

Subject: GLBTQ Online High School January 2 Update

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From: GLBTQ Online High School <dave@glbtqonlinehighschool.com>

Reply-To: "GLBTQ Online High School" <dave@glbtqonlinehighschool.com>

To: Dave Glick dave@glickconsulting.com

Conversation: GLBTQ Online High School January 2 Update

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Happy New Year!

January 2, 2009

It has been a busy few weeks for the founding team, and we couldn't be more excited about all that we hope the new year will bring!

It is hard to believe that it has been less than six weeks since we first announced our plans to form the world's first online school focused on the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender youth and those questioning their sexuality. Based on the reaction we've received, clearly the time is right for such an idea. We already have 25 people who have expressed interest in teaching for the school and have had several inquiries from students or their families. The Advisory Board is nearly complete, and plans are underway for the first meeting on February 6 here in Minnesota.

We reached an early milestones on December 31 when we submitted our application to the IRS for tax-exempt status. Although it generally takes 3-6 months for approval, with that application pending, we can now seek donations more

Important new research

A significant research study was just released showing that gay youth who experience family rejection during adolescence are more than 8 times more likely to report having attempted suicide, nearly 6 times more likely to report high levels of depression, and 3.4 times more likely to use illegal drugs or engage in unprotected sex compared to peers that reported no or low levels of family rejection.

Read more at

psychcentral.com/news/2008/12/30/parents-who-reject-gay-teens-hurt-teens-health/3572.html

aggressively. Once we're approved, tax-exempt status is generally retroactive to our founding date (November 24, 2008). Legal details aside, our non-profit status and the submission of the 501(c)3 application lets people know we're serious about our non-profit, tax-exempt approach to the school. If you'd like to make a donation, you can do so by credit card on the website www.glbtqonlinehighschool.com or by check made out to the school and sent to the mailing address in the footer of this newsletter. Thanks!

Over the next few weeks, we'll be continuing to build the school's foundation of policies, handbooks, student applications, teacher applications and other documents. We'll also be continuing to investigate grants, curriculum options, and learning management systems. We've only just begun, but we're off to a great start!

Thanks to all for your support, and may it be a wonderful year for all!

Dave Glick, Executive Director, GLBTQ Online High School
dave@glbtqonlinehighschool.com
651-735-4125

Our mailing address is:
GLBTQ Online High School
540 Dorland Road South
Maplewood, MN 55119
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