

LGBT Mentor Programme Fall 2011

Brief description of program:

The objective of the LGBT Mentor Program is to help support students who are exploring and developing identities including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender identities. We pair mentees with peer mentors who are more comfortable with their self-identities or have been through the coming out process. Mentoring helps individuals through the coming out process, provides information regarding LGBT resources, educates students about LGBT issues, terminology and history and, thus, contributes to the development of positive LGBT identities and academic success.

Desired Outcomes

- mentees and mentors meet at least once or meet twice a month
- mentees are comfortable talking with mentors
- mentors share helpful experiences with mentees
- mentors provide information regarding LGBT resource
- mentors and mentees have a positive identity affirming experience

Who was asked to complete survey: Any students currently participating in the program

Respondents: We only had three of six participants respond. Some students have been in the program multiple semesters and so have completed this survey in the past.

Administration Type: StudentVoice e-mail

Summary of Key Findings: Two students strongly agreed that they were comfortable talking to their mentor and one student agreed. All students strongly agreed that their mentor had helpful experiences to share and that their mentor provided them with LGBT community resources. Two students strongly agreed their mentors helped them develop a positive sense of identity and one student just agreed.

Student Comments

- "He was a perfect match for me. He definitely was a great help in my coming out experience."
- "She shared her own experiences and that was helpful."
- "We had similar backgrounds - same religious upbringing, similar experiences in the church, and similar family dynamics."
- "I am grateful for this program!"

Actions Taken:

We may tweak the wording for next year. Some students may not feel that they had help with positive identity formation and so maybe we should ask if they feel they have a positive self-identity.

We may also want to issue the survey a third time. This year we issued it twice and still only had a 50% response rate. It may also be helpful to ask mentors to remind students to fill it out.

Which department and/or program goals does this survey align with?

- (1d) Student enrichment through volunteering
- (1c) Promote experiential learning through mentoring
- (3d) Increase resources available for underrepresented populations

Which Student Affairs goals does this program align with?

(1c) **Develop students as a whole through the cultivation and enrichment of the body, mind and spirit.** Promote experiential learning opportunities (e.g. career development, internships, mentoring programs and part-time employment).