Bright new beginnings, LGBTQ Institute

Fall 2011 had many lasting memories that we will cherish forever but for the ISU community and its LGBTQ members something resonates as a promising step for the future. During Homecoming 2011, ISU opened the LGBTQ Institute to help support LGBTQ faculty, staff, and students. The mission of the institute is to promote equality and social justice for the LGBTQ community through three major components: Academic Studies and Research, Student Services and Campus Climate, and Community Service. The opening of this facility has been a dream for many faculty members, who hope the institute will provide internships to LGBTQ members. According to Becky Evans, Graduate Assistant with Leadership and Service and current Graduate Intern at the institute, “I am very pleased to be involved and witness the opening of a facility like this for LGBT students. This is just the tip of the iceberg and with the support of ISU and the Bloomington-Normal community the sky is truly the limit.” Evans shares this statement reflecting on the groundbreaking milestones that the institute will experience in the coming years. Nonetheless, the institute is alive and operating. If you would like to obtain more information about resources and volunteering or simply to learn more please contact Becky Evans.

The LGBTQ Institute is located in the Professional Development Annex Building, 205 S. Main Street.
Bringing individuality back to Alphabet Soup

Words carry meanings that all too often, are overlooked. What meaning does the acronym GLBT/LGBT stir up for you? What types of thoughts are provoked when you hear a well-known acronym but fail to distinguish the unique subsets that make up that word? The struggle of equality that catapulted in 1969 cannot be overlooked. However, one must realize that each group that came together in the famous Stonewall protest have unique challenges and lifestyles in the 21st century. When looking at who was involved, it certainly seems that people were fighting alongside one another for the right to be who they are, love whomever they wanted to, and carry themselves in the manner they chose. This same struggle is evident today, but a challenge remains; respecting individual group identity while also meeting the needs of each sub-group. Gay and lesbian struggles often stem around the topics of adoption, marriage, and employment. Yet, transgendered people share these same challenges, but still struggle with intersecting identities like gender and sexuality. Once we educate ourselves of the unique struggles that these groups are facing we can assist each in its daily endeavors.

Up close and personal with Pride

Matt Rillie, Pride’s current President, and Junior at ISU has been involved with the organization since his freshman year. Matt witnessed Pride’s growth over the years into an organization that is supportive and empathetic toward its members. Matt states that one goal during this term is “to continue to foster relationships with community members, while providing an inclusive and safe environment for LGBT students at ISU.” Pride recognizes the stereotypical barriers that LGBT students face and by providing resources hope to ensure LGBT members are successful at ISU. Pride meets every Wednesday at 7pm in Student Services Building 375.

For more information on Pride please follow the link to their Facebook page or email Matt Rillie.

"All men are created equal. No matter how hard you try, you can never erase those words." - Harvey Milk
Spring 2012
Upcoming Events

February
SafeZone Brown Bag
Wednesday, February 15, 2012
SSB 375, 1PM

SafeZone Orientation
Thursday, February 23, 2012
SSB 375, 12PM
Signup:
DeanofStudents.IllinoisState.edu

March
Pride Drag Show
Saturday, March 24, 2012
BSC - Brown Ballroom, 7PM

April
SafeZone Orientation
Wednesday, April 11, 2012
SSB 375, 12PM
Signup:
DeanofStudents.IllinoisState.edu

National Day of Silence
Friday, April 20, 2012

May
Pride End of the Year Banquet
Wednesday, May 2, 2012
Tentative

*Pride meetings are held weekly on Wednesdays in SSB 375, 7PM

Safe places bright and colorful faces

Inclusion, appreciation, respect, and understanding are just a few of the principles we must further develop in hopes of becoming meaningful allies to the LGBT community. By creating safe spaces for our fellow peers, friends, and colleagues a sense of bonding is fostered and in the end we all shine together. Regardless of our individual sexual orientation or personal life decisions, we all remain human and deserve nothing but respect. There are several ways to show your support as an ally. Sign up for a SafeZone orientation today where you will receive your SafeZone pin and door tag!

Learn more about our upcoming events at DeanofStudents.IllinoisState.edu

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