



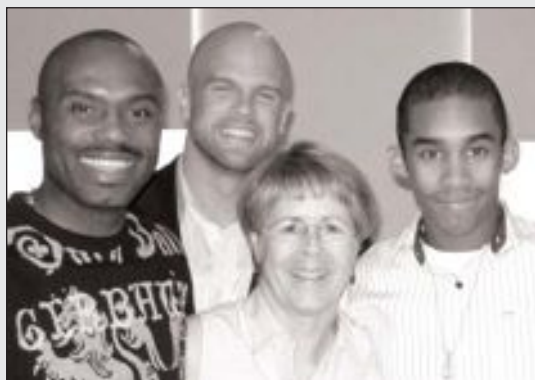
# ReVision

re (ri) *n.* 1. anew, again **vision** (vizzh'ən) *n.* 1. the manner in which one sees or conceives of something

## Tim Hardaway New YES Friend

Last spring, basketball superstar Tim Hardaway contacted YES after making comments perceived as disparaging "gays." He asked if he could attend a YES course, seeking to understand why his comments had ignited such upset.

We welcomed Tim at a private Essentials of Orientation™ course. He engaged fully, which stretched the 4-hour course to 8 hours over 2 days. Relating the material to his life, Tim shared that "dissing gays" was expected where he grew up in the projects of Chicago. Such remarks were not about hate, but were the clearest way to demonstrate masculinity in an environment where being perceived as weak or "feminine" had severe consequences.



Tim Hardaway, Lucas Irwin, Martha Fugate, and Pharyd Lefevre.

Tim returned to YES recently to participate in our Communication Solutions™ course. Again Tim participated full-out, volunteering to be "coached" in front of the room as a YES student speaker. His authentic dialogue and openness to feedback made him an excellent student.

We are proud to know Tim Hardaway and have him as an ambassador for healthy messages for ALL youth. He suffered backlash for dutifully repeating the very messages taught to him about being a "real" man. The comments he made publicly reflect the attitudes most males are conditioned to think and express privately. Now Tim has a chance to get unleashed from cultural traps around masculinity, and reach others with his powerful voice. See page 3 for a video link to a news segment highlighting Tim's participation.

## Leaving Labels, Learning Solutions

People from around the country express interest in taking the work of YES into their communities, and becoming certified YES educators and speakers. We organized Summer Education Week, an intensive 4-day training program, to meet the demand of parents committed to making schools safer for their transgender children.



Participants in the Gender Continuum course exploring new views on gender.

Parents in the courses from Tampa, Fort Lauderdale, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey underscored the challenges they face from lack of education about gender. Other participants included Miami-Dade County Public School (MDCPS) teachers and counselors, YES board members, business and healthcare professionals, church representatives, and non-profit leaders.



Tony Valido, MDCPS Educational Specialist, with Stephanie Grant Guinan, parent educator from New Jersey.

Stephanie Grant Guinan, a mom who appeared on an ABC Television special on transgender children, said, "This feels like a beginning for me. It answered questions I didn't even know I had. Now I see ways to prevent problems instead of waiting to intervene in problems that have already started. YES has discovered how to educate about gender and orientation without attachment to 'LGBT' labels. This allows many more people to relate the information to their lives, touching them on a very personal level. Many groups I have worked with have tried to achieve this result with no success. YES has found the solution." See page 3 for a link to Stephanie's video interview.

**“What an awakening! I thought I knew everything I needed to know about this subject. Now I realize I still have a lot to learn.”**

- Miami-Dade College professor

J. Ryan, a 13-year-old transgender student, shared having to endure months of harassment in school:

"I knew not to fight back, but I didn't know what else to do. My teachers didn't help, and school counselors said they thought I should be in a mental institution."



Dorothy Menadier, Unitarian Universalist Congregation representative, and J. Ryan, transgender youth leader from New Jersey.

Barbara Chotiner-Solano, a MDCPS teacher, reflected, "No one ever talked about 'transgender' throughout my 28 years of teaching. As I look back, many of the students I perceived as gay or lesbian might have been transgender kids looking for support when they needed it most."

Educational Specialist Tony Valido, the champion of our Continuing Education work in MDCPS, participated during Education Week. Tony brought a letter detailing MDCPS' partnership with parents

**“I was honored and humbled to be here. As a parent of a young transgender child, this work is a gift.”**

- Jeanette Bloshinsky



Paula Black, YES board member, with Tim Hardaway.

These programs are made possible by your generosity. To participate in keeping all youth safe, visit [www.yesinstitute.org](http://www.yesinstitute.org) and learn more.

# Magical School Results in Just One Hour



YES speakers Joshua Johnson and Gerald Conde at Florida Atlantic University.

YES routinely leads both graduate and undergraduate class sessions, challenging students to view gender and orientation through a new lens. Our distinctive approach facilitates breakthroughs in dialogue and understanding that contribute to any academic setting.

