



2017-18 Allies on Campus



Trainings

12 Trainings for Staff, Faculty, Students, and Community Members



Curriculum

6 New Courses Related to Social Justice, Gender, and LGBTQIA+ Issues



Community

Weekly Meetings and a Holiday Dinner for LGBTQIA+ and Allies



Partnerships

Partnered with B.W. Bastian Foundation and Cedar Pride LGBTQIA+ Community Group



Social Media

Added an Instagram Account to the Twitter and Facebook Accounts for Event Promotion



Events

Organized/Supported Several Events to Support LGBTQIA+



ThunderU

Led Workshops in SUU's Freshmen Student Orientation



Volunteers

Served at Discover Pride Southern Utah and Equality Utah Celebration



Speakers

Hosted Equality Utah's Q-Talks and Activist Claudia Bradshaw



Film Festival

Hosted Week-Long SUU LGBTQIA+ Allies on Campus B.W. Bastian Foundation Film Festival

Committee Chairs: Jayci Bash and Megan Brunsvold

Steering Committee: Brandon Armstrong, Andrea Donovan, Blaine Edwards, Kelly Goonan, Curt Hill, Kristina Johnson, Johnny MacLean, Maria Martinez, John Meisner, Christopher Mendoza, Kris Phillips, Jason Ramirez, Melynda Thorpe, Stephen Wagner, and Eben Thomas.



Allies on Campus Annual Report Prepared on April 7, 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After the successful implementation of a robust strategic plan during fall semester, Allies on Campus continued to build on the success experienced in previous years. The 2017-18 academic year was full of successes and wonderful opportunities for improvement. Highlights of the year are as follows:

- 10 trainings (plus 2 after Commencement)
 - 70+ participants
 - 9 new allies (for a total of 85 members of Allies on Campus)
 - 6 social justice curricular innovations (new courses and revised courses)
 - Weekly meetings of the LGBTQIA+ and Allies Community Group
 - New Instagram account (added to existing Twitter and Facebook accounts)
 - Partnered with other community members to start Cedar Pride, an LGBTQIA+ community group hosted at the city library
 - Continued general support for all LGBTQIA+ activities on campus (Drag Brunch, etc.)
 - Examples of Community-Building Efforts:
 - Rainbow Reception w/ PAEC as a welcoming event for queer community on campus (August 24, 2017)
 - Allies Lightning Round/Info Table/Q&A during orientation week for students (August 25, 2017)
 - Volunteered with a booth and as security at Discover Pride Southern Utah (St. George Pride, September 16, 2017)
 - Hosted live-streaming Q-Talks events through Equality Utah (October 25, 2017, and January 10, 2018)
 - Training for Iron County School District (December 5, 2017)
 - Allies on Campus/PAEC End of Fall Semester Celebration/Gathering (December 8, 2017)
 - Claudia Bradshaw A.P.E.X. and luncheon (February 22, 2018)
 - LGBTQIA+ Film Festival (March 26-30, 2018)
 - Attendance and volunteerism at the Equality Utah Celebration Event (May 19, 2018)
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INTRODUCTION

Allies on Campus continues to grow in its membership, effectiveness, and influence at Southern Utah University (SUU). This group of students, staff, and faculty works countless hours on top of their regular duties during evenings and weekends to fulfill the Allies on Campus mission of creating safe spaces for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual individuals and their Allies (LGBTQIA+) on the campus of SUU. The 2017-2018 academic year was perhaps our most successful year ever. This report summarizes some of the highlights, but it would be impossible to describe the full impact Allies on Campus has had on individuals struggling to find a sense of community in rural southern Utah.

During Summer 2017, the Allies on Campus Steering Committee created a [strategic plan](#) that outlined eleven objectives for the 2017-2018 academic year. Its format follows SUU's strategic plan, including details regarding each objective's owner, action plan, timeline, indicators of achievement, and desired outcomes. The objectives are aligned with two goals from SUU's Strategic Plan:

- GOAL 1.2: Help students, faculty, and staff understand and appreciate varied perspectives and ideas; and
- GOAL 1.3: Expand and support collaborative partnerships for learning.

The following sections describe our successes, areas of improvement, and possible path forward. Each objective from our strategic plan is considered, and one occurs in the successes section and the areas of improvement section.

SUCSESSES

OBJ 1.2.1: *Deliver educational programs relating to the LGBTQIA+ community for SUU. Training programs will foster critical thought, integrity, and empathy, and they will increase awareness around homophobia, sexual orientation, and gender issues, and work for equality.*

We offer two main trainings: *Understanding SUU's LGBTQIA+ Community* (formerly known as Phase 1) and *Becoming an LGBTQIA+ Ally* (formerly known as Phase 2). These trainings are offered multiple times each year to specific and general audiences, including student groups, faculty and staff, administrators, and community members. During the 2017-2018 academic year, 10 trainings were offered, serving over 70 participants. Participants of the *Becoming an Ally* training have the option to sign The Ally Commitment Form to officially become an Ally on Campus, and 9 individuals signed the form this year.

OBJ 1.2.3: *Support initiatives seeking to develop the academic study of LGBTQIA+ issues.*



Four members of Allies on Campus participated in the 2017 Curriculum Innovation Grant (CIG) workshop hosted by the Center of Excellence for Teaching and Learning (CETL) to create courses and curricular innovations focusing on social justice and gender issues. These efforts resulted in two new classes (HONR 4010: Just and Diverse and HONR 4010: Women, Work, and Identity) and one altered course (PHIL 1000 Intro to Philosophy).

The 2018 CIG workshop will include three more course proposals involving social justice, including one course preliminarily called Struggles and Advancements of the LGBTQIA+ Community. All three of these courses are proposed to be 6-credit integrated General Education courses that fulfill two Knowledge Area requirements.

OBJ 1.2.4: Provide detailed annual reports to SUU's upper-level administration about progress on each objective.

This is the annual report.

OBJ 1.3.1: Establish an accessible and visible network of individuals on campus who support safe spaces, access to resources, and promotion of inclusivity for the LGBTQIA+ community.

There are 85 SUU faculty and staff who display Allies on Campus stickers on their office doors/laptops and are listed on the network directory available at www.suu.edu/allies. During the 2017-2018 academic year, 9 individuals signed the Ally Commitment Form to become members, which requires participation in both trainings. Additionally, the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Office hosted the LGBTQIA+ and Allies Community Group (see OBJ 1.3.3).

OBJ 1.3.2: Provide advocacy and referrals for individuals in the LGBTQIA+ community to academic, social, psychological, health, and individually identified resources. These resources include but are not limited to: SUU Counseling and Psychological Services, SUU Pride and Equality Club, SUU Housing, Student Affairs, and the Academic and Career Development Center.

Many referrals were made by members of Allies on Campus for individuals in the LGBTQIA+ community. We do not track these referrals. As the campus population and the Allies on Campus membership both grow, the importance of these referrals will also grow so we can maintain safety for marginalized groups and individuals.

OBJ 1.3.3: Support programs such as the LGBTQIA+ and Allies Community Group that is facilitated through SUU Counseling and Psychological Services.

CAPS consistently facilitated the weekly support group throughout the 2017-2018 academic year. CAPS also had significant visibility at events during Pride Week and the week-long LGBTQIA+ Film Festival for anyone needing emotional support or resources. CAPS



representatives continue to serve on the Allies on Campus steering committee to provide guidance regarding mental health issues.

OBJ 1.3.4: Provide information regarding Allies on Campus and the LGBTQ community via program website and linked resource centers on campus. Manage Social Media needs for promotion of events.

We started an Allies on Campus Instagram account to augment our existing Twitter and Facebook accounts, and we have been posting consistently to each to promote LGBTQIA+ events. The links to all three media accounts have been added to our Allies on Campus website (www.suu.edu/allies). In addition to all this, we have regularly updated the Allies on Campus calendar.

OBJ 1.3.5: Develop a sense of community for LGBTQIA+ students, faculty, staff, and Allies on campus, and celebrate the diversity that enriches our campus community.

To develop a sense of community, Allies on Campus organized, hosted, or partnered on numerous campus and community events, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Rainbow Reception w/ PAEC as a welcoming event for queer community on campus (August 24, 2017)
- Allies Lightning Round/Info Table/Q&A during orientation week for students (August 25, 2017)
- Volunteered with a booth and as security at Discover Pride Southern Utah (Saint George Pride, September 16, 2017)
- Hosted live-streaming Q-Talks events through Equality Utah (October 25, 2017, and January 10, 2018)
- Training for Iron County School District (December 5, 2017)
- Allies on Campus/PAEC End of Fall Quarter Celebration/Gathering (December 8, 2017)
- Claudia Bradshaw A.P.E.X. and luncheon (February 22, 2018)
- LGBTQIA+ Film Festival (March 26-30, 2018)
- Attendance and volunteerism at the Equality Utah Celebration Event (May 19, 2018)
- Partnered with other community members to start Cedar Pride, an LGBTQIA+ community group hosted at the city library
- General support for all LGBTQIA+ activities on campus (Drag Brunch, etc.)

OBJ 1.3.6: Secure external funding to support collaborative partnerships, community building efforts, and educational activities.

For the second year in a row, Allies on Campus received a B.W. Bastian Foundation grant. This year's grant funded the week-long LGBTQIA+ Film Festival. To help plan the event, undergraduate student Sofie Scaletta completed a Sociology Major Internship as the Film Festival Intern. We were honored to host acclaimed director and LGBTQIA+ Community Development Activist Aurora Guerrero as the Keynote Speaker. The film festival involved



important partnerships with CAPS, CDI, SUU Polynesian Club and Polynesian Community Leaders, SUU POLICE, PAEC, Spanish Department, Women and Gender Studies, EDGE/English, SUU Chief Diversity Officer, SUU Library, SUU Cashier and Human Relations Departments, SUU Honors, Chartwells, and others. See the executive summary of this event [here](#).

OBJ 1.3.7: *Maintain on-campus financial accounts to support partnerships, community building efforts, and educational activities.*

The financial responsibilities of Allies on Campus have moved to the Budget Office. This effort is ongoing.

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

OBJ 1.2.2: *Advocate and work for non-discriminatory and diverse working, living, and academic environments at Southern Utah University.*

Due in part to the fact that members of Allies on Campus have other responsibilities that take precedence over volunteer-based work, we were not able to make progress on developing or revising policies to promote non-discriminatory and diverse environments. Perhaps our partnerships with the new Chief Diversity Officer and the CDI will be more fruitful in the coming years.

OBJ 1.3.4: *Provide information regarding Allies on Campus and the LGBTQ community via program website and linked resource centers on campus. Manage Social Media needs for promotion of events.*

Although we made significant progress to improve communication via the social media accounts and our email contact lists, effective communication between the LGBTQIA+ campus groups (Student Programming Board, Pride And Equality Club, and Center for Diversity and Inclusion) has struggled. Perhaps a master online calendar could be created that would be accessible and updated by all, and it could be posted in many places to maximize exposure. Also, our technology-based approach to communication (email, calendar, social media) was not as effective as we had hoped. For example, attendance at some events was lower than expected. Perhaps we should add a hands-on approach with flyers and posters around campus, as well as more active partnerships with other groups with complementary missions, including on-campus groups (SPB, PAEC, and CDI) and community groups (e.g. Equality Utah, Southern Utah Pride, etc.).



MOVING FORWARD

Allies on Campus will be organizationally housed under the Chief Diversity Officer during the 2018-2019 academic year. As we begin to plan for the coming year, we hope to benefit from Dr. Schvalla Rivera's leadership and vision for how to advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community and advance its goals. We will continue to pursue the objectives described in our strategic plan, and we will make appropriate modifications with regard to our partnerships with the CDO, CDI, PAEC, CAPS, and others.

Partnerships such as these require transparency, communication, and collaboration, all of which require time and energy. Allies on Campus members do this important work after their regular duties are accomplished, typically in the evenings and on weekends. We are committed to continuing the work, and we look forward to continuing our progress.