

LGBT Ally Scenarios for Student Affairs Professionals

- 1) A male transsexual student at your college is assaulted but not seriously injured by three unidentified men in an anti-transgender hate crime the previous evening. The attack occurs on campus and the perpetrators are thought to be other students. Seeing that you have a “LGBT Ally” placard on your office door, he comes to you first for support. What steps might you take to help him? How might his needs be different from a non-transsexual student who has been assaulted?
- 2) You direct an office that provides services for a specific group of students (students of a particular race, female students, students with disabilities, etc.). A bisexual student who is served by your office comes to see you because she feels isolated, having been unable to find a home in either the LGBT community or the constituency with which you work. How do you help her?
- 3) A female staff member in Student Affairs is upset that a transsexual woman who also works in the department is using the women’s restroom. She complains to you as head of the department about being made uncomfortable by “that man in the bathroom.” How do you address this conflict?
- 4) A student group that you advise wants to bring a speaker to campus who is a leader in a particular community but is known for being openly anti-LGBT. Do you address the issue with the group? If so, how do you respond?
- 5) A LGBT student group approaches the office you direct about sponsoring their big event for the year by donating a couple hundred dollars. Some of your staff and some of the students you serve are opposed to providing support because the event does not directly address the work of your office. You suspect that anti-LGBT prejudice may also be behind the opposition. Do you provide sponsorship? If so, how do you address the concerns of the staff and students?
- 6) You forward a message about National Coming Out Day to colleagues and receive the following response from one of your co-workers: “I, in no way, support people coming out of closets, rafters, etc....I am more Christian than I am a supporter of such nonsense. Maybe the next door you come out of will open up to a pit of HELL fire..... disgusting....” [this was an actual response]. How do you respond?

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