



For immediate release

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Press kit: <https://intelligentlives.org/press-kit>

Film challenges IQ testing, limits placed on people with intellectual disabilities

Fredericksburg, VA – INTELLIGENT LIVES, a documentary by award-winning filmmaker Dan Habib, will hold its Virginia premiere at the Fredericksburg campus of the University of Mary Washington on Thursday, March 7. The film, sponsored by UMW’s College of Education and the Gladys H. Oberle School, will be held from 12:30 to 3 p.m. in the Hurley Convergence Center Digital Auditorium.

“INTELLIGENT LIVES is a film to help us better understand the value and potential of the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by challenging our assumptions about intelligence,” said Pete Kelly, dean of UMW’s College of Education. “I am grateful to partner with the Gladys H. Oberle School to share this important learning experience with students, parents, teachers and educators in the area.”

The documentary stars three pioneering young American adults with intellectual disabilities – Micah, Naieer, and Naomie – who challenge perceptions of intelligence as they navigate high school, college, and the workforce. Academy Award-winning actor and narrator Chris Cooper contextualizes the lives of these central characters through the emotional story of his son Jesse, as the film unpacks the shameful and ongoing track record of intelligence testing in the U.S.

New Hampshire-based filmmaker Dan Habib, is the producer, director and cinematographer of INTELLIGENT LIVES. “People with intellectual disabilities are the most segregated of all Americans,” Habib says. “Only 17 percent of students with intellectual disabilities are included in regular education. Just 40 percent will graduate from high school. And of the 6.5 million Americans with intellectual disability, barely 15 percent are employed.”

Following the film screening, a panel discussion will be held, composed of educators, community service providers and person(s) with disabilities. The Gladys H. Oberle School’s Culinary Arts Program will provide light snacks.

“I am looking forward to starting a much-needed conversation on how to include people with disabilities more in our community and ways to provide opportunities,” said Gabrielle

Pickover, teacher at the Gladys H. Oberle School in Fredericksburg and co-host of the screening event.

The event is free and open to the public, however, advance registration is strongly encouraged due to limited seating available. To register and learn more about the movie, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/intelligent-lives-tickets-54981928428?aff=invite>, or contact Gabby Pickover of the Gladys H. Oberle School at gpickover@eri-va.com.

If case inclement weather occurs, please call the Gladys H. Oberle School on March 7 at 540-372-6710 to verify if the event will be happening. If canceled due to weather conditions, the event will be rescheduled for the fall of 2019.

Employment Resources Incorporated (ERI) is headquartered in Fredericksburg, Virginia and serves the city of Fredericksburg and multiple cities and counties in the region. ERI operates the Gladys H. Oberle School in Fredericksburg, an accredited alternative private special education day school for middle and high school age children with disabilities. Its mission is to provide youth and young adults with the education and skills they need to become successfully employed, self-sufficient and contributing members of their communities.

The University of Mary Washington is a premier, selective public liberal arts and sciences university in Virginia, highly respected for its commitment to academic excellence, strong undergraduate liberal arts and sciences program, and dedication to life-long learning. The university, with a total enrollment of nearly 5,000, features colleges of business, education and arts and sciences, and three campuses, including a residential campus in Fredericksburg, Va., a second one in nearby Stafford and a third in Dahlgren, Va., which serves as a center of development of educational and research partnerships between the Navy, higher education institutions and the region's employers.

Dan Habib is the director and producer of INTELLIGENT LIVES, and the creator of the award-winning documentaries *Including Samuel*, *Who Cares About Kelsey?*, *Mr. Connolly Has ALS* and many other films. Habib is a filmmaker at the University of New Hampshire's Institute on Disability. His films have been broadcast internationally, nominated for Emmy awards and translated into 17 languages. Habib gave the TEDx talk, "Disabling Segregation" and received the Justice for All Grassroots Award from the American Association of People with Disabilities. In 2014, Habib was appointed by President Obama to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

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