

Press Release – Kansas Statewide Transgender Education Project FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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K-STEP Recognizes One-Year Anniversary

Kansas Statewide Transgender Education Project (K-STEP) incorporated as an all volunteer, non-profit organization on August 26, 2010. Its mission is to end discrimination against transgender individuals and their families through education. K-STEP Executive Director, Stephanie Mott shared, “In our first year, we have been able to reach so many people, helping them to have a better understanding of what it’s like to be transgender, and the issues we often face.”

K-STEP’s nearly 70 presentations to date, include the 2010 Kansas Behavioral Health Conference, Johnson County Mental Health Center (Community Services), Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bert Nash Mental Health Center (Lawrence), Morton County Health Agency (Elkhart), Shawnee County Department of Corrections, and Mainstream Voices of Faith (Topeka).

“We have had a wonderful response to our trainings”, Mott shared, “There are a lot of people in Kansas who are interested in learning more about a subject that can be difficult to talk about. We provide ‘from the heart’ opportunities for people to see something they have never seen, often answering very personal questions.”

Juliet Nelson, Diversity Team Chair with Bert Nash Center in Lawrence, describing a presentation that included three K-STEP speakers, said, “The professional and non-defensive attitude in which these individuals spoke, helped our staff to engage effectively and ask real questions. They were responded to with respect, expertise, and vulnerability, which allowed for a refreshing and friendly discussion.”

The outreach continues with forums scheduled in Concordia, Junction City, and Manhattan for Pawnee Mental Health Services; and Shawnee County Health Agency in Topeka.

The education project also reaches out to many college classes throughout the state, with upcoming presentations at the University of Kansas, and Washburn University. Sonya Satinsky, Ph.D., with the University of Kansas said, “I have twice had K-STEP members come to my Health and Human Sexuality class to discuss the challenges and achievements specific to transgender communities. Both times, students have chosen these presentations as among their favorites of the entire semester. In reflecting on the course, I have had multiple students write about how meaningful it was to hear directly from the panelists about their lives and experiences.”

K-STEP will be recognizing the organization's achievements directly following their annual meeting from noon to 4:00 pm on October 1, 2011 in the Community Learning Center of the Salina Public Library, 308 W. Elm in Salina. The entire event is open and free to the public.

For more information contact Stephanie Mott at (785) 215-7436, stephanie.mott@k-step.org, or www.k-step.org.