

For Immediate Release

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST TO SCREEN HER DOCUMENTARY APRIL 5

CUMBERLAND, Md. – Kamala Lopez, an award-winning actress and film director and national figure in the women's rights movement, will present her documentary "Equal Means Equal" Thursday, April 5, in a Women's History Month celebration at Allegany College of Maryland.

Her award-winning film about the status of women in America focuses on the drive for equality and efforts to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.



Lopez is the founder and executive director of the ERA Education Project, which she created to raise public awareness about the need to ratify the ERA and put women on an equal legal footing with men. She is a leader in the national campaign.

First proposed by women's rights activist Alice Paul, who championed women's suffrage and equal rights, the ERA has been debated for nearly a century. Written by her in 1923, the amendment won Congressional approval in 1972. It later failed to secure ratification by the needed 38 states and stalled in 1982. Approval by two more states would make it the law of the land.

Efforts to ratify the ERA come amid the current debate over rising economic inequality in the nation and persistent wage disparities between men and women that activists contend could be addressed by a guarantee of equal protection of the sexes under the law.

Lopez, an actress with starring roles in feature films and television shows, is also a writer, producer, director and president of Heroica Films, which developed "Equal Means Equal" and released it in 2016.

Her appearance is sponsored by the Maryland National Organization for Women, the Allegany County Women's Action Coalition, Allegany County NAACP Branch 7007, Frostburg State University and ACM's Student Government Association and Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement.

The evening starts with a 5:30 p.m. reception and networking session in ACM's College Center. The event begins at 6 p.m. in the center's Zimmer Theater, where Lopez will address the audience about her involvement in the national campaign to ratify the ERA.

She will then screen her 90-minute documentary, "Equal Means Equal." Later, she and other community leaders will share their reactions and discuss how to become involved in the drive to pass the ERA.

The event is open to the public and is without admission charge. Inquiries can be directed to Cherie Snyder, ACM professor of human service associate and integrative health, at 301-784-5557 or csnyder@allegany.edu. Information is also available on the ACM website, www.allegany.edu