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The Welcome Project Brochure 2009

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URI Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Center

The GLBT Center, located in Adams Hall, strives to promote a welcoming and safe environment for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Prioritizing around dimensions of education, support, and advocacy, the Center works directly with students, faculty, staff, and community members to provide meaningful programs and services.

The GLBT Center and the Welcome Project afford many opportunities for participation in planning, programming, and community involvement. Contact any URI GLBT Center Coordinating Staff member with questions or to volunteer. Also, check out the GLBT Center website for current programs, schedules, and other events at

www.uri.edu/glbt

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**University of Rhode Island
Anti-discrimination Policy**

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The Welcome Project

at the
University of Rhode Island

“The LGBT rights movement has achieved great progress, but there is more work to be done. LGBT youth should feel safe to learn without the fear of harassment, and LGBT families and seniors should be allowed to live their lives with dignity and respect.”

- PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA
(JUNE, 2009)

The URI GLBT Center
University of Rhode Island
Adams Hall, Room 111

Mission Statement

The Welcome Project seeks to examine and address the climate for LGBTIQQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, and Questioning) people and diversity issues on URI campuses and beyond. Overall, the Welcome Project and its members strive to promote a safe, comfortable, and inclusive environment through dialogue, activism, and other strategies designed to promote a tradition of respect and acceptance for all.

History

The Welcome Project at URI began as a Center project involving faculty, staff, and students in response to issues and needs of URI's LGBTIQQ community. In conjunction with programs and activities sponsored by the URI GLBT Center, the Welcome Project has played a significant role in advancing URI to recognition in *The Advocate's Comprehensive Guide to Colleges and Universities with the Best Programs, Services, and Student Organizations for LGBT Students*. While substantial progress has been made at URI, the Welcome Project continues to address contemporary concerns of the LGBTIQQ community as part of the broader array of important diversity and multicultural needs.

Some Simple Means of Support...

- Discrimination is hurtful to everyone. Oppose all forms of discrimination including actions that target a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.
- Be thoughtful. Use terminology that is inclusive and respectful of various sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions. Allow people to self identify.
- Refrain from using hurtful language such as: "fag," "dyke," "homo," and "that's so gay." Speak out against this type of language when you hear it.
- Attend and promote URI GLBT Center programs.
- Coming out can be challenging and scary. A network of supportive family, friends and role models can be empowering and reduce stress and fear. Being open and available can really help.
- Get involved! Initiate positive discussions about LGBTIQQ issues with friends, colleagues, in class, among teammates, or in your residence hall.
- Support one another as allies against biphobia, transphobia, homophobia, and heterosexism.
- The LGBTIQQ community is diverse and rich with culture. Seek out and explore this diversity in discussions, projects, and programs.

The Welcome Project Sticker

Displaying the Welcome Project Sticker is an active means of support which affirms LGBTIQQ people, families, and friends. It is also a declaration of support and availability for the LGBTIQQ community and its allies.



The Triangle serves as a reminder of historic oppression, discrimination, and violence endured by LGBTIQQ people past and present.



The Rainbow stands for LGBTIQQ unity, diversity, and pride throughout the world.



Rhody Ram is the beloved mascot of URI. Together Rhody, the triangle, and the rainbow symbolize the Welcome Project's mission to make URI an inclusive, proud, and welcoming community.

Resources

PFLAG South Central
www.pflagscri.org

GLBT National Help Center
www.glnh.org 1-888-843-4564

Marriage Equality Rhode Island
www.marriageequalityuri.org

Lifelines Rhode Island
www.lifelinesri.org

The Trevor Project
www.thetrevorproject.org

For more resources, visit:
www.uri.edu/glbtlinks.html