

# ALGBTIC NEWS

Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues in Counseling

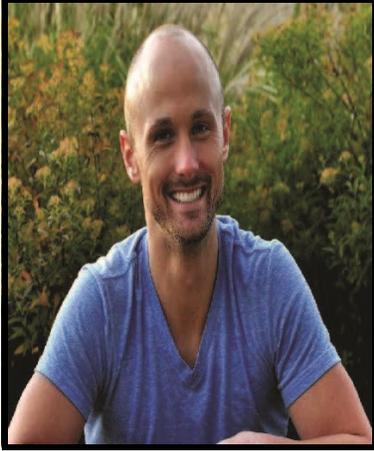
XXXVII, Issue 1

Winter and Pre-Conference 2013

A Division of the American Counseling Association

## Message from the President

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter.



I first must thank our members and Board. You have truly made this year exciting! ALGBTIC hopes everyone who celebrated the past holidays had a wonderful holiday season, Winter Solstice, and a fantastic New Year. As we creep further into the year we want to highlight events at the 2013 ACA Conference in Cincinnati including ALGBTIC/ACES first wellness event, the Rainbow Run 5k & 1 Mile Walk for Wellness & Equality. During the conference ALGBTIC puts on several wonderful events including a reception, Open-Member meeting, Queer People of Color Gathering, Day of Learning presentations, an Open-Member Meeting and a brunch celebrating the past year! Please be looking for information regarding all events on the ALGBTIC list serve and at ALGBTIC.org.

We would also like to extend our thoughts and remembrances to those we lost this year. In particular we want to send our

condolences to the families, significant others and friends of the persons lost through violence. Far too many in our country and abroad had their lives cut short this year thus we extend our compassion to all of those lost and victimized this year through violence.

Many mental health professionals and educators note violence in our society as a premier ill of a nation that needs to be more aware and focused on mental health and wellness. We need to have a dialogue on violence, poverty, diversity and mental health with our neighbors, policymakers and young people.

I challenge all of us to continue creating a better world, for LGBTQQIA clients and others, through support of services to those who need it most. We simply cannot allow young people (LGBTQQIA and heterosexual) to see suicide and violence as the only answers to what ails them.

I end this address with the desire for everyone to enjoy this time of year with family and friends while also adequately tending to your self-care needs.

Let us have a year with ample energy, motivation and determination to go on moving forward!!!

Sincerely,  
 Pete Finnerty, President  
 Association of LGBT Issues in Counseling

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## ALGBTIC Leadership 2012-2013

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**Samuel Sanabria & Tara Hill,  
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**Amney Harper & Pete Finnerty  
LGBQQIA Competences Task Force**

**Kristopher Goodrich, Melissa Luke and Anneliese Singh,  
Safe Schools Task Force**

**Jillian Blum, Pia Small, & Jared Rose  
Technology and Resources Committee**

**Kris Goodrich and Jenifer Rutter,  
LGBTQQIA Affirmative Counseling & Social Justice Com-  
mittee**

**Jason Patton and Stacey Reicherzer,  
Transgender Committee**

**Amber Pope & Amanda Brace  
Ally Development Taskforce**

## Message from the Editor

L. Angelo Gomez, Ph.D. CRC, LPC



One more time, I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve you through this publication as editor. I hope that by being part of this newsletter I have continued

the work of my predecessors and by extension contributed to the advocacy on behalf of all the members of the LGBTQIA community. Moreover, I hope that the openness and flexibility intended within this publication can continue to reach the widest possible audience. Above all, I hope that allies have felt the call to join forces and contribute to the work that still remains to be done on behalf of the LGBTQIA community.

At the beginning of this new year, I want to invite colleagues to bring your contributions to the newsletter. We have quite a bit left to cover. There is much to be said and written, much research to be done to understand the complexity of the lives our clients, patients, and students live. Again, I invite allies to work alongside us. As editor it is my professional interest to include the work allies conduct in advancing social justice and integration of all individuals who are members of the LGBTIQ community. There is great diversity, so much that many voices are needed to further explain the complexity of the human experience.

I encourage you all to submit ideas, articles, comments, reviews, etc. I also make a special plea for graduate students to submit their ideas, especially doctoral students. We can include a diversity of voices within these pages.

It is my hope that together we can build a more fair society that is inclusive of all people, allows everyone the right to be who they are, who they want to be, and who they can best be.