**“ First time I met a person who is gay, or heard a parent’s experience. Now I feel more prepared to handle anti-gay harassment in the dorms.”**

- FAU resident assistant

**“ Now I see gender as a spectrum of options rather than simply two choices...cleared up a lot of misconceptions I had.”**

-FIU graduate student

This past month, YES speakers reached over 200 university students in educational presentations and courses. Joshua Bareno, Gerald Conde, Jackie House, and Nicole Soltau led presentations in graduate courses for future counselors at Florida International University (FIU). Shane Breitenstein and Jessica Lam spoke

to a women’s studies class at FIU, fielding a range of questions about being transgender.

At Florida Atlantic University and Johnson & Wales University, Gerald Conde, Joshua Johnson, Dr. Lorrie Mitchell, Irene Pilinger, and Luis Pons spoke with resident assistants about the challenges that accompany being gay or transgender in a college setting.



FIU graduate counseling students at YES presentation.

We proudly salute our exceptional volunteer speakers for stepping forward to reach these student leaders, who will impact countless youth and families. To schedule a speaking engagement for your group, call Joseph at 305-663-7195 x1112.

## Results Begin with Communication



In the July communication course.

Teachers, counselors, and social workers from Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) participated in our signature Communication Solutions™ Course in July. Other attendees included parents, students, and business and

**“ This will help me communicate with the people I love. Now I see a way to stop myself from getting ‘hooked.’ ”**

- High school student

healthcare professionals. Passionate voices and divergent views created many opportunities to practice generating productive dialogue.

One participant, Luis Chiles, was inspired to bring YES education to 200 MDCPS bus drivers (see below).

Continued from page 1 – **Gender**

who are working with other public school systems. The letter is available at:

[yesinstitute.org/education/accreditations.php](http://yesinstitute.org/education/accreditations.php)

One participant in our Gender Continuum course, William Presswood, invited YES to speak with 50 seniors and 150 freshman at Miami Beach Senior High School.

**“ Life is not about the known binary system...helped me feel more confident about who I am. My sense of belonging is growing more at peace.”**

- Analucia Samaniego, RMT

Another participant emailed 45 teachers and counselors at her school with the following message:

### On the Bus

Luis Chiles, Guidance Counselor

I wanted YES to speak to MDCPS transportation workers because I know students are particularly vulnerable to harassment on their way to and from school. The YES presentation required and demonstrated a lot of courage. It also showed the power of the YES way of communicating.

The audience, which was primarily African American and Latin, enjoyed religious songs and celebrations throughout the day’s presentations. A rousing gospel song about Jesus preceded the introduction of YES speakers. After learning the mission of YES, some time elapsed before brave audience members raised their hands with questions, which sometimes made them targets for ridicule from the crowd.



Engaged participation of bus drivers.

YES never wavered in keeping the focus on youth safety, and eventually vigorous discussions began. The impact on the bus drivers, I believe, will be significant, and I suggest that it be followed up with continued in-services. I would also like to see all of our students trained in the YES model of communication. The education that YES Institute delivers is vital for creating safe environments for students.

Dear Colleagues,

Last weekend I took a course at YES Institute called the Gender/Orientation Series™ that I accidentally found in the Professional Development site list for employees. It was the most informative, useful, and profound course that I have taken in the past 25 years of my teaching career.

I gained knowledge and tools to help prevent bullying, violence, and suicide among the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender population—a subject we never get a chance to discuss. It was a real eye-opener, and I think the information is extremely important, especially for the elementary school level. Every educator and health professional will benefit from this course. I highly recommend it!

Anna Grijalva,  
MDCPS teacher

# Kiaora Society Membership

The financial support of Kiaora Society members is the lifeblood of YES Institute, allowing us to continue our work on behalf of all youth.

We are grateful to YES Board Treasurer José Luis Peré for renewing as Leader. We thank Patrick Abuzeni & Angela Patt, Enrique Carrillo, Dennis Edwards & Mark Steinberg, Audrey Finkelstein,

Randall Gluss, Stephen Herbits, Ellen Leesfield & Pamela Perry, John Marazza, Scott Prosan, June Raben, Hortensia Soriano, Thomas Taylor, Tim Wagoner, and Joseph Zolobczuk for renewing as Mentors. We also welcome Coconut Grove Bank to our Kiaora Society, and thank the Dade Community Foundation and the Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation for their continuing support.



## Hello Friends,

I want to update you on the YES Institute transition plan. We are still looking for the right person to become our next Director and grow YES to the next level. Until we find that special person, I will remain the Director of YES Institute.

If you know an inspired, energetic leader looking for an opportunity to lead an organization that is changing our world, please direct them to our doorstep. We are privileged to work with the most wonderful people, all striving to make our world a safer place for all youth. Thank you for your ongoing support of YES Institute.

**Martha Fugate**  
Director, YES Institute

# Exemplars Changing Our World

**ex-em-plar** (*noun*) [ɪg-zəm'plär]

1. one that serves as a model or as an example. 2. an ideal.

