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LGBTQ+ Short Video Program to Provide Educators With Creative Storytelling for Youth and College Students

Los Angeles, CA (September 14, 2018) Significant LGBTQ+ community issues, culture, history and current events are the focus of short videos to be produced by youth and college students in a collaborative blended-learning and video competition program designed to meet the mandates of inclusive education initiatives through the OUR PRIDE Video Fest, a program of award-winning San Diego-based Global SchoolNet.

Youth and college students participating in the OUR PRIDE Video Fest will be researching LGBTQ+ people, places and events, and producing news stories, short documentaries, creative fiction, music videos, animation, and public service announcements of five minutes in length or less, while connecting with mentors and elders in a cross-generation learning and personal growth experience.

OUR PRIDE is designed to create a new awareness and understanding of LGBTQ+ history, culture and issues and meet the requirements for public school history courses to integrate factual information about social movements, current events, and history of LGBTQ+ people into social science instruction, as mandated by California's SB 48 F.A.I.R. (Fair, Accurate, Inclusive, and Respectful) Education Act and the proposed Illinois Senate Bill 3249.

"OUR PRIDE Video Fest is modeled on our highly successful collaborative programs we have been producing for 25 years," stated Dr. Yvonne Marie Andres, who co-founded San Diego-based 501(c)3 Global SchoolNet, and was recently inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame and named one of the 25 most influential people worldwide in education technology.

"We are applying the same methodology of our many international programs, such as International CyberFair and Doors to Diplomacy, which have engaged more than 5.5 million students and connected schools, youth organizations, and communities across 194 countries," said Andres. "And we are providing a challenging, creative and competitive platform for young people to collaborate with others locally or around the world, and encouraging them to include their own original music, poetry and other creative content."

The participants work in teams or solo to create video entries running 90 seconds to 5 minutes and managed through the FilmFreeway online platform, which supports more than 6,000 of the world's best film festivals and contests, including 47 Academy Award accredited festivals, reaching over 500,000 filmmakers and artists worldwide.



Youth under age 18 work with mentors and adult coaches (teachers/parents), while college students participate independently, either solo or in teams. Participants connect locally and around the world, as they gain a heightened awareness of the sometimes dramatically different LGBTQ+ social and cultural environments.

Winning entries will be announced late May in Los Angeles, with screenings planned for June in New York City during World Pride and in July at ComicCon in San Diego. Winners will receive a variety of commendations, cash awards and prizes, including one-year licenses from sponsor WeVideo, the the online video platform for individuals, schools and businesses to create and share videos at up to 4K resolution.

OUR PRIDE Video Fest is a program of Global SchoolNet Foundation together with Los Angeles-based 501(c)3 Rainbow Advocacy and the LGBTQ+ Sector of Seattle-based 501(c)3 Charter for Compassion.

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San Diego-based 501(c)3 Global SchoolNet Foundation's collaborative programs include International CyberFair, Doors to Diplomacy, and Global Forest Link. Since 1996, GSN's International CyberFair (virtual world's fair) has engaged 5.5+ million students and connected schools, youth organizations, and communities across 194 countries, making it the oldest and largest online educational program of its kind.

Rainbow Advocacy is a Los Angeles-based LGBTQ+ social action & advocacy 501(c)3 providing content development and networking with collaborating organizations and LGBTQ+ advocates around the world, and is producing awards for the winning entries.

Charter for Compassion is a Seattle-based 501(c)3 participating as global collaborator as it celebrates the 10th anniversary of its creation through a winning 2008 TED Prize presentation. The Charter today is a global, uniting document calling for the Golden Rule at its ethical core.