



OutSpoken

NACURH INC.
National Task Force on GLBT Awareness

GLBT Resource Center/Office

By: Emmanuel G. Caudillo

Thoughts from the Chair

This month's theme deals mostly with resource centers/offices that serve GLBT students.

Many times, an RHA doesn't know how to conduct an effective awareness outreach. Well, many campuses have a resource center that they can get ideas, speakers, and simply information about the issues that affect the GLBT population on your campus.

If your RHA is unsure of where to begin in gathering information or even ideas for events for your halls, many resource centers have excellent ideas that can be tailored made for your RHA.

Talk to a professional staff member or visit their website on what they have to offer. They will more than happy to help you out in your efforts

What's in a Name?

The first issue of this newsletter was rather bland. The GLBT Awareness Newsletter is a good name, but it lacked any spirit.

OutSpoken grabs the spirit of the newsletter. It also captures what we want in this task force, national participation. We hope that, with your contribution, this newsletter will continue to be a resource on GLBT awareness the residence halls.

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Task Force Committee

Members

- Emmanuel G. Caudillo
Chair

CAACURH

- Lindsay Peck

NEACURH

- David Williamson

MACURH

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Resource of the Month:

By Emmanuel G. Caudillo

The National Consortium of Directors of LGBT Resources in Higher Education

[Http://www.lgbtcampus.org](http://www.lgbtcampus.org)

For schools without a GLBT Resource Center or for those RHAs that simply want more information on GLBT outreach, there is a great resource on the web.

The National Consortium of Directors of LGBT Resources in Higher Education has a lot of great information about GLBT programs and resources to help inform residents. The National Consortium's mission is to transform higher education environment so that GLBT students, faculty, staff, and administrators have equity in every respect. This is accomplished through providing support to colleges serving GLBT communities, improving campus climate, and advocating for institutional policy changes and program development that recognize the needs of GLBT people.

Their website provide a plethora of resources from information on different schools' GLBT centers to ideas on programming/outreach They also contain information on different academic studies on GLBT issues. One can also find a speaker directory and information on student conferences.

This website is very easy to navigate and very useful for those RHAs that do not know where to start in beginning GLBT awareness or does that do not have GLBT centers.

National Project

At NACURH 2007, The National Task Force on GLBT Awareness will be presenting a workshop. Currently the specifics are being figured out. We would like to get your assistants in this project. So we have a question for you:

Is there any specific topic or issue regarding GLBT Awareness that you want to see? Do you want to see a study on the campus climate, receive resources, or receive tips on how to conduct an effective awareness campaign in your campus? Or something else.?

Please send us your ideas to ecaudillo@gmail.com by February 28th

The New Switzerland: A Look into Gender-Neutral Housing

By Lindsay Peck, NEACURH RCC New England

It remains a fact that GLBT communities are some of the most discriminated against in American society today. Some colleges and universities around the United States, however, have made efforts to relieve some of this discrimination by changing the opportunities given to these minorities. This shift in acceptance shows the focus that has been placed on diversity issues on college campuses. One of the ways this is happening is in the gender-neutral housing that has been designated by some residential life programs in effort to support transgender students.

Transgender students may not identify with either the male or female gender as defined by residential life policies, which could make living situations uncomfortable. Gender-neutral housing has been introduced as a way to alleviate this, allowing students to live in a space that is mixed-sex or mixed-gender. The opportunities that gender-neutral housing creates is at the same time regarded as controversial because of its disregard for social norms, but students in these environments have so far transitioned easily. While many schools have not fully switched to allowing mixed-sex living, some have revised their housing assignment forms to include a write-in space for gender, rather than the traditional “male” or “female” designations. By allowing students to declare their own sexual affiliation, a more accurate and accepting environment can be created in the residence halls. All in all, gender-neutral housing and the steps that lead to it give a more welcoming environment that helps students become aware of the diversity issues they face.

Just the Facts: GLBT Resource Centers

Source: A Place of Our Own: LGBT Centers on Campus

- The first professionally staffed office for GLBT students was at the University of Michigan in 1971
 - Student Initiative was either the leading or significant factor in establishing the majority of centers.
 - 56 colleges and universities have GLBT centers/offices that are staffed by at least half-time by a paid professional
 - Most GLBT campus centers are found in California, followed Minnesota and Michigan
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The National Task Force on GLTB Awareness is commissioned to inform Residence Hall Associations on issues regarding students in the GLTB community and living in the residence halls.

This task force is commissioned to produce a monthly newsletter, articles for the NACURH Link, and present a program session at NACURH 2007.

This task force will also look at programs, outreach efforts, and research articles that may pertain to obtain the goals of this commission.

This task force will also implement a monthly case study that will focus on the a specific topic regarding GLBT awareness.

How You Can Help

Currently there are three members on the task force. It doesn't mean that those members are the only ones who can work on GLTB awareness. We are encouraging your help. SO if you are in the RBD, NCC, RHA President, NRHH, or even a hall council member, we can definitely use your help. You can contribute to this task force by various methods:

We would love hear programs that your RHA implements regarding GLBT awareness. It would be great to hear what your school has done in order for us to showcase in

OutSpoken. So if you have an event, please send a description of it or even share a story on how it went.

We also would like to hear stories on how your RHA or school conducts GLBT awareness in the residence halls. We would like to hear resources that your school provides.

We also would like to hear stories of leadership by those in the GLTB community and we would like to showcase them here..

All submissions can be sent on a Word document (doc.) to ecaudillo@gmail.com. Please send them by the 15th of each month in order for them to be edited and published in time.

This is your newsletter and we would love to get as much national input as possible. We can get a lot of out this task force with your participation. If you have any questions, please contact us at ecaudillo@gmail.com
