

Fifth Bullying Public Forum Held in Traverse City in March

"Challenge Bullying" Conference the next day a big success



A host of organizations joined together on March 15 and 16, 2012 to hold a series of events in Traverse City. The Michigan Department of Civil Rights, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission (MCRC), Northwestern Michigan College, the Michigan State Police, Third Level Crisis Center, Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District, and the Michigan State Troopers Assistance Fund participated in a public forum on bullying in conjunction with the MCRC meeting March 15.

During the forum, attendees heard from invited experts and a number of students and area residents. Students from Northern Michigan College also displayed artwork with a bullying theme, and exhibitors provided information and outreach to attendees.



The next day, these same partners spearheaded a free conference with two tracks, one geared toward adults and educators, and the other track for youth. This conference, "Challenge Bullying: Create a Safe Community" capped a week of events in Traverse City. Nearly 200 people attended the forum and 375 participated in the



conference. Additional coverage can be found at:

<http://www.upnorthlive.com/news/story.aspx?list=~\home\lists\search&id=730622#.T2OQ6XmunVU>

Photos (this page, beginning at top right): McKenzie Campbell, NMC student; Mr. Tom Harrison, bullying prevention advocate; Chris Vandenberg, Elk Rapids student leads attendees in an exercise; high school student offers personal testimony; Wayne Soares, national motivational speaker, author and actor





Photos: Listening to heartfelt public testimony; Commissioners Bernstein and Peeples-Hurst; Dr. Glenn Stutzky, MSU School of Social Work; Honorable Judge Thomas J. Phillips, 86th District Court





Photos: Commission Chair Zelley deliberates a point; Dr. Michelle Kaminski, MSU School of Human Resources and Labor Relations speaks on workplace bullying; student shares his experience about being bullied; Dr. Jayne Mohr, Assistant Superintendent, Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS); discussion before the forum; another student talks about bullying to those assembled.



Next page photos: The audience listens to testimony; Third Level's exhibit table; distributing props for the audience participation exercise; some of the attendees sharing a story; Dr. Stephen Siciliano, Vice President for Educational Services, Northwestern Michigan College, speaks to the assembly.



