

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Seattle playwright and local filmmaker focus on youth in Great Falls, Montana**  
***Joint venture addresses the plights of many students in our community***

GREAT FALLS, Mont., February 2, 2019 -- A collaborative stage and film production addressing the challenges of students in the city of Great Falls, Montana is set to be showcased this year.

“Converge: E Pluribus Unum” (“Many stories coming together: Out of many stories, one voice”) is scheduled for three live performances on February 20, 21, and 22 at 7 P.M at the Great Falls High School auditorium with free admission to the public. The documentary film of the project is scheduled for release in May of this year.

According to recent national statistics, Montana is among one of the states that rank highest in youth depression, suicide, alcohol/drug abuse, and other societal/cultural factors; these statistics point to the city of Great Falls as being especially susceptible to these factors.

Based on over 50 hours of interviews with students, teachers, and administrators, the stage production is being written and directed by Sarah Butts, a Seattle-based playwright, and is being documented by Tim Ljunggren, a local filmmaker and Episcopal priest. Cast members and technical support will include students and staff from C.M. Russell High School, Great Falls High School, and the Paris Gibson Education Center; a string quartet from the Great Falls Symphony will accompany the production.

Drew Uecker, principal of the Paris Gibson Education Center said “our community has no idea what our kids go through on a daily basis in all of our schools. The stories are endless, and they range from emotional and sexual abuse to neglect. I thought that this project would be a very good way to get the message across to our community that we have issues that need to be addressed.”

The project is led by Great Falls Public Schools. Additional sponsors include: The Great Falls Public Schools Foundation, the Great Falls Association of Realtors, The Great Falls Symphony, Gentle Thug Production and the United Way of Cascade County.

For more information, go to: <https://www.manystoriesonevoice.org/>.