Stories of How our Campus Rallied and Students were Impacted
What is MBLGTACC?

- Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference
- The largest LGBTQIA College Conference in the nation
- Provides educational workshops, keynotes, identity forums, & entertainment and social opportunities for students and advisors over three days
- Rotates annually around the Midwest every year, students bid to host at their university
- Completely student-run
MBLGTACC 2015 by the numbers...

- **2,300** attendees
- **183** different colleges, universities, and organizations in attendance
- **23** Planning Team Members, including 14 students, 7 advisors and 2 community members
- **161** conference volunteers
- **107** workshops
- **149** workshop proposals
- **$30,000** in funding and in-kind gifts from 21 sponsors
Topics covered

- Consent
- Allies
- Bisexuality
- Aromanticism
- Self-care
- Identity
- Queer
- LGBT
- STIs
- Assault
- Pronouns
- Makeup
- History
- Race
- Transgender
- Healthcare
- Jobs
- Asexuality
- Religion
- Inclusivity
- Violence
- BDSM
- Toys
Impact on attendees:
Inclusivity and Understanding

Selinda Garcia @sullykins12  Feb 13
Having a blast at #MBLGTACC2015 and feeling the love and acceptance! #thisisamazing #lavernecoxigoddess

Chase Ledn @chaseden  Feb 13
Beautiful crowd, beautiful people. Inclusive weekend, safe community. #MBLGTACC2015

Sporty Spice @colindamnit  Feb 13
Gender neutral bathrooms all weekend? This is going to be amazing #NarratingANewNormal #MBLGTACC2015
Impact on attendees:
Freedom from feelings of isolation

Shakiva @kelacharme Feb 14
When the room is too small to fit ALL of the queer students of color at this conference. What cha call a good problem

Sporty Spice @colinda.mit Feb 14
I have never felt more myself than I do now I never want to leave. Why can't I go to college with all of these people.... #MBLGTACC2015

Adam Lyon @homosexuallover Feb 15 Normal, IL
About to go back to #Minnesota from #mblgtacc2015. Had a super fun and liberating weekend. ♡
@… https://instagram.com/p/zIDkozAvMA/
Impact on attendees: Readiness for action
Impact on attendees:

Overview

Robyn Ochs @robynochsf Feb 15
To the organizers of #MBLGTACC2015: thank you for creating this amazing space for 2500 college students from the Midwest & beyond!
Impact on planners: Reasons for Involvement

• “I wanted to be part of something awesome for my community.”
• “I wanted to meet people on campus”
• “I wanted to help provide the same amazing atmosphere that was provided to me when I attended MBLGTACC.”
Impact on planners: Skills or experience gained

- Experience related to my future career (disabilities work, communications work, event planning)
- Greater acceptance of others
- Volunteer management, conference planning and logistics
- Networking, outreach
- How to manage multiple projects
- Crisis and risk management
- Delegation and team-building
Impact on planners: Insight gained about self

- “That I am in the right place in my life and I can’t wait to start the next chapter.”
- “I feel more comfortable with those different than me.”
- “That we all are fortunate for one reason or another, and we have to use that to help each other.”
- “I learned that I’m not done learning about myself. I have so much more that I need to figure out about myself and my identity.”
Impact on advisors: 
A new approach to group development

Quadrant 3
University: students produce programs
Students: Young adulthood
Advisor: Program Advisor/Teacher

Quadrant 2
University: advisor produces programs; some recognition of student committee
Students: Adolescence
Advisor: Program Teacher/Director

Quadrant 4
University: students maintain organization
Students: Maturity
Advisor: Program Consultant

Quadrant 1
University: advisor produces program
Students: Infancy
Advisor: Program Director

Concern for process

Concern for product

Adapted from Allen, K.E. (1983). Choosing the effective advising style: The suitable role for an adviser will be dictated by changing environmental factors. *Student Activities Programming*, May, 34-37.
Talking about these issues...

- **Think about the words you use**
  - Get comfortable using terminology
  - Don’t make assumptions
  - Use inclusive language
  - Increase awareness of comments you make that support a normative view of gender or sexual identity
Being an Ally

- **Ally:** Someone who advocates for and supports members of a community other than their own—reaching across differences to achieve mutual goals.
- An ally to the LGBTQ community is a non-LGBTQ person who supports and honors sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.
- An ally acts to their personal ability to challenge homophobia or heterosexism and is willing to explore and understand these forms of bias within themselves. This person stands up for the rights of LGBTQ people.
5 Ways to Be a Good Ally

1. Don’t assume
2. NEVER out someone
3. Avoid jokes and END THEM
4. Ask questions to understand
5. Take action


Being an Ally!
Resources- ISU

- Student Counseling Services
  http://Counseling.IllinoisState.edu/
- Diversity Advocacy
  http://DeanofStudents.IllinoisState.edu/involvement/diversity
- Triangle Association, Illinois State University
  http://triangle.IllinoisState.edu/resources/
- Dean of Students
  http://DeanofStudents.IllinoisState.edu/
- PRIDE
  http://www.facebook.com/isupride
- LGBT/Queer Studies and Services Institute
  http://lgbtq.IllinoisState.edu/
Resources – Bloomington/Normal

- PFLAG-Bloomington-Normal  
  http://www.pflagbn.com/
- LGBT affirming churches: Bloomington-Normal  
  http://www.gaychurch.org
- Prairie Pride Coalition  
  http://www.ppc-il.org/
- Bloomington Human Rights Commission  
  http://bloomington.in.gov/bhrc
- Bloomington-Planned Parenthood: LGBT services  
  http://www.plannedparenthood.org/health-center/centerDetails.asp?f=2891&a=90430&v=details#!service=lgbt
- McLean County AIDS task force  
  http://mcatf.org/
Online Resources

- Straight But Not Narrow  
  http://straightbutnotnarrow.org/
- The Trevor Project  
  www.thetrevorproject.org
- It Gets Better Project  
  www.itgetsbetter.org
- Human Rights Campaign  
  www.HRC.org
- Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network  
  www.gslen.org
- Campus Pride  
  www.Campuspride.org
Thank you to our campus partners for all the conference support!