



## MEDIA ALERT

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### Lynchburg Middle School Students Gather to “Break the Cycle” of Bullying & Prejudice at Prejudice Awareness Summit

**What:** 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Lynchburg Prejudice Awareness Summit

**When:** Thursday, January 12, 2023 from 8:30am until 2:00pm

**Where:** Randolph College, Smith Hall (2500 Rivermont Ave, Lynchburg, VA 24503)

**Who:** Students and educators from central Virginia-area public and independent middle schools, including schools from Bedford and Campbell counties and the cities of Lynchburg and Roanoke 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://inclusiveVA.org/programs/schools/>

**Supporters:** The Summit is conducted by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, with financial support from Atlantic Union Bank. The Summit is hosted by Randolph College and facilitator training is hosted by Central Virginia Community College. Coalition partners from HumanKind, the University of Lynchburg, and the YWCA of Central Virginia help to create this opportunity for Lynchburg 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 time is from 8:45am - 9:45am. 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.