

June 6, 2008 Invite Letter for Train-the-Trainer

The President's Task Force on Campus Climate has made it a high priority to establish a Safe Space program for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQ) community to ensure our campus is a step ahead in creating a more inclusive atmosphere. According to a survey done by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in 2003, "more than one third of gay college students experienced harassment in [2002]; half concealed sexual orientation to avoid intimidation, [and] 43% call their campus homophobic."

The Safe Space core committee has invited Eva Vega, a diversity trainer, and an expert in the area of Safe Spaces who has vast experience working with SUNY campuses, to come to Stony Brook. She will be facilitating an all day training session on June 26th for 30 people who will become trainers for the Safe Space program.

These 30 people will team up in pairs to administer at least one 3-hour Safe Space training per academic year. Our goal is to eventually train all areas of the campus.

After careful review of potential colleagues who would support this training program, the committee selected you as one of our champions for the Safe Space program. **We invite you to participate in this very important initiative.**

The program has been coordinated by the Center for Prevention and Outreach, The Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action, Employee Assistance Program, Physics, Psychology, Pride@SBU, and graduate and undergraduate students including some from the Stony Brook LGBT Alliance.

It is important that you RSVP by Friday June 20th to **ODAA@notes.cc.sunysb.edu** Once you have confirmed, we will inform you of the details of the event.

Attached are the goals of the Safe Space Program. Please feel free to contact any one of us with questions or comments.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope you will join us in launching this exciting new program.

Donna Buehler, Employee Assistance Program
Pam Burris, Physics
Katie Flanagan, SBLGBT A
Michael Greenstein, Graduate Student
Jenny Hwang, Center for Prevention and Outreach
Christina Law, Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action
Smita Majumdar, Wo/Men's and Gender Resource Center

Nancy Squires, Psychology
Marylou Stewart, Pride@SBU
Chris Tanaka, Center for Prevention and Outreach

Attachment: Goals

Goals of Safe Space:

- To support the campus in its efforts to foster a bias-free learning and working environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning persons through providing education and training for the campus community.
- To expand the network of allies on campus.
- To build awareness of the issues affecting LGBTQ persons as well providing training to develop skills for allies.
- To create more campus spaces where LGBTQ persons feel safe, supported, and valued as members of our university or campus community.
- To provide resources and appropriate referrals for members of the campus community seeking additional support and information in this area.