

# 2015 MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE



MARCH 27 - 28 | WASHINGTON, DC

**SCHOOLSNOTPRISONS.ORG**

# SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY, MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>

5:00pm - 8:00pm: Informal Social/Meet & Greet  
*SSDP Headquarters - 1011 O Street NW #1 Washington, DC 20001*

## SATURDAY, MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>

*All programming will be taking place at George Washington University, in Phillips Hall, Room B156 (801 22nd St. NW)*

9:00am – 10:00am: Registration and Breakfast  
*Coffee and bagels will be provided, courtesy of 4Front Advisors*

10:00am – 11:15am: Welcome and Opening Speaker  
*Neill Franklin, Executive Director of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition*

11:30am – 12:45pm: Legalizing Marijuana in the Nation's Capital: Past and Future  
*Malik Burnett, Howard Wooldridge, Garrett Reuscher*

12:45 – 1:00pm: Group Picture  
*University Yard - George Washington Statue*

1:00 – 2:15pm: Lunch/Skills and Resources Exchange Workshop  
*Jake Agliata*

2:30 – 3:45pm: Protecting Youth with Harm Reduction  
*Dede Goldsmith, Mikayla Hellwich, Kyle Hughes*

4:00 – 5:15pm: On Campus, If your Heart is In It, then the Sky is the Limit  
*Led by Eric Sterling, President of Criminal Justice Policy Foundation and SSDP Board of Trustees Member*

5:30 – 5:45pm: Closing Remarks  
*Jake Agliata*

7:00 – 9:00pm Social  
*Contact Jake for directions/location*

## SUNDAY, MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>

Americans for Safe Access is hosting their annual Unity Conference this weekend at Loews Madison Hotel (1177 15th St NW, Washington, DC 20005) and students are encouraged to attend. There is a special student day pass rate of \$50 for Sunday. Please contact [hunter@safeaccessnow.org](mailto:hunter@safeaccessnow.org) for more information.

# PANELS/WORKSHOPS

## **Legalizing Marijuana in the Nation's Capital: Past and Future**

*Led by Malik Burnett, Howard Wooldridge, Garrett Reuscher*

An overview of the successful I-71 campaign that will examine both the strategies that led to victory and the impact students had on the election. The panelists, who all played different yet important roles during the campaign, will also discuss the next steps towards implementation, the challenges presented by Congress, and how students can stay active in the campaign.

## **Protecting Youth with Harm Reduction**

*Led by Dede Goldsmith, Mikayla Hellwich, Kyle Hughes*

Prohibition and the War on Drugs have made it nearly impossible for students and youth to make safe, informed decisions about drugs, especially in nightlife environments. Furthermore, there is an increasing awareness over the dangers of simply ignoring drug use at music events instead of ensuring that those who need medical attention can receive it. Panelists will discuss how harm reduction can replace current laws to ensure that public policy does not endanger lives.

## **Skills and Resources Exchange Workshop**

*Led by Jake Agliata*

This workshop is a place for SSDPers to do skills-based networking with other SSDPers both within and outside their own chapters. This workshop will walk people through a process of identifying skillsets that they possess, skillsets that they'd like to develop, and then networking with other students to look for training based around the skills they identified.

# SPEAKERS

**Jake Agliata** is the Outreach Coordinator for the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Mountain, Pacific, and International regions, where he is responsible for advising and developing chapters and chapter leaders. Jake first got involved with Students for Sensible Drug Policy in 2011 when he co-founded the chapter at Dickinson College, eventually serving as president from 2012 to 2014.

**Dr. Malik Burnett** is a policy manager in DPA's office of national affairs. He is originally from Montego Bay, Jamaica by way of Atlanta, Georgia. As a physician advocate, Dr. Burnett recently served as the executive director of a medical marijuana non-profit organization after completing a surgical internship at the University of Massachusetts School of Medicine. His passion for drug policy is rooted in eliminating the racial disparities which exist in enforcement practices, in addition to the increasing cost effectiveness of drug policy by moving from a criminal justice to a public health framework

**Dede Goldsmith** is a drug awareness and harm reduction advocate who launched the Amend the RAVE Act (ATRA) campaign on the one-year anniversary of her daughter's death. Shelley Goldsmith, a 20 year old honors student at UVA, died in August 2013 of hyperthermia that led to cardiac arrest after taking MDMA and attending an EDM concert in DC. Goldsmith believes that her daughter might be alive today had certain public safety measures been in place at the concert. The ATRA initiative seeks to change federal law that presently discourages EDM owners and promoters from offering the safest possible settings for their patrons.

