

Subject: GLBTQ Online HS 7-23 update

Date: Thursday, July 23, 2009 10:58 AM

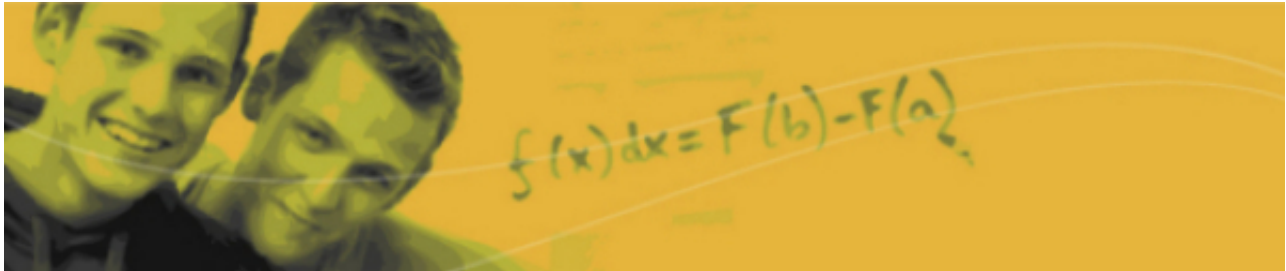
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Conversation: GLBTQ Online HS 7-23 update

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Not just for their future, but for all of ours.

What a tremendous time in history. I was recently asked by my publisher to create an updated second edition of my book for GLBTQ teens, which first came out several years ago. As I contemplate the start of this project and assess what information needs to be added and what sections updated, I'm left with the happy answer, "a lot."

So much has changed in the last few years; I daresay most of it—with a few glaring exceptions, such as Prop 8—has been for the better. But even in the darkness of the Prop 8 decision overturning same-sex marriage in California, there is the light of hope. Yes, we were defeated on this measure, but most believe, as I do, that it is only a matter of time before the pendulum starts to swing in our direction.

Take this as an indicator. I recently came across a piece describing the "dilemma" that many Catholic and Southern Baptist churches are encountering as more and more of the next generation within those churches speak out in favor of equality for all. These young parishioners see homophobia as "un-Christian." In fact, many of our young people today, regardless of spirituality, see homophobia as played out, antiquated and just plain uncool.

Without a doubt, overall, today's GLBTQ teens face a better, more open world than even I experienced just a two decades ago. Many in this present generation



Executive Director update

Thanks to Kelly for writing the article for this issue of the newsletter!

Expect to hear from other Advisory Board members in future editions.

Website activity

Our new website is doing its job well! In the less-than-three weeks since its launch, we've had hundreds of visitors from over 40 states and 15 other countries. The daily visitor count has risen every day since the launch and remains over 60% new visitors. Word is spreading!

Donations, of course!

We welcome all donations, large & small! We are currently seeking donations for start-up costs and student scholarships. Visit our website or click below to donate by credit card. Thanks very much! Every little bit helps!

GLBTQ Online High School is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation functioning under the laws of the State of Minnesota. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

self-identifying as “gay,” “bisexual,” “straight” or “transgender.” Instead, it’s not uncommon to hear teens identify as “none of the above,” “gender queer” or just to plainly say, “I don’t identify. I’m just me.”

In this way, today’s teens are not only pushing forward the gay, bisexual, and transgender movements. By underscoring the message: “It shouldn’t matter ‘what’ you are,” they are advancing the human movement. Who among us—gay, straight, black, white, Muslim, Jewish, and so on—wouldn’t benefit from more people in the world embracing the concept that indeed it doesn’t matter. Your emotional orientation, your gender identity, your race, your religion...none of it should matter in terms of determining the rights to which we as human beings are each entitled.

So how can we, as adults, support today’s GLBTQ people and their message? Protect them. Encourage them. Ensure that they have access to safe and equal education. For as much as the world has improved, many of today’s GLBTQ teens still face harassment and violence. I am so proud to lend my support to GLBTQ Online High School because of the tremendous potential it has to positively impact so many of our young people. I truly believe that this institution is contributing to making our world a better place for all.

Kelly Huegel, Advisory Board Member and Author, "The Survival Guide for Queer and Questioning Teens"

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Facebook Activity

Our Facebook activity and membership to our "cause" also increases daily. Our several hundred cause members give us an easy way to get word out to a great many people. If you haven't already, join Facebook and join our cause page! Re-posting our announcements and my own postings on your FB home page is a great way to help the school grow! Join our "cause" on Facebook by clicking the logo below.



School Store

Need some new clothes, a mouse pad, water bottle or other items? Check out our [school store through CafePress](#). You can get some great looking stuff and support the school at the same time!