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Youth Competition Challenges LGBTQ+ Students to Create Short Videos about Mental Health & Suicide Prevention

LOS ANGELES, September 11, 2019 -- In recognition of National Suicide Prevention Week (September 8 - 14), OUR PRIDE Video Fest is announcing a Call for Entries for the “Trevor Challenge” and recruiting students from middle school through college to create one- to five- minute videos that address mental illness, depression and suicide prevention.

OUR PRIDE Video Fest is a collaborative educational program for youth (middle & high school) and young adults (college 18-30) to create short videos about current issues and significant LGBTQ people, places and events. Entries in the competition can include news stories, short documentaries, creative fiction, music videos, animation or public service announcements in support of [The Trevor Project](#), the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ youth. The deadline for submissions March 31, 2020.

With suicide currently ranking as the second leading cause of death for ages 10 – 24, and with LGBTQ youth almost four times as likely to have attempted suicide compared to their peers, the “Trevor Challenge” is created to encourage participants to learn more about mental health issues and suicide prevention, and then translate their understanding and compassion into creative media which can provide support for others.

Participants who create content about The Trevor Project will help promote the organization’s 24/7 TrevorLifeline phone hotline, TrevorChat secure instant messaging services, and the TrevorText resources that provide live help for LGBTQ youth with a trained specialist via text message.

“For the past 21 years, The Trevor Project has sought to show LGBTQ young people that they are valid, loved, and never alone,” said Kevin Wong, Head of Communications at The Trevor Project. “OUR PRIDE’s ‘Trevor Challenge’ is a unique way for us to engage young people to support their peers and share our crisis services and resources.”

“The video competition is modeled after the highly successful collaborative programs that Global SchoolNet has been producing for 25 years,” stated Dr. Yvonne Marie Andres, president/co-founder of the San Diego-based educational nonprofit Global SchoolNet. “We are applying the same methodology of our many international programs, such as 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 Andrés, who was named one of the 25 most influential people worldwide in education technology and recently inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame.



“With mental health issues continuing to devastate young lives, families and our communities, the ‘Trevor Challenge’ is one of the most important projects we have undertaken, and are grateful to be collaborating with The Trevor Project. Through the program, 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,” she said.

Students can work in teams (or solo) to create digital entries ranging from 1 to 5 minutes, then submit to 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, and reaches more than 500,000 filmmakers and artists worldwide. Youth under 18 will be required to collaborate with mentors, teachers, and parents. College-level participants have the option to work with a team or solo.

Winning entries will be announced late May 2020 in Los Angeles, with screenings planned July 2020 at ComicCon in San Diego, with other venues being planned. In partnership with [UCLA TV & Film Archives](#) and [Outfest](#), selected entries will be archived in the [Outfest UCLA Legacy Project Collection](#), the only program in the world exclusively dedicated to preserving LGBTQ moving images.

Winners will receive a variety of commendations, cash awards and prizes, including licenses from sponsor WeVideo, the online video platform for individuals, schools and businesses for creating videos at up to 4K resolution.

OUR PRIDE Video Fest is a program of Global SchoolNet Foundation and Los Angeles-based 501(c)3 Rainbow Advocacy, along with the LGBTQ+ Sector of Seattle-based 501(c)3 Charter for Compassion. Founding Sponsors include [WeVideo](#), [GayRealEstate.com](#) and [Second Home Hollywood](#), LA’s premiere creative community space.

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About Global SchoolNet Foundation

[Global SchoolNet Foundation](#) is a San Diego-based 501(c)3 educational nonprofit with collaborative programs including 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.

About Rainbow Advocacy

[Rainbow Advocacy](#) is a Los Angeles-based LGBTQ+ civil rights, 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.

About Charter for Compassion

[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, unifying document calling for the Golden Rule at its ethical core.