**Mikayla Hellwich** was a chapter leader with SSDP at the University of Maryland for 3 years, and graduated in May of 2014 with a bachelor's degree in Plant Sciences. She took an interest in harm reduction in college while attending live music events and festivals with friends, and today makes safety a priority in all partying situations. She hopes sharing her knowledge will help others stay safer, healthier and out of trouble. She now lives in D.C. and works as the media relations associate for Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP).

**Kyle Hughes** is an SSDP member from Virginia Commonwealth University. An SSDP member since 2011, Kyle has found his niche in the reform and harm reduction movements over the last five years. He has fused his passion for live music into his work in the field by becoming a regional coordinator for the AMPLIFY Project in 2012. His work with DanceSafe began in September of 2014 and took over as co-chapter head for the VA region in December. He hopes to continue in the non-profit field to empower the music scene to become a safer place and enable others to reap the same benefits from music and dance as he has.

**Garrett Reuscher** was the D.C. Campus Coordinator SSDP during the Initiative 71 campaign. While spearheading the organization's involvement with Initiative 71, Garrett helped grow seven chapters in the D.C. area. Before his time at SSDP, Garrett worked as a Research Associate at Criminal Justice Policy Foundation where he researched state drug policy reform and the effects of our war on drugs.

**Eric E. Sterling, J.D.** has been a member of the SSDP National Board since 2004 and supporter since 1999. He has also been the President of the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation since 1989. As a student, he joined NORML and testified for marijuana decriminalization in 1976. Eric was also a public defender and volunteer counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union from 1977 to 1979. In the 1980s, he was the Assistant Counsel to U.S. House Crime Subcommittee, responsible for laws on drugs, guns, pornography, and organized crime. Joining the Drug Policy Alliance in 1986, he was one of its first members. He helped found Families Against Mandatory Minimums in 1990, Marijuana Policy Project in 1993, and Marijuana Majority in 2012.

**Howard Wooldridge** is a retired detective from Michigan. After an 18 year police career, he became a bi-lingual speaker at Texas Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, promoting an end to the War on Drugs. In 2002 he and four colleagues founded Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, serving on the Board of Directors from 2002 – 2008. He has testified before state committees in Annapolis, Richmond and Austin. He represented LEAP in Washington, DC from 2005-2009.

# LOCATIONS/PHONE NUMBERS

## GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

### PHILLIPS HALL

801 22nd St. NW  
Washington, DC 20037

### PARKING

Paid parking is available in a GWU garage for \$22/day. Paid on-street parking is also available but we recommend using the garage for convenience.

Access from H Street between 22nd and 23rd Streets, located under the Science and Engineering Hall (located just outside of view to the left of this map).



## NEARBY LUNCH OPTIONS

Roti - Mediterranean food  
Price range: \$10 - \$25  
2221 I st. NW Washington DC. 20037

Potbelly's - Sandwiches  
Price range: \$10 - \$25  
616 23rd St NW, Washington, DC 20037

Chipotle - Burritos  
Price range: \$15 - \$25  
2000 Pennsylvania Ave NW #15, Washington, DC 20006

Papa Johns - Pizza  
Price range: \$10 - \$20  
2525 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20037

Bobby's Burger Palace  
Price range: \$10 - \$20  
2121 K St NW, Washington, DC 20037

Bertuccis - Italian/Mediterranean  
Price range: \$20 - \$50  
2000 Pennsylvania Ave Nw Washington D.C. 20006

Burger Tap and Shake - Burgers and Shakes  
Price range: \$5 - \$25  
2200 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20037

## ORGANIZER CONTACT INFORMATION

Nick Watkins 202-322-8622  
Chapter Leader, George Washington University SSDP

Jake Agliata 267-614-7354  
Outreach Coordinator, SSDP International