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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sarah A. Reed Children's Center Announces Date for 2023 Virtual Diversity Summit

Erie, PA— Sarah A. Reed Children's Center, the winner of The Nonprofit Partnership's "2021 Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award," announces their 2023 Alessi, Levan, Kebles Diversity Summit.

Sarah A. Reed Children's Center is proud to host the **2023 Alessi, Levan, Kebles Diversity Summit** on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, from 8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This virtual Summit is open to the public and free of charge thanks to this year's sponsors: Rite Aid Healthy Futures, Diverse Erie, the Erie Coalition for a Trauma-Informed Community (ECTIC), UPMC Community Care Behavioral Health Organization, and PennState Behrend School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The event features opening remarks from Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis, the youngest lieutenant governor in the United States and the first black lieutenant governor in the Commonwealth, followed by our keynote speaker, Paul Hernandez, Ph.D. Dr. Hernandez is the author of *The Pedagogy of Real Talk: Engaging, Teaching, and Connecting with Students At-Promise*. Dr. Hernandez will share how to make meaningful connections with students, especially those who view school as an obstacle and not an opportunity.

After the keynote address, attendees will engage in virtual breakout workshops throughout the day to discuss a variety of topics, such as "Behavioral Health Considerations for New Americans," "Women in Leadership," "Building Student Resilience with Youth Adult Literature," and "Resiliency and Belonging." The virtual Summit concludes with a panel discussion entitled, "What's an Employer's Responsibility to DEI."

After the Summit, attendees are invited to Sarah Reed's St. Ann's Campus (1020 East 10th Street, Erie, PA 16503) for a film screening of *Push Out: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Education*. The screening will begin at 5:45 p.m. and will be followed by a panel discussion at 8:00 p.m. facilitated by Dr. Adrienne Dixon, President and CEO of Sarah Reed. Panelists include Maurice Clarke, LPC, a nationally certified counselor at Christian Counseling Associates; Ken Nickson, Jr., coordinator of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Erie's Public Schools; Nicole Platz, MS, implementation specialist at Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support (EPIS) at PennState; and Chandra Slocum, supervisor of alternative programs and liaison for homeless students at Erie's Public Schools.

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According to Dr. Adrienne Dixon, President and CEO of the Sarah A. Reed Children's Center:

The communities we serve are highly diverse across a broad range of ethnic, racial and socioeconomic backgrounds, so we recognize it is imperative that we engage in meaningful dialogue regarding the implications of diversity. We are grateful for the continued opportunity to highlight the necessity and importance of diversity to promote a healthy community narrative. The Summit focuses on strategies that value both individuals and collectives – celebrating our similarities and our differences. Engaging in diverse and inclusive conversations can be challenging, time-consuming and deeply uncomfortable, but what's even more important is to not shy away from it.

For more information about the **2023 Alessi, Levan, Kebles Diversity Summit** and to register, please visit www.sarahreed.org/events/diversity-summit.

About Sarah A. Reed Children's Center:

Sarah A. Reed Children's Center is one of the oldest human services agencies in Erie County. Founded in 1871 by Sarah A. Reed and 29 local Erie women, the Center is proud of its rich, long-running history of making a difference for children and families in the community. Sarah A. Reed Children's Center is one of the area's premiere providers of mental health, behavioral health, and trauma-informed care. It is a Sanctuary©-certified treatment center and is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). Sarah Reed serves 1,700 children and families each year from Erie County and across the Commonwealth.