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DePaul University passes mic to Chicago school students

High schoolers speak out on gun violence, fair immigration laws, and school equity

Chicago, April 22, 2018 – Students who led their high school walkouts and the “March for Our Lives” protest will speak at DePaul University on May 1, 2018. The panel will include student leaders who are fighting to keep Englewood schools open after the Chicago Board of Education voted to close multiple schools in the neighborhood. The forum is organized by the university’s College of Education (COE) with a mission to nurture leaders committed to creating compassionate, intellectually rich, and socially just environments.

The objective of the forum is twofold: to encourage student activism and to serve as a learning experience to COE students in preparation to be educators and counselors. “We are bringing the voices of high school students who are deeply involved in a variety of civic engagement issues throughout Chicago. The audience will be invited to reflect on how educators can support student civic engagement” said Dr. Diane Horwitz, faculty and coordinator, outlining the purpose of the forum.

The following topics will be discussed in the forum:

- Gun control and gun violence in schools and the community
- Supporting immigrant students and organizing for fair immigration laws
- Advocating for equity: school closings, budget cuts, and resources for neighborhood schools
- Becoming involved in electoral activity: voting, campaigning, and engaging the issues of the day

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The university has invited former high school teacher Heather Van Benthuyzen from the CPS Office of Civic Engagement to offer ideas on “how to facilitate civic engagement in the classroom.” The panel will be followed by small group discussions. “These are the kind of events that a College of Education like ours at DePaul should hold. They take on timely issues, broaden our teaching beyond the in-class curriculum, and connect our students to a larger community of educators” said COE Associate Dean and Professor James Wolfinger.

The College of Education was founded in the year 1962 to prepare educators for careers in Counseling and Special Education, Leadership, Language, and Curriculum, and Teacher Education. The COE offers degree programs at the undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels, as well as licensure and endorsement programs that enable educators to advance their credentials. For more information, please visit education.depaul.edu

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