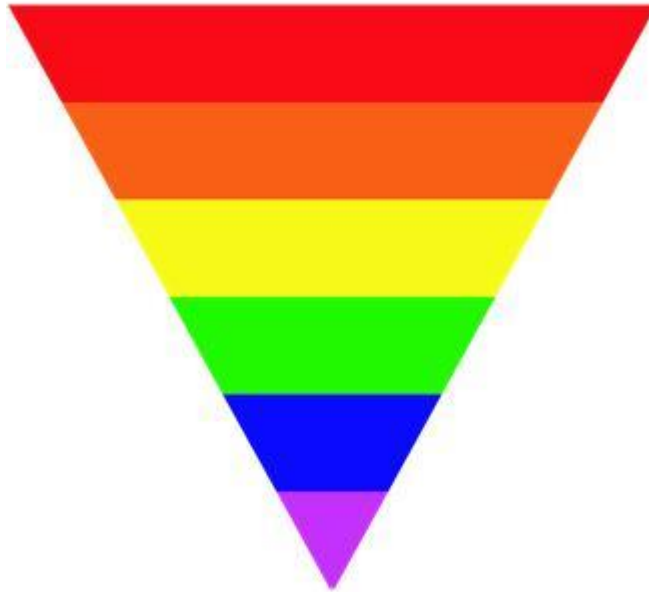


# LGBTQ and You



**Juniata College**  
**Health and Wellness Center**

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Spring 2012

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Juniata College strives to be an inclusive, safe place for students from all backgrounds to study and become better citizens. However, like all places and institutions, not all individuals are accepting. Members of the LGBTQ community, individuals coming out, allies or curious affiliates of the college could find this packet potentially useful.

### **What Does LGBTQ Mean?**

The acronym stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/ Questioning. These words include sexualities and genders different from the heterosexual male/female binary.

**Lesbian**- emotional, spiritual and/or erotic attraction between women.

**Bisexual**- emotional, spiritual and/or erotic attraction to both males and females.

**Gay**- emotional, spiritual and/or erotic attraction to persons of one's own gender.

**Transgender**- of, relating to, or being a person who identifies with or expresses a gender identity that differs from the one which corresponds to the person's sex at birth.

**Queer**- A political perspective, as well as a sexual orientation, that advocates for the dissolution of binary thinking. The individual views both sexual orientation and gender identity as potentially fluid.

**Questioning**- exploring one's gender and sexuality. An individual has not reached a conclusion to what group they believe they belong to.

#### **Diverse descriptions for groups that fall under LGBTQ/Q would be:**

**Asexual**- having no sexual attraction to either gender.

**Cisgender**- a person whose gender identity corresponds with that person's biological sex assigned at birth.

**Homosexual**- persons emotionally, spiritually and erotically attracted to their own sex, whether or not they engage in sexual acts.

**Heterosexual**- sexual, emotional, and/or spiritual attraction to a sex other than your own.

**Intersex**- an individual having reproductive organs or external sexual characteristics not distinctly identified as male or female.

**Pansexual**- expressing or involving sexuality in many different forms or with a variety of sexual outlets; fluid in sexual orientation and/or gender or sex identity.

**Transsexual**\*- a person who strongly identifies with the opposite sex and may seek to live as a member of this sex especially by undergoing surgery and hormone therapy to obtain the necessary physical appearance (as by changing the external sex organs).

*\*Do NOT confuse transsexualism with transvestitism. A transvestite is a heterosexual (usually a male) who regularly or occasionally wears the clothing that not assigned to their gender. They are comfortable with their anatomy and do not wish to change it. They may do it for sexual gratification.*



### For LGBTQ Individuals:

#### **Support Groups, Resources and Clubs on this Campus**

- PRISM- the purpose of this organization is to serve as a social and activist student club for bisexuals, lesbians, gay people, queer people, transgender people, heterosexual allies, and anyone questioning their sexuality. The organization works to make Juniata a more open and safe community by increasing awareness and acceptance of LGBT\* people and educating the campus community about homophobia, biphobia and transphobia. PRISM sponsors activities and programs on campus which provide opportunities for members of the LGBT\* community and their allies to meet with each other along with others in the campus community.
- Dr. Grace Fala, Professor of Communication, Faculty Advisor of PRISM
- Fala@juniata.edu

