

100 Projects for Peace Proposal: Walk for Peace and Inclusion

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Premise and World Peace Issue

Today a problem exists in which a significant percentage of the general population of Iowa, while not opposed to equality and peace through inclusion, remains unresponsive to the current efforts that would grant equality and end discrimination for many. Alliance feels strongly that it is only through efforts to inform this section of our population that we can elicit their active participation.

Project Description

The Wartburg College Alliance group (campus GSA), under the mentorship of Rob Anderson (advisor) and other student group leaders, plans to coordinate and implement a Walk for Peace and Inclusion by May 25th 2007. The walk, which will be held in an effort to bring awareness to the issue of discrimination and exclusion based specifically on sexual orientation in Iowa's local and state based institutions, will commence at Wartburg College and end at the state capitol, Des Moines. In addition, the walk will also be in celebration and recognition of the progressive revisions made to the state's anti-bullying policy and its recent inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. Because issues of equality are not merely community-based but rather possess state and national implications, and because Alliance is well aware of the importance of networking, we anticipate the cooperation of organizations such as the Iowa Task Force and the Iowa Pride Network that share a common interest in ending discrimination and exclusion based solely on sexual orientation.

STATEMENT OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR Y2007

Goal: I

To bring awareness of discrimination and exclusion based on sexual orientation in Iowa's local and statewide institutions, in an attempt to sway the impartial population of Iowa, and with the overall intended impact of decreasing social unrest between the GLBTA (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transsexual, Ally) and opposition in the heterosexual community.

Objective:

Wartburg College Alliance will work with the Iowa Task Force and the Iowa Pride Network in gathering and presenting statistics and school climate surveys through various media regarding the larger issue of physical and non-physical harassment, discrimination and exclusion faced by GLBTA identified students/non students. The collaborative effort of Alliance, The Task Force, and Iowa Pride Network, will elicit the participation of a larger audience of high school and college students. Alliance also plans to implement two informational waves consisting of surveys, statistics, and op-ed pieces, with the intention of alerting the local campus community on issues of discrimination and exclusion faced by the GLBTA population; these are to be distributed on or before April 11th 2007. May 25th usher in a second wave of information targeting the state's general public in an effort to address the issue at hand. To complement our efforts, video documentation will be created as a concrete account of the project's successes. An overall assessment will be based on the execution of the objectives by the designated dates.

Goal: II

To provide a social avenue by which the Wartburg community will be able to demonstrate its commitment to the college mission statement, "Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning."

Objective: II

Alliance will take the initiative in leading Wartburg community members with a vested belief that discrimination and exclusion based solely on sexual orientation is not in accordance with each individual's inalienable right to human dignity and happiness. Alliance will coordinate and implement the Walk for Peace and Inclusion by May 25th 2007. A survey of participants in the Wartburg Community will be administered in order to evaluate the degree to which the project met its intended outcomes.

Proposed Outcomes and Sustainability

Today a problem exists in which a significant percentage of the general population of Iowa, while not opposed to equality and peace through inclusion, remains unresponsive to the current efforts that would grant equality and end discrimination for many. Alliance feels strongly that it is only through efforts to inform this section of our population that we can elicit their active participation. Based on the project's success, we would like to make The Walk for Peace and Inclusion an annual event. Alliance envisions an end to the disenfranchisement experienced by the GLBT community. There can be no peace amidst the current environment indicative of social inequality.

OFFICIAL ROUTING

*Approximately 105 miles from Waverly to Iowa City

*Approximately 114 miles from Downtown Iowa City to the Des Moines Capitol.



EVIDENCE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT

Letters of support were provided by Rob Anderson, Assistant Director of Resident Life and Alliance Advisor, as well as by, Ryan Roerman, Director of Iowa Pride Network.