



For Immediate Release
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Gateway2Change's concluding Student Summit scheduled for Friday

(February 27, 2019) St. Louis, MO... The final Gateway2Change Student Summit on Race of the 2018-19 school year is this Friday, March 1 at the Emerson World Headquarters (8000 West Florissant Avenue) from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

During the summit, student leaders will present photovoice projects that reflect a snapshot of their school through the lens of racial equity. These projects will represent the advancement of their racial equity awareness through the activities and dialogue that they participated in throughout the year as part of Gateway2Change.

CharacterPlus partnered with The National Conference for Community and Justice of Metropolitan St. Louis (NCCJ St. Louis) to create an experiential deep dive into the cultural competency continuum. This year's summits consisted of multiple experiential activities over several sessions to grow a deeper understanding of oppression and privilege. This process required smaller student teams guided through open dialogue and activities by trained small group facilitators. Ultimately, this experience felt more authentic and relevant and will inspire students to be true change agents within their schools and community.

"Through a variety of experiential activities such as "Game of Life" students grew a deeper understanding of social and cultural identities and the opportunities gained or restricted because of those identities," said Shenekia Weeks, CharacterPlus Director of Diversity, Inclusion and Trauma. "These experiences will give them the valuable insights to become agents of change within our community."

Gateway2Change was created after the tragic events of August 2014 that unfolded in Ferguson as a unique approach to help young people have courageous conversations about the racial divide in St. Louis and create a plan to affect positive change. CharacterPlus, a resource of EducationPlus, is leading the efforts to coordinate the Gateway2Change movement.



Gateway2Change Student Summits on Race are supported in part by Emerson. For more information visit www.g2cplus.org or contact Christine McDonald, EducationPlus Director of Communications, at 314.692.1233 or cmcdonald@edplus.org.

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Additional information about The National Conference for Community and Justice of Metropolitan St. Louis (NCCJ St. Louis)

For nearly 25 years, NCCJ St. Louis has been a recognized leader in the development and delivery of powerful training and educational programs that address diversity, equity, inclusion, cultural competency and social justice. Their framework is rooted in theory, research and practice in psychology, sociology and intergroup relations. Their mission is to create inclusive, representative communities through leadership and education. NCCJ St. Louis partners with individuals, organizations, networks and corporations to help them make institutional change in their corner of the community. They empower leaders for diversity and inclusion, for equity and justice, so that all people will have access to our nation's opportunities and be included in its promise.

Local High Schools participating in Gateway2Change:

Affton High School	McCluer High School
Carnahan High School	McCluer North High School
Confluence Prep Academy	Normandy High School
Fox High School	Orchard Farm High School
Francis Howell High School	Parkway North High School
Francis Howell Central High School	Parkway South High School
Francis Howell North High School	Parkway West High School
Jennings High School	Riverview Gardens High School
Lindbergh High School	Soldan High School
Maplewood Richmond Heights High School	Timberland High School
Marquette High School	Windsor High School