## Unity House

- Office of Diversity and Inclusion - supports Juniata's efforts to meet the diverse cultural and spiritual needs of our student population and promotes students in expressing a wide variety of backgrounds and ideas while making sure everyone can live and learn harmoniously on the campus.
  - (814) 641 3125
  - Rosalie Rodriguez, Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Inclusion
  - [rodrigr@juniata.edu](mailto:rodrigr@juniata.edu)
  
- Campus Ministry – a helpful resource for students who may be having trouble reconciling their identity with their religious beliefs.
  - (814) 641 3360
  - David Witkovsky, College Chaplain
  - [witkovl@juniata.edu](mailto:witkovl@juniata.edu)
  - Lisa Baer, Catholic Campus Minister,
  - 814-641-3362
  - Rev. Rick Cartwright, Campus Minister for Athletics
  - 814-641-3363

The p-drive on the campus has a lot of LBGTQ-related information. Go to Administrative/DiversityAndInclusion/Media Library/Pamphlets & Flyers

- Juniata College Health and Wellness Center- the H & W Center exists on campus to support any and all students for any problems that they may have. Three full-time counselors, graduate interns and a consulting psychiatrist work to support students in confidentiality. They have valuable experience working with students who are coming out, questioning themselves or need someone to talk to.
  - (814) 641-3353
  - Patricia S. Hunter, College Counselor, MA, LPC
  - [hunterp@juniata.edu](mailto:hunterp@juniata.edu)
  - Kerry Harper, College Counselor, MSW, LCSW
  - [harperk@juniata.edu](mailto:harperk@juniata.edu)
  - Jonathan Reveley-Cohen, College Counselor, MA, CC
  - [revelej@juniata.edu](mailto:revelej@juniata.edu)

- Plexus- is made of 3 components – an Inbound, peer-mentoring fellowship and a RSO. Plexus focuses on multiculturalism as it pertains to transitions, self-advocacy and the integration of underrepresented students in the community. We also offer support for academic excellence, leadership development, civic engagement and self-care & wellness.
  - Skukura Woods, Plexus Program Coordinator
  - [woodss@juniata.edu](mailto:woodss@juniata.edu)
  
- Dean of Students Office – Has a Bias Response Team that acts as a “safe and confidential resource for members of the Juniata Community to raise immediate concerns regarding specific instances of harassment or other acts of bias-based behavior that appear to violate Juniata's commitment to developing a campus community that celebrates and actively supports diversity along a variety of dimensions including race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, ability/disability, veteran, family status, and skin color.”
  - Dan Cook-Huffman, Interim Dean of Students
  - (814) 641 3151
  - [cookhud@juniata.edu](mailto:cookhud@juniata.edu)
  
- Residence Life
  - Gender Inclusive Housing- The Gender Inclusive Housing policy permits male, female, and gender non-binary Juniata students to room together on campus. It aims to be more inclusive and sensitive to the needs of all students, especially those in the LGBT community. Gender Inclusive Housing is intended to provide safe, comfortable, and supportive housing options for all students, especially those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender. The Residence Life office is located in Tussey-Terrace Residence Hall.

