

November Safe Place E-Newsletter:

Some things to ponder or remember about being an ally...

- Some allies may never have someone come to their office.
- Some allies will spend minimal time with persons seeking support and advice.
- When a GLBT student or staff member walks by an office that displays an ally sign or safe place sticker, it is empowering to them to observe this level of support.
- Displaying a safe place sticker may lead to questions from colleagues which then creates **educational opportunities!**

Now that Barack Obama has won the election, we as allies, need to be informed as to his stance on gay marriage, employment, and adoption. His campaign of change hits the GLBT community as he voted against a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. However, he supports full civil unions that give same-sex couples equal legal rights and privileges as married couples, including the right to assist their loved ones in times of emergency as well as equal health insurance, employment benefits, and property and adoption rights. Information gathered from:

<http://gaylife.about.com/od/politics/p/barackobama.htm>

The Safe Place Program is proud to co-sponsor with Greek Life, Ms. Jessica Mariano in her travels to the OUT & GREEK National GLBT & Ally Fraternity & Sorority Leadership Conference at DePaul University in Chicago, IL, November 14-16. This conference is the first of its kind and Jessica will be bringing resources back to Michigan Tech for the Safe Place Program, KP, Academic and Greek communities

Upcoming KP Events:

11.14.08 - NMU's Drag Show in Marquette

11.20.08 - Transgender Day of Remembrance

12.01.08 - World AIDS Day

As the fall semester is coming to a close and Michigan Tech students venture home for Fall Break, Thanksgiving and Holiday celebrations can either be exciting or intimidating. GLBT students may return home closeted, they may come out to friends & family or they may be introducing significant others for the first time. Be aware, some students may be high spirited, while others do not want to face going home during breaks.

There are 4 levels of Ally Development: Awareness, Knowledge/Education, Skills, and Action. (*From GLBT Services at UM Duluth Safe Zone Program*). This Thanksgiving season, I give thanks that through education, advocacy, and awareness, the Safe Place program contributes to an open campus climate that is safe and accepting of all members of the University community here at Michigan Tech.