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**PRIDE Institute to Provide Counseling and Mental Health Services for GLBTQ Online High School Students!**

**PRIDE Institute and GLBTQ Online High School** have partnered to provide mental health services on an as-needed basis to the school's students!

PRIDE's growing focus on health needs of adolescents is helping GLBTQ Online High School move forward dramatically with its efforts to provide not only high quality education for its students, but comprehensive support services as well. "GLBTQ Online High School is an important new option for these students, and we at PRIDE and PRISM are excited to be a part of it," said Weston Edwards, PhD, LP, clinic director of PRIDE Institute's Outpatient Services. PRISM, the Minneapolis-based PRIDE-affiliate mental health program, will be providing online and phone services, as well as using its nationwide network of glbtq-friendly mental health services to assist families in finding services in their own area.

Dave Glick, Executive Director for GLBTQ Online High School added, "We want the very best comprehensive services for our students. Our partnership with PRIDE and PRISM ensures that if needed, our kids will receive the highest quality counseling services available, no matter where they live." The school's teachers will also benefit from the partnership thanks to a staff training program that PRIDE and PRISM will provide. This partnership will be fully in place in time for the school's opening on January 25, 2010.

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## **About PRIDE Institute**

Founded in 1986, with over 10,000 graduates, PRIDE Institute is the nation's first and leading provider of in-patient and out-patient programs devoted exclusively to treating the mental health and chemical dependency needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

We specialize in the treatment of drug and alcohol addiction, sex addiction, depression, anxiety and HIV/AIDS-related stress and grief. Many of our clients are dealing with a combination of addiction, depression, anxiety and/or HIV/AIDS. PRIDE Institute is fully accredited for the treatment of chemical dependency and mental health.

In 2009, PRIDE opened a mental health affiliate program called PRISM. This program allows for individual and group therapy for a variety of mental health needs specific to the LGBTQ community and our allies.

## **About GLBTQ Online High School**

GLBTQ Online High School is the world's first online high school created especially for students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning their sexuality or gender. It is a private school based near St. Paul, Minnesota and opens on January 25, 2010 to serve students nationwide and from around the world.

The school will provide a safe and welcoming educational community and a high quality, comprehensive college-preparatory online high school experience for students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning their sexual orientation or gender using the best technology and techniques of distance education.