



*Call for Presenters*

**Wellness Forum 2018**  
*Providing Holistic Care to the LGBTQ Community*

June 7, 2018  
Methodist College  
Peoria, Illinois

Methodist College is hosting its second annual Wellness Forum on June 7, 2018 at Methodist College in Peoria, Illinois. This is a continuing education event designed specifically for professionals working in health care, education, and human services fields who provide services to members of the LGBTQ community. The Conference Planning Committee is seeking recognition for this event in order to award continuing education units from the following organizations:

- Ohio Nurses Association (ONA) for nurses and other qualified health care professionals
- Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) for counselors and social workers (currently applying to be an approved provider)
- K-12 teachers (currently arranging)
- Methodist College for general continuing education credits

The Conference Planning Committee selected LGBTQ for the conference theme as it is an important and evolving subject in our community. Unity Point Behavioral Health, UICOMP and the West Central District of the National Association of Social Workers recognize the significance of this topic and are partnering with Methodist College to provide this conference. The Wellness Forum will feature two keynote speakers and three concurrent breakout sessions to address LGBTQ care.

The morning keynote speaker is Magda Houlberg, M.D., who is the Chief Clinical Officer at Howard Brown Health in Chicago. Howard Brown Health is one of the nation's largest LGBTQ organizations and focuses on eliminating the disparities in healthcare experienced by LGBTQ people through research, education and provision of services that promote health and wellness. Dr. Houlberg has been a driving force behind the expansion of Howard Brown Health's medical and social services for older LGBTQ adults, especially those with HIV. Having served as a medical provider and core staff member for the Chicago Elder Services Community Initiative, Dr. Houlberg provides medical care to LGBTQ older adults, training to local health care and social service providers and where appropriate, in-home care. An Internal Medicine Physician and Geriatrician, Dr. Houlberg is a graduate of Antioch College and Rush University Medical College.

The afternoon keynote speaker is Beckett Kenny, who is a freshman at Bradley University where he is studying Communications. Mr. Kenny was the 2017 IHSA state speech champion in Original Comedy. A Peoria native, he attended Richwoods High School where he was Student Council President, a member of the National Honors Society, and a student in the prestigious International Baccalaureate Programme. Mr. Kenny is known for his activism, volunteering as the publicist for a local GSA, the treasurer for Best Buddies, an ally of the Muslims Students Association, a speaker for various marches and protests, and a co-founder of the Intersectional Feminist club. In addition to his activism, he is also actively involved in the local arts, he was finalist at the Jukebox Comedy Club's stand-up comedy competition, a winner of the PACC young artist's singing scholarship, and participates in community theatre.



The objectives of this conference are:

- Understand some of the cultural biases towards the LGBTQ community
- Understand some of the barriers LGBTQ community members face in receiving health care or education
- Learn how to better care givers for members of the LGBTQ community in health care and education settings

The Wellness Forum Planning Committee is seeking local presenters for concurrent breakout sessions to further develop the conference. Each breakout session will last one hour. Topics must be relevant to the theme of LGBTQ care. Potential topics are listed below, but certainly other topics will be considered and presenters are encouraged to submit original concepts.

- Health care issues of LBGTQ individuals
- Giving care to LBGTQ individuals
- Legal issues LBGTQ individuals face
- Emotional needs common in the LBGTQ community
- Supporting the LBGTQ community

If you are interested in offering a presentation, please submit your session proposal using the electronic [Call for Presenters form](#). You are welcome to submit up to three proposals, however each proposal must be submitted individually and must include all requested information for each unique session.

Submit your proposal by 5:00pm on April 23, 2018. If your proposal is accepted, you will be notified no later than May 4, 2018 and a Speaker's Agreement will be sent to you including more details about the conference.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Laura Ennenbach, Career Pathways Coordinator at [lennenbach@methodistcol.edu](mailto:lennenbach@methodistcol.edu) or at 309/282-8474.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eileen A. Setti". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dr. Eileen A. Setti  
Chair, Career Pathways and Continuing Education

PS. Please feel free to share this announcement with professionals in your network who may be interested in presenting!