

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AIDS Memorial Quilt Display Returns to Franklin Pierce University**

(Rindge NH) A collaboration between Franklin Pierce University (FPU), the Council for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at FPU and Keene Pride will feature a display of six 12'x12' sections of the AIDS Memorial Quilt for the first time since 2010, when Quilt founder Cleve Jones spoke on campus. It will be available to students, faculty, staff and the public beginning on Thursday, April 13 from Noon-5pm and Friday, April 14 from 10am-3pm in Spagnuolo Hall, located in the Emily Flint Campus Center on 40 University Drive in Rindge, NH.

On April 14 from 3-4pm, a special public event will be held to recognize the occasion. Speakers will include Dr. Kim Mooney, FPU President; Dr. Pierre Morton, FPU Chief Diversity Officer; Adam Toepfer, President, Keene Pride; Susan MacNeil, former Executive Director of AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region; and keynote speaker Roger Barraby, who is participating in the 11th Gay Games this November which will be held in Guadalajara, Mexico. Stoles will be presented to graduating LGBTQ+ seniors by Dr. Morton at the conclusion of the event. Refreshments will be served.

Barraby is sponsored by the LGBT National Help Center, which provides care through free and anonymous peer-support programs via hotline numbers about sexuality, gender identity and expression, coming out issues, bullying, discrimination, isolation, fear and anxiety, relationships, HIV/AIDs questions and suicide prevention,

A resident of Cornish, NH, Barraby graduated from high school in Windsor VT where he set track and field records. He attended Franklin & Marshall College where he continued his athletic prowess and won the 2017 Faust Prize for Humor Writing. He is a full-time staff member at River Road Veterinary Clinic in Norwich VT, and continues his LGBTQ+ activism as Chair of Windsor's Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee.

Barraby also has a personal interest in FPU, as his good friend, Cece Telfer is an accomplished athlete and advocacy trailblazer. Telfer graduated from FPU and became the first openly transgender person to win an NCAA title in 2019, taking first place in the 400-meter hurdles. She gained national recognition for her accomplishment when she was vilified by then President Donald Trump, calling her win a 'grave injustice' for women.

Sponsoring campus organizations include A.L.A.NA (African, Latinx, Asian, Native American) and the Gender & Sexuality Club. Quilt panels of local interest will be included with the exhibit. They are: Bonnie White (Block #5949); Baby Simbiso (Block #5753); Dr. Tom Waddell, founder, Gay Games (Block # 5145); Rev. Deane Starr (Block #5057); and William Thrasher (Block #1107). To search the Quilt online, visit <https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>

The public is welcome and there is no charge to attend the exhibit or the April 14 event. Photos may be taken. For more information, contact the office of Dr. Pierre Morton at 603-899-4000 or visit the Keene Pride website ([www.keenepride.org](http://www.keenepride.org)).

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Reference sites:

- Dr. Pierre Morton, Chief Diversity Officer  
<https://www.franklinpierce.edu/student-experience/diversity/index.html>
- Dr. Kim Mooney, President, <https://youtu.be/dMjfKIwknrI>
- Adam Toepfer, President, Keene Pride, [www.keenepride.org](http://www.keenepride.org)
- <https://www.franklinpierce.edu/about/locations/rindge.html>
- Aaron Almanza, LGBT National Help Center, <https://www.lgbthotline.org/>
  
- Brian Holman, Quilt Curator, [www.aidsmemorial.org](http://www.aidsmemorial.org)
- Cleve Jones, Founder, AIDS Memorial Quilt, BBC History Project  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXoJu8IhoXQ>
- History of the Quilt <https://www.aidsmemorial.org/quilt-history>