I invite manuscripts from those interested in the transgender community. Persons who are transgender or androgynous go through such a difficult road not only in the legal aspect of their transition, but also in the psychological process of acceptance, integration, and recognition. Sometimes, even within the work we do, we borrow their letter, but fail to recognize them, and with them we overlook their contributions and strength. Bring your voices, we want to hear them and with these voices we can strengthen those who will follow your path.

My last invitation goes to those who are trapped in the binomial system of either/or. Fathers, brothers, sisters and mothers who love those who come from both gender identities, speak up and speak loud, we want to hear your eloquent voices. I invite you to share with us how you live, what struggles you face, what solutions you have found and how you have found the strength to love those who are of your gender or the opposite one.

I invite you all one more time to work together to create a society that is inclusive, accepting, inviting and caring for those who have been marginalized, and/or are not legally recognized yet. Let's shake and move the margins of society to bring more people in rather than keeping people out.

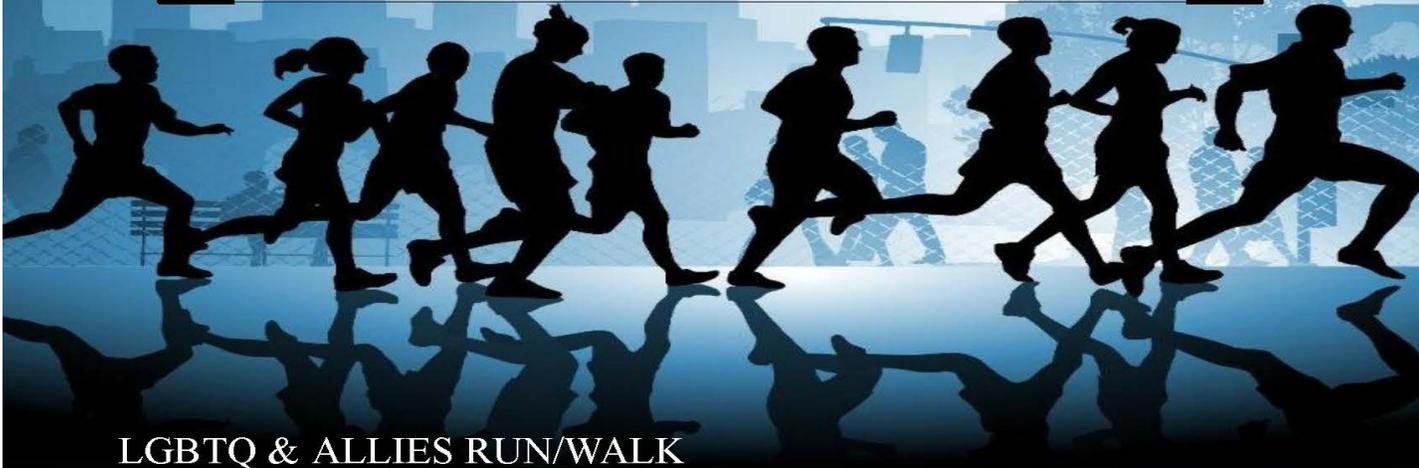
Let's unite as one!

¡¡¡Si se puede gente, si se puede!!!

Sincerely,

**Angelo Gomez**

# Rainbow Run 5K & 1-Mile Walk for Mental Wellness & Equality



**LGBTQ & ALLIES RUN/WALK**  
to raise awareness and support for  
mental health recovery

Proceeds benefiting local  
LGBTQ and Mental Health

For questions contact Race Director:

Pete Finnerty — pfinnert@kent.edu

To volunteer contact a Volunteer  
Coordinator:

Amanda Brace — abrace@kent.edu  
Tonya Hammer — hammer@uhcl.edu



## Don't Miss Out!

Sunday, March 24, 2013

Sawyer Point Park /  
Yeatman's Cove Park

705 E. Pete Rose Way  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

6:30-7:45am: Registration

8:00am: Race/Walk Start

\$20: Before March 1, 2013

\$25: After March 1, 2013

Food & drinks!

Commemorative T-Shirts!

