



Press Release

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Bisexual Organizing Project Announces Conference Theme and Keynote Speakers

Minneapolis, MN, USA

Bisexual Organizing Project (BOP) announces the BECAUSE Conference theme and keynote speakers for 2015. BECAUSE 2015 will be held April 17 – 19, 2015 at U of M Coffman Memorial Union. The conference will focus on leadership with the tag line “Developing Leaders to Empower Community” and the keynote speakers will be Andrea Jenkins and Eliel Cruz.

Andrea Jenkins is an award winning playwright, visual artist, poet, writer, spoken word artist, performer, and Bush Leadership Fellow. Andrea also works as a Senior Policy Aide to the 8th Ward Minneapolis City Council Member Elizabeth Glidden. She is a nationally known trans activist who has been a vital part of community organizing in the Twin Cities. In 2014 she created The City of Minneapolis Transgender Work Group, which looks at issues facing the trans community and makes policy recommendations to city government. Andrea has held directorships with numerous organizations including [OutFront Minnesota](#), [Forecast Public Art](#), District 202, [PFund](#), [The Minnesota HIV Services Planning Council](#), and [National Writers Union](#).

Eliel Cruz has taken the online LGBT media world by storm as a writer and blogger providing insightful and timely coverage of important community issues. He is the bi editor of [Advocate.com](#) and contributes to [Religion News Service](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Everyday Feminism](#) and [Mic](#) writing on (bi)sexuality, gender, religion, and media. In addition to writing, Eliel also works to reconcile Seventh-day Adventist campuses through his 501(c)(3) organization [Intercollegiate Adventist GSA Coalition](#).

BECAUSE stands for **B**isexual **E**mpowerment **C**onference, **A** Uniting **S**upportive **E**xperience. The conference’s mission is to create a safe, supporting, and empowering community in which participants are encouraged to discover and celebrate their sexual identities. As the nation’s only major conference by, for, and about bisexual, pansexual, fluid, queer and unlabeled (bi+) people and their allies, BECAUSE serves as a national gathering for bi+ activists, community members, professionals, students, and researchers. Allies are enthusiastically invited to attend.



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BECAUSE is welcoming and inclusive of all people, including but not limited to people of all genders, gender identities, sexual orientations, sexes, relationship orientations, races, ethnicities, national origins, abilities, religions, sizes, political affiliations, and others. BECAUSE and BOP embrace the many intersectionalities of the bi+ community and encourage people of all backgrounds and experiences to participate fully.

[Preregistration for BECAUSE is available online](#) through April 11th, 2015. Attendees are encouraged to preregister as the conference provides multiple meals to attendees. On-site registration is also available.

Nobody turned away due to inability to pay. Pay what you can and free registration options available.

Regular Registration: \$60

Student Registration: \$40

University of MN Students: Free

Tabling \$50, Non-Profit \$25

The BECAUSE Conference is the annual conference of [Bisexual Organizing Project \(BOP\)](#), a 501(c)(3) non-profit registered in Minnesota dedicated to building an empowered bisexual, pansexual, fluid, queer, and unlabeled (bi+) community. BOP provides in person community events throughout the year as well as outreach at regional Pride celebrations and community education through customized presentations. BOP also works in partnership with other groups and individuals in the Upper Midwest who are organizing events serving the bi+ community.