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GLBT Center Brochure 2009

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Mission
The GLBT Center at the University of Rhode Island strives to create 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.

History
The GLBT Center at the University of Rhode Island is an evolving campus and community resource center that was founded in the fall of 2001. Since then the GLBT Center has provided an array of programs and services to address the needs of URI’s GLBTIQQ community. The Center is also entering into the 15th year of the annual GLBTIQQ Symposium, which is held each spring.

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**Involvement**

- The GLBT Center always welcomes new people who are creative and seek opportunities to contribute to making URI a more vibrant, inclusive, diverse community.

- The Center provides a safe environment to meet new people, study, or just relax. Students, faculty, staff, and community members are all welcome to visit the Center and get involved.

- The Center invites people with leadership, computer, and organizational skills. There are many opportunities for those interested in activism and tutoring. If you have these skills, interests, or just want to be a friend, the URI GLBT Center is the place for you. We are a people first all inclusive community.

- Ideas? Contact the Center staff or attend any one of the Center’s programs to make your ideas become a reality.

**Conversation Group**

- The GLBT Center offers weekly conversation groups which provide outreach and support to GLBTIQQ students, faculty, staff, and community members.

- Groups are designed to promote discussion in a safe, informal, and confidential environment.

- Conversation groups are held in the Center throughout the academic year most Monday and Thursday evenings from 7:30-9PM. The Center is open 24/7 for additional conversation and interaction. On the third Thursday of every month, the Center participates in Gay Bingo, which is a fundraiser for AIDS Project RI.

- Student initiated and other informal discussions are welcomed and supported in the Center.

**Programs**

- The GLBT Center provides a variety of programs featuring speakers, panels, films, trips, theatrical, and artistic presentations designed to encourage greater appreciation for GLBTIQQ issues and perspectives.

- Each spring the GLBT Center presents the Annual URI GLBTIQQ Symposium featuring timely presentations, speakers, and activities. We are now heading into our 15th year!

- The Welcome Project is a Center sponsored program developed to promote inclusion by providing educational outreach to University departments, organizations, groups, and residence halls seeking to improve the campus climate by eliminating heterosexism and homophobia. Contact any member of the Center staff to access or volunteer for the Welcome Project.

- The GLBT Center is committed to active participation with the GLBT community beyond the URI campus through ongoing involvement with other regional campuses and GLBT agencies.