

U Prep Site of 6th Annual GSA Leadership Summit

By David A. Hildebrand
Public Relations Director

Once again, University Prep in Seattle has opened up their doors at 8000 25th Ave NE to host GLSEN Washington State's sixth annual Fall Leadership Summit for students all over the state to learn valuable leadership skills and team-building exercises on October 10 from 9am to 2pm. Check-in will begin at 8am in the Founders' Hall Lobby, where breakfast refreshments will be served.

If you have not received notification for registration at this point, you can visit our website, www.glsenwa.org, to sign up. Lunch will again be provided by popular Organic2Go!



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The registration form will have several choices to choose from, including beef, chicken, turkey, vegetarian and vegan options. Registration is again \$15 per student and advisor, with donations greater than that amount are greatly appreciated. The funds collected will go directly toward the cost of setting up the workshops and for lunch.

This year's format will be slightly different from years past. To better maximize the various workshops we will be coordinating with local and national organizations, we will be forgoing having a keynote speaker, allowing more time for workshops, as well as include an additional timeslot so students do not have to wrestle with which ones they want to go to and ones they can skip or send someone else to. Instead, the queer writing group from Bent will be performing for us, as well as facilitating workshops for interested youth.

Not only are there workshops available for all the youth that have nothing else to do on an in-service day, we will also offer workshops for teachers that can be used toward their clock hours, facilitated by certified NEA trainer Joe Bento, M.Ed.

Contact Us!

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A Message From Our Executive Director

By Robert Raketty
Chapter Executive Director

With the new school year finally upon us, everyone here at the Washington state chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education network sends it the fondest of wishes and best of luck to all students, regardless of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

With the results of the 2007 National School Climate Survey due out very soon from GLSEN National, we are eager to see if the results of the hard work and dedication of the students in our state, as well as across the nation, have truly made an impact in the safety of their peers, or if we still have a long road ahead of us. An eternal optimist, I am hoping for the former, rather than the latter.

The reports that I have received from other board members that attended the annual chapter summit

in Portland, ME, a lot of exciting things are in store for us in the upcoming months. So be sure to stay up-to-date on our website's calendar and sign up for our email list at www.glsenwa.org if you haven't already.

We had a lot of fun this spring and summer, with our annual banquet, keynoted by state representative Jamie Pedersen, and made a lot of new friends at the various Pride events we tabled at. Possibly the biggest thing we ever put on was our first Leadership Camp in Cle Elum at the Flying Horseshoe Ranch. Students and advisors alike were given the opportunity to partake in all the trainings and workshops our chapter has to offer. Everyone left with new-found knowledge, as well as new friendships.

With all that said, in closing, while we have made significant progress, the road ahead is still a long one. Standing together, we can truly reach the goal of GLSEN to make schools safe for all students.

"Go Forth and Change the World!"

By Cullyn Foxlee
GLSEN National Jump-Start Team

First, I would like to congratulate all GSA members for participating in such a successful alliance in promoting safe schools and tolerance. The fact that you are willing to take time out of your hectic high school schedules to meet for an altruistic purpose, truly shows your caliber. Good job!!!

I hope everyone had an excellent summer holiday! A new school year has started, bringing new opportunities and events for GSA's, GLOW's, etc. nationwide. It is my personal goal to be a beneficent resource to all Washington State GSAs when planning the established events such as Ally Action Week, the Day of Silence, as well encouraging novel ideas for events. The Washington State chapter of GLSEN (www.glsenwa.org) established this quarterly newsletter with the purpose of providing and sharing information and opportunities to assist your efforts and accomplishments.

The following is a concise summary of the Jump-Start Summer Program by GLSEN: as you are likely aware, is the acronym for Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education Network. The first GSA was founded in 1988 by Kevin Jennings, a gay identifying teacher and a student, who was the daughter of two lesbian mothers. There are now over 3,000 GSAs across the country, however, the original mission remains the same. The mission of GLSEN is as follows: "to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression." For more information regarding the history of GLSEN National, please visit www.glsen.org.

To be honest, my knowledge of about GLSEN was lacking when I joined the team. Despite my initial apprehensiveness, when I arrived in Phila-

delphia in 2007 for my first Jump-Start team training, I soon realized that everyone had the same vision, which was all that we needed to unite as a team. The goal of equality, tolerance, understanding, and acceptance was the only similarity the students of diverse backgrounds, ethnicity's, and sexual & gender identities had initially. As the five days of training passed we would discover other common interests, but this single goal was all that was necessary. My experience will likely be analogous to your GSA, local PFLAG, etc.

The Jump-Start training was both inspiring and educational. Our days were filled with activities and workshops ranging from basic leadership skills to plans and suggestions for GSAs in the upcoming year. Ally Action Week, Transgender Day of Remembrance, Martin Luther King Day, and the Day of Silence are just examples of the opportunities your GSA has to promote acceptance on a nationwide scale. Though the GLSEN workshops were excellent, the most beneficial quality of the Jump-Start Training was associating with my fellow organizers and GLSEN staff.

True, I may never know what it is like to a minority, however, I feel my understanding and knowledge was greatly improved through the conversations I had during training.

In conclusion, GLSEN, was an experience that was so enlightening it is simply ineffable. I look forward to sharing the knowledge I gained during my training. Please e-mail me at my GLSEN student organizing address with any questions or concerns, cullynf@studentorganizing.org.

So, go forth and change the world; the future is yours! Here is also a great Scholarship opportunity that is worth checking out:

http://www.american.edu/ocl/glbta/programs/legion_of_honor.html

Thank you :D

Volunteers Wanted

By David A. Hildebrand
Public Relations Director

Have you ever wanted to meet some really neat people, like award-winning author Brent Hartinger, GLSEN Founder Kevin Jennings, or other big-name celebrities like Lance Bass or Reichen Lehmkuhl? All of these big names participated in events for our chapter of GLSEN due to the hard work and tenacity of volunteers!

There are well over three dozen active chapters of GLSEN all over the country, and our chapter has been labeled by departing Executive Director of GLSEN National, Kevin Jennings, as a "star chapter" for all the work that we do to ensure all schools are safe havens for students to receive the education they rightly deserve.

As great as that sounds, it can't be done without volunteers. No non-profit organization can thrive without them, and that is where you come in.

No matter how big or small your contribution, whether it be a few hours a week or a few hours a month, any and all help is welcomed with open arms. Plus it will give you that warm, fuzzy feeling inside, that you did something good to help out the students going through the same exact thing that many of you may have experienced when you were in school. I know, because I was one of them!



Visit our website, www.glsenwa.org, to download an application today! If you really want to help out the chapter, but are unable to do so physically, we also have a link on the site for you to make donations. Also, we are listed with the United Way for payroll deductions with your employer.

Upcoming



October: LGBT History Month

10.04: Seattle AIDS Walk
10.10: Fall Leadership Summit, U Prep
10.11: National Coming Out Day
10.13-10.17: Ally Action Week
10.17-10.26: Seattle LGBT Film Festival

November

11.20: Transgender Day of Remembrance
11.21: TransAction

December

12.01: World AIDS Day
12.10: Human Rights Day