



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Valerie Lough

P: 937-324-7300

E: vlough@springfieldohio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LGBTQ Community the Subject of May Speaker Series Event

SPRINGFIELD, OH (May 3, 2019) — The Global Education and Peace Network will hold the next installment in its Global Education Speaker Series, “Equality Springfield Stories of Kindness” with Winkie Mitchell, Shea Beal, Fallon White, Rev. Avery Sledge and Bradley MinerD on Thursday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 105 of Shouplin Center at Wittenberg University.

The program will begin with “A Conversation with J.R. Hook,” hosted by Mitchell. The talk-show style interview will highlight acts of kindness with the LGBTQ community throughout Springfield’s history, as exemplified by J.R.’s work to create safe and supportive spaces for LGBTQ people. The second half of the evening will feature a panel discussion, “Trans 101: Practicing Kindness and Fostering Understanding.” Beal, White, and Rev. Sledge will offer their personal insights related to the experience of transgender individuals. The discussion will be moderated by MinerD and will include informative video clips.

Equality Springfield promotes broader awareness of LGBTQ issues, participates visibly in the cultural life of the community, and contributes to the strength of LGBTQ and allied communities by providing opportunities for fellowship and mutual respect.

The Global Education and Peace Network celebrates its 17th season with the speaker series, “Practicing Kindness in Changing Times.” Monthly programs will explore ways local residents practice kindness in their lives. The Global Education and Peace Network formed during City-sponsored study circles after the tragedy of 9/11. They seek to build bridges of understanding across cultural divides with their monthly speaker series and annual calendar.

The 2018-2019 Global Education calendar, which features the series, will be available at no charge at the May 9 program. Information is also available on the City of Springfield’s website at springfieldohio.gov/global-education.