



Cornell University  
Student Assembly

**LGBTQ-Ally Ambassador Program**  
**[Presented with Resolution #]**  
**Spring 2013**

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*LGBTQ Ally Ambassador Program*

**Cornell University Student Assembly** [www.CornellSA.com](http://www.CornellSA.com)  
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## **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Provide peer-to-peer support in each of the Greek chapters using internal members.
2. Provide access and knowledge of resources to members.
3. Work to remove biased language and behavior through positive education and recognition of Greek houses own internal diversity
4. Expand comfort for LGBTQ students considering joining a Greek chapter and work to eliminate aggressive hetero-normative behavior within chapters.

## **RATIONALE:**

Identity formation is a critical and often stressful process especially for LGBTQ identifying students. Many students rely on positive support from family and friends in their journey (and acceptance) of “Coming Out.” The Greek Chapters at Cornell have some of the highest perceived rates of bias incidents related to LGBTQ people, making these environments particularly unwelcoming to prospective members and discourages current members from “Coming Out.” We hope that by placing individuals who have had some experience, training, and demonstrated dedication to supporting all members in Greek Chapters, we might make these environments more open and comfortable for all members and community members outside the Greek system. Greek life offers students so many opportunities to grow as individuals and develop life long relationships with other members. This program aligns with these ideas.

In addition, education and experience talking with and understanding societal issues that confront LGBTQ students are vital lessons for non-LGBTQ people to develop as responsible Cornellians and citizens. The level of bias within the Greek System must be addressed and members need to see the greater implications for fellow members and the Cornell community.

## **PROCEDURE / IMPLICATION:**

### Requirements:

1. Each Interfraternity Council Fraternity and each Panhellenic Sorority have at least one full time, dedicated Ambassador.
2. MGLC chapters must have at least one Ambassador but can join with other chapters and share Ambassadors (such that the total number of students to one Ambassador does not exceed 25).
3. Ambassadors must attend the semesterly orientation to be hosted by Haven and Ambassadors must attend at least one sub-organization programming event per semester.
4. Ambassadors will be on newly created list-serve that will communicate events and LBGTQ-related news.
5. Ambassadors are not required to identify as LBGTQ. Anyone is eligible to serve as an ambassador for their respective chapter.

### Orientation Program:

1. Following the model of P.E.G.S. the first part of the event will be presentation style, which focuses on the personal stories of the presenters.
2. The program will allow participants to discuss terminology and issues related to the LBGTQ community.
3. The next part will include a facilitated discussion that allows Ambassadors and presenters to highlight the issues in our Greek system and collectively methods to work through issues. In addition, Ambassadors can discuss anonymously their success so far through a feedback form either electronically or paper.
4. The final segment will be a reminder of resources and upcoming events.

## **ORGANIZATION:**

1. The LGBT Resource Center and the Haven E-Board in conjunction with the LGBTQ Student Assembly Liaison will oversee this program.
2. The Tri-Council will ensure maximum compliance from each house in the Greek system.
3. Haven will fund the necessary expenses such as food and training materials for orientation, advertisement materials, etc.