



## **MEDIA ALERT**

March 2, 2020

### **Contact:**

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## **Lynchburg-Area High School Students Learn to Stand Up to Stereotypes at 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity Dialogue Day**

**What:** Diversity Dialogue Day

**When:** Wednesday, March 11, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** University of Lynchburg, Elliot & Rosel Schewel Hall, Lynchburg, VA 24501

**Who:** Over 100 high school students and educators from public schools in Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell counties and the cities of Lynchburg and Staunton will come together in a hands-on workshop setting to learn lessons about diversity, discrimination, and respect. Diversity Dialogue Day is conducted by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities with support from Dominion Energy.

**How:** This year's theme is "Standing up to Stereotypes," with a curriculum that will take participants through a process of awareness-to-action. Students will learn about how stereotypes impact student experiences at school and in their communities, and learn how to leverage individual leadership abilities that will allow them to combat prejudice and intolerance. They will work closely with their peers from a wide range of ethnic, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. Trained facilitators will guide the students through a series of small group learning activities that explore personal experiences with stereotyping. Students will leave the program with tools they can use to create more inclusive school and community environments.

**For More Information:** <https://inclusiveVA.org/diversitydialogueday>

**Interview Opportunities:** Members of the press are invited to visit the Diversity Dialogue Day anytime during the program. Parents/guardians have granted permission to photograph and interview students. Educators are also available for interview. *For interviews, the preferred visiting time is from 11:35am – 11:55am. For programming, the preferred visiting times are from 8:55am - 10:05am or 1:05pm – 1:30pm.* Please contact Jessica Hawthorne by telephone at (804) 495-1580 or by e-mail at [jhawthorne@inclusiveVA.org](mailto:jhawthorne@inclusiveVA.org).

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