## Featured Exemplar Video: BISHOP LEO FRADE

The Rt. Rev. Leo Frade, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida, cast a deciding vote for Rev. Gene Robinson to be confirmed as Bishop of the New Hampshire Diocese.



Bishop Leo Frade.

See the video now!  
[www.yesinstitute.org/video/](http://www.yesinstitute.org/video/)

# You Are the Star!

**"ALL OUT RECOGNITION"**

Save the Date:  
**Saturday, November 17th**  
**3-5 PM**

We invite all YES friends and supporters to join us for dessert and champagne as we honor our volunteers for their courage, generosity, and commitment.

The event will be in Fellowship Hall at Riviera Church, located at 5275 Sunset Drive in South Miami. Please RSVP by contacting Joseph Zolobczuk at 305-663-7195 or [joseph@yesinstitute.org](mailto:joseph@yesinstitute.org)

## Power of a Mother's Voice



Inspired by her 11-year-old daughter, Riley, Stephanie is bringing training on gender to school systems in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. We met Stephanie aboard the R Family Cruise, where she and her family were guests of Barbara Walters, who had interviewed them for a 20/20 special on transgender children. Onboard, Stephanie attended a 1-hour YES course, which introduced her to new ways of understanding gender. She came to YES to be trained before setting out on her mission to ensure the safety of transgender children in the Northeast. Go to:

[www.yesinstitute.org/video/](http://www.yesinstitute.org/video/)

## A New Slam Dunk



Luke Jude responding to questions from NBC News reporter.

NBC Channel 6 News interviewed Luke Jude at YES in a segment that aired on September 28. Visit our press page to access this segment and all other news reports about our work.

The Associated Press, ESPN, MSNBC, and other media outlets released articles that include commentary from NBA Commissioner David Stern regarding Tim Hardaway's participation at YES.

[www.yesinstitute.org/press/](http://www.yesinstitute.org/press/)

## Kiaora Society

Kiaora Society members donate \$1,000 or more to the YES Institute annually.

### Philanthropist \$100,000 or more

Jonathan Lewis

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Adrienne Arsh  
Lang Baumgarten  
Tim & Meredith Birrittella

### Visionary \$10,000 or more

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Rev. Marta S. Weeks

### Champion \$5,000 or more

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Miami, FL 33143  
www.yesinstitute.org

**Hardaway Hoops  
Scoring Safety for Youth**



305-663-7195 www.yesinstitute.org

### Vision

A community in which ALL youth develop as healthy individuals free of suicide, violence and discrimination.

### Mission

To prevent suicide and ensure the healthy development of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and ALL youth by initiating dialogue, providing education and creating support systems.

### Education Accreditations

Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Professional Development, #2-403-003, #2-406-302 (MPP)

Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage & Family Therapy, and Mental Health, #50-1652 (CEU)

Florida Board of Nursing, #50-1652 (CEU)

North Georgia College & State University, Professional Learning Units (PLU)

Communication Consultants for the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida

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### Did You Know?

Anti-gay epithets are a catalyst for violence that affects all youth. 97% of all students hear anti-gay comments in school.

#### Gay Youth:

- 33% of all teen suicides
- 50% rejected by their parents

#### Heterosexual Youth:

- 80% of youth harassed "as gay" actually identify as heterosexual.

### Register for Courses



MDCPS educators must first register on the Professional Development portal. Search under instructor "Valido."



Use your login information above the mailing address to enroll in a course at: [education.yesinstitute.org](http://education.yesinstitute.org)

**GENDER/ORIENTATION SERIES™** - 16 CEU / 12 MPP  
Part 1 Gender Continuum - Saturday, Dec. 1  
Part 2 Deciphering Matrix - Saturday, Dec. 8  
Part 3 Being & Belonging - Saturday, Dec. 8

**COMMUNICATION SOLUTIONS™** Course - 12 CEU & MPP  
Saturday & Sunday, January 19 & 20  
10AM - 6PM each day

**2008 EDUCATION WEEK**  
Friday through Monday, January 18 - 21  
Experience 3 of the YES courses together  
<http://education.yesinstitute.org>

Preview the Gender Continuum  
[www.yesinstitute.org/video/](http://www.yesinstitute.org/video/)



Participants in the YES Gender Continuum course.

**“A revolutionary way to look at gender and orientation! This knowledge will help me create safe environments for my children and my students.”**

- MDCPS teacher

## Welcoming Congregation



YES speaker Jesse Bornacelli (right) addressing congregants.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Miami invited YES to present during a recent Sunday service as part of their official "Welcoming Congregation" process. YES speaker Jesse Bornacelli told of laying out razor blades on her bathroom floor, ready to end forever any chance of more harassment. One person reaching out to befriend Jesse was enough to save her.

Joseph Zolobczuk joined Jesse in answering a flood of questions that followed her talk.

**“Congregants were blown away! Our membership has grown as a result. We would love to have YES back!”**

- Tom Edwards, congregation member