Register, volunteer, see course  
map and more:

[http://www.active.com/  
running/cincinnati-oh/  
rainbow-run-5k-and-1-mile-  
walk-2013](http://www.active.com/running/cincinnati-oh/rainbow-run-5k-and-1-mile-walk-2013)

## Midwest Trans\* & Queer Wellness Initiative

### Awards

- ◇ Female
- ◇ Male
- ◇ Androgynous/  
Transgender
- ◇ Differently-Abled
- ◇ Seven different age  
categories

Presenting Organizations



## ALGBTIC Responds to Current Issues Facing the LGBTQIA Community and Counselors

Pete Finnerty

President-ALGBTIC

Doctoral Candidate-Kent State University

LPC-Counseling For Wellness, LLC

In the current political, economic and social climate the LGBTQIA community and counselors who serve this community experience huge wins and losses each day. Regardless we strive to advocate for our clients and selves through social justice efforts. The most effective measure to create positive, affirming environments is sustained social action on behalf of our constituencies (J. A. Lewis, M. S. Arnold, R. House, & R. L. Toporek, 2002).

Currently we are faced with several issues, some specific to counseling, others to equality. All efforts are paramount to continued advocacy with and for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and ally (LGBTQIA) community. Although such issues for the community are continually prevalent, we have several pieces of recent legislation to be concerned about. Please consider the following issues.

As counseling is inherently measured by and intertwined with optimal wellness, we shall begin with the affirmative. In California Gov. Jerry Brown recently signed into law SB-1172, which prohibits the use of sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE) on minors by practicing therapists. Here is the law as passed:

<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml;jsessionid=cf4b18c9559441402de7096325a0>

This is a huge victory for counselors, psychologists, social workers, psychiatrists, marriage and family therapists, and other mental health professionals, who understand that reparative or conversion therapies pose serious risks to clients.

ALGBTIC has consistently and fervently noted the following in regard to SOCE practices, most recently in the "ALGBTIC Competencies for Counseling LGBTQIA Individuals" (ALGBTIC, 2012):

"(Counselors) Understand that attempts to "alter," "repair," "convert," or "change" the affectional orientations or gender identities/expressions of LGBTQ individuals are detrimental or may even be life-threatening, are repudiated by empirical and qualitative findings, and must not be undertaken. When individuals inquire about previously noted techniques, counselors should advise them of the potential harm related to these interventions and focus on helping individuals to achieve a healthy, congruent affectional orientation or gender identity/expression. Counseling approaches that are affirmative of these identities and realities are supported by empirical findings, best practices, and professional organizations such as ACA and APA (p.5)."

In addition ALGBTIC has continually noted the following:

1. Being gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, etc. **is not an aspect of one's self that should or needs to be changed.** This would be akin to noting someone should change their skin, eye, or hair color because of societal pressure.
2. Sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE) are not backed by quality research (i.e. Spitzer, 2003) and can actually be quite harmful as noted by multiple independent research studies and commissions in counseling, psychology, social work, etc.
3. SOCE have been connected to severe depression, anxiety, lowered self-esteem, etc. and may lead to suicidal ideation/ attempts and serious physical symptoms associated with mental health issues.

ALGBTIC fully supports laws that protect LGBTQI youth and clients of all ages from SOCE, otherwise known as reparative or conversion therapies. ALGBTIC also fervently supports the development of and continued advocacy of allies to the LGBTQI community at all governmental, institutional, organizational, educational, and communal levels. Sadly, this current law that prohibits SOCE is already experiencing challenges in the courts as noted below.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/05/us/judge-blocks-california-conversion-therapies-law.html?smid=pl-share>

State Representative Babette Josephs (D-Philadelphia) has also introduced legislation banning reparative therapy for minors

(H.B. 2691) in the state of Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, she is retiring this year so hopefully we will have another representative from Pennsylvania take this effort on. One way we can affect positive change in Pennsylvania is to encourage representatives to pick up this legislation for the next term. You can find the link to Rep. Josephs' statements below.

<http://www.pahouse.com/PR/182100512.asp>

State Representative Tim Eustace (D-Bergen/Passaic) of New Jersey has also introduced legislation in the NJ Assembly known as A-3371 that is similar in nature. Eustace applauded several men who are suing a Jersey City-based conversion-counseling group currently and based his legislation in their struggles. See the current information about the bill below.

<http://www.assemblydems.com/Article.asp?ArticleID=6014>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier (D-California) has introduced the resolution known as the "Stop Harming Our Kids Resolution" (H.CON.RES.141) in the US House of Reps. Obviously this a resolution that lacks teeth to create federal law criminalizing the practice of reparative therapy but is a step in the direction of protecting minors on the federal level. See this legislation at the following link.

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/D?d112:21:./temp/~bdtFzy:>

The ACA Governing Council was included in this bill as one of entities that dismissed the notion one's sexual orientation should or could be changed. The ACA Governing