

January Safe Place E-Newsletter:

As we begin 2009, we need to recognize what Michigan Tech has to support education, advocacy, and awareness in relation to the Safe Place Program. The Student Affairs Leader newsletter states, "...the main challenge for universities and colleges is not necessarily to develop new programming, but to more intentionally connect current programs and more aggressively engage specific student segments in the right type of programming." (Mann, 2008)

There are several calendars of reference for upcoming events including:

- University: <http://www.mtu.edu/calendar/>
- Academic: <http://www.admin.mtu.edu/em/services/calendar/>
- Student Affairs: <http://sa.mtu.edu/vp/events/>
- Spring Event Calendar: please email me at rlwussow@mtu.edu for a copy as needed

There are over 200 student organizations on campus and the Spring Student Involvement Fair is Tuesday, January 20 at 7pm in the MUB Ballroom. A full list of recognized groups can be found at: <http://www.sa.mtu.edu/stulife/stuorg/>. You can sort alphabetically or by category to find or suggest an organization that any student can join based on interest, expression, exploration, social desires or leadership skills.

Keweenaw Pride (KP) is the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight Ally (GLBTA) Organization of Michigan Technological University and the Keweenaw. KP is a student group for GLBT people, their straight allies and friends who seek to provide a safe place for those in need of support.

In terms of activism, KP organizes educational presentations and forums for the campus community as well as participates in national awareness events such as Coming Out Day and National Day of Silence. Additionally, KP arranges numerous social events throughout the year to promote a "queer positive" atmosphere on campus. Already this fall, KP has collaborated with Admissions to attend a GLBT Friendly College Fair in MN.

At Michigan Tech we have a successful travel abroad program where GLBT students can find a fit of a travel country or program that is accepting of GLBT issues. Greta Gustafson, the Study Abroad Coordinator, can assist students in identifying cultural attitudes towards traveler's sexual orientation and gender identity in host countries. When speaking to Gustafson about this newsletter, she immediately mentioned the Culture and Identity Studies: Explore Gay Paris with UW La Crosse/UW System. More information can be found at: http://www.uwlax.edu/OIE/Study_Abroad/Summer/France_summer.htm Trip highlights include Gay Pride Parade (over 750,000 people) and insight into to the LGBT community abroad.

The Career Center can assist in finding GLBT friendly employers, coming out at work or being out on your interview or on your resume. Director, Jim Turnquist, commented about a website for GLBT students at: <http://www.career.mtu.edu/students/diversity/> and highly recommends that students make one on one career advisor appointments with any of the Career Center staff.

I would like to thank Jim Turnquist and Greta Gustafson for assisting in identifying existing programs and if anyone would like to highlight other GLBT friendly programs, I would love to highlight them in future newsletters and reference them to students.