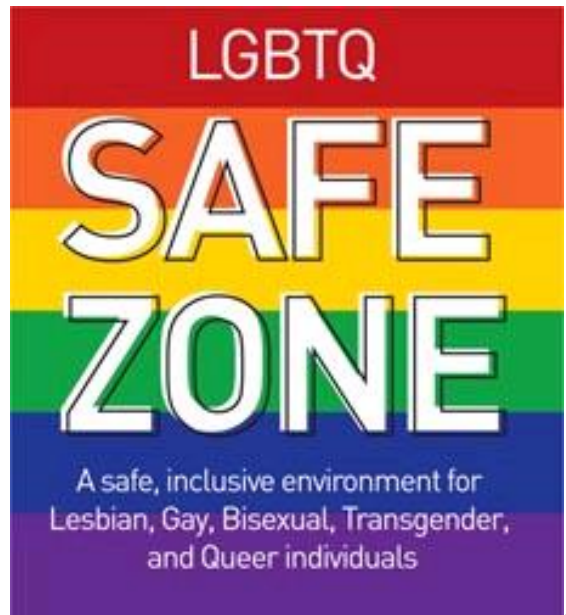
Gender Inclusive Restrooms- Juniata is currently in the process of reviewing and updating our facilities to be more inclusive of all gender expressions. You can find both sex specific and gender inclusive restrooms throughout the various academic and residential buildings on campus. South Residence Hall has a newly renovated fully Gender Inclusive Bathroom as does Nathan Hall. All academic and office buildings except Founders, Humanities, Von Liebig Center for Science and Kennedy Sports & Recreation Center have at least 1 Gender Inclusive Bathroom. Those buildings are currently being evaluated with the hopes of having at least 1 gender inclusive restroom in every campus building by the end of this academic year.

## Educational

- Beyond Tolerance Workshop Series- Juniata's commitment to inclusion goes public each year with Beyond Tolerance — a series of lectures, workshops, screenings of films, and travel opportunities designed to help us learn more about one another and better discuss challenging issues. Whether discussing cultural differences or expanding the varied meanings of diversity, the Beyond Tolerance series helps move all of us beyond simply tolerating one another and toward challenging what we think we know about one another.
- P.E.A.C.E Certificate (Participate in Educational Activities that Create Equality)- Overseen by the Office of Diversity & Inclusion and signed by the College President, the P.E.A.C.E. Certificate celebrates your commitment to attend any 6 of the Beyond Tolerance Series programs or other designated events in a two-year period and you will earn the Bronze Level of the P.E.A.C.E. Certificate. Earn the Silver Level by attending 12 programs and the Gold Level by attending 18 programs.

### How You Can Help, Whether You are LGBTQ or Not

**Allies:** allies are heterosexual individuals who are considerate of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and pansexual individuals. Allies on campus, whether they are faculty, staff or students, help create a safer and more open environment for LGBTQ members. Allies and LGBTQ members in general, do not have experience with all forms of the LGBTQ community. However, allies do try to be emotionally supportive. Many of these members can be identified throughout campus with the Safe Zone symbol:



**Safe Zones:** Safe Zones are areas (most likely an office or a residential room) where LGBTQ members and allies can meet in a safe environment. These are supportive areas where LGBTQ members can come out, voice concerns, vent and find information. Anything said or done here is supposed to be confidential.

- *Training-* Every other year, Safe Zone Training is offered to members of the Juniata community who want to earn a Safe Zone certificate. Residential Life members (RAs, RDs) are required to attend. Close to 200 people have received this training over the past five years.
- *Campus Wide-* Juniata is striving to create an inclusive space for students who identify as LGBTQ. Support has been evident on campus through clubs and programs since 1993. *While not yet ideal*, the campus continues to evolve and become more supportive. Most members today consider the campus climate to be affirming and nourishing.

**Reporting:** If you see harassment or hear hate speech against anyone (whether or not it's based on sexuality or gender identity), please report it immediately to a member of Residence Life, the Dean's Office, the Office of Diversity, a Professor and/or Public Safety. Juniata College should be a safe area for everyone to live and learn. Being actively involved in supporting and protecting the campus community is the responsibility of everyone.

**Works Cited:**

Juniata College Office of Diversity & Inclusion. *Juniata College*.

LGBT resources -- definition of terms. *Gender Equity Resource Center*.

What is Safe Zone? How do I find information to start a heterosexual ally program on my campus? (2005). *Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals*.

Pflag Information and Resources. (2012) [www.community.pflag.org](http://www.community.pflag.org)

And special thanks to all the club officers and advisors who helped explain their group's goals!