

# Welcome to Campus: Strategies to Increase Connectedness for GLBTQ Students

## *Workshop Abstract*

Campus climate for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer (GLBTQ) students is uniquely experienced on every campus. This interactive discussion is designed to empower administrators to engage and challenge factors that create resistance for embracing GLBTQ students as a part of campus life. By discussing trends in research and identifying methods & strategies rooted in best practices & experience, this session focuses on making connectedness a strategic priority.

## *Learning Outcomes*

Workshop participants will leave with increased knowledge of the following aspects of supporting the GLBTQ student population:

1. Approaches to establishing a network of appropriate partners and allies on campus that enhance institutional connectedness for the GLBTQ community;
2. Methods to dissuade elements of campus climate that create roadblocks for student inclusion;
3. Approaches to establish student support systems that enhance student efforts to establish GLBTQ supportive organizations; and
4. Methods to engage campus dynamics that will hinder or enhance development of targeted success-building strategies for GLBTQ students.

## *Discussion Goals*

1. Identify importance of the discussion by using existing research trends & statistics, outcomes, and challenges;
2. Identify components of the theory and practice that further engagement and connectedness for LGBTQ students;
3. Encourage student development professionals to recognize and respond to unique challenges from sources on campus that may be retrograde to successful persistence of LGBTQ students; and
4. Identify already existing LGBTQ focused programs that are successful and can be utilized at other institutions.

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