

September Safe Place E-Newsletter

I would like to introduce myself and my role with the Safe Place Program. My name is Rachel Wussow and this will be my third year working at Michigan Tech. I currently serve as the Assistant Director of Student Activities working with Student Organizations, Community Service, SACS Comedy Series, Programming Events and serving as the new administrator to the Safe Place Program. My role is to support the Mission of the GLBT Safe Place Program by striving to reduce homophobia and heterosexism on Michigan Tech's campus. Through education, advocacy, and awareness, my role is to assist with making the campus safe and accepting for all members of the University community.

As often as I can, I will be sending out information, resources and reminders to better advocate and educate about being an ally to the Safe Place Program. The Safe Place Program website at: <http://www.safeplace.mtu.edu/> is an amazing resource with links, downloads, membership lists as well as connection to Keweenaw Pride, the Michigan Tech GLBT Student Organization with membership from the local community.

As the students return to campus and we start another school year there are some concerns that typically occur during the month of September for Safe Place Members to be aware of such as:

- Homesickness
- Initial adjustment to academic environment
- Formation of new social life
- Campus familiarization
- Financial adjustment
- Time management and test anxiety
- Values crisis-Students are confronted with questions of conscience over of such things such as alcohol, drugs, diversity, morality, religion, and social experiences and expectations
- Feelings of inadequacy and inferiority due to the discrepancy between high school status and grades and initial college performance
- Roommate conflicts

2008-2009 will be an exciting year as we celebrate 14 openly gay competitors at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. GLBT history month is right around the corner in October, and the upcoming Presidential election is in November. I want to thank you for being part of the Michigan Tech Safe Place Program, and feel free to contact me at rlwussow@mtu.edu or 487-3056 for any questions or concerns.