. Using concepts from the presentation, students will break into teams to develop achievable and concrete solutions to the tough challenges that they face at school each day. Students will identify resources, allies, and timelines to achieve change while also spreading the PAS message to their larger middle school body. Students will return empowered and skilled agents of change and unity, with the goal to reduce conflict and prejudice in their schools.

**Web Information:** <http://www.inclusiveva.org/programs/schools/pas/>

**Supporters:** The Summit is sponsored by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, with financial support from Wells Fargo and generously hosted by Virginia Commonwealth University. Coalition partners from Communities in Schools of Richmond, Higher Achievement, Hope in the Cities/Initiatives of Change, Partnership for the Future, the Richmond Peace Education Center, and the YWCA of Richmond help to create this opportunity for Richmond-area middle school students. The Summit was founded by Jewish Women International.

**Interview Opportunities:** Members of the press are invited to visit the Prejudice Awareness Summit anytime between the hours of 8:30am-2:00pm. The preferred visiting times are from 9:45am - 10:45am or 1:45pm-2:00pm. Parents/guardians have granted permission to photograph and interview students. Educators are also available for interviews. Please contact Jessica Hawthorne by email at [jhawthorne@inclusiveva.org](mailto:jhawthorne@inclusiveva.org), office phone at (804) 515-7950, or cell phone at (804) 495-1580.