

“Finding Your Voice”: 3rd Annual Lehigh Valley LGBTQIA Intercollegiate Conference

March 29, 2014

“Identity and ally development”

81%

agree or strongly agree that the conference **increased their understanding of their own sense of self** and identity

“It made me look into myself without any of the usual pressures and see myself. It also made me think parts of myself that I usually don't.”

85%

agree or strongly agree that they **will be a better ally to the LGBTQ community** as a result of attending the conference

The day-long conference, produced by LGBTQIA Services, featured 18 sessions on issues such as identity in the workplace, how to be a transgender ally, the importance of marriage equality, and explored multiple ways and opportunities to help participants “find their voice”. LGBTQIA Services sought to understand the impact the conference had on participants through surveys after each session and a follow-up survey on the entire conference experience. The insights gathered are presented in this report.

“Learning new things and deepening understanding of the LGBTQ community”

84%

agree or strongly agree that their **understanding of one or more groups in the LGBTQ community increased**

99%

indicated that the conference was valuable because **they learned new things**

90%

agree or strongly agree that they learned information at the conference they could take back and use at their school or organization

“I explored topics I do not get to explore in my day to day interactions and studies.”

“Totally amazing and most valuable thing I've learned at Lehigh as a pre-med student.”

“A sense of belonging and community”

80%

agree or strongly agree that attending the conference helped them feel a **sense of belonging to a community**

“At Lehigh, most of the time I feel like I don't have a community. Even though we have a small LGBTQIA group, it doesn't seem like everyone has the same goals and interests. At the conference however, I felt a much greater sense of **community** and **belonging** and **openness**.”

“I knew that I shared common goals and interests with everyone around me and that it was a safe space in which I could ask questions, share information, and have experiences. I felt **we all had a voice**.”

“The conference **made me feel like I'm not all alone**. Other people are trying to figure themselves out and their way through the many gender, expressions and sexual orientations. It gave an open and caring place for everyone.”

School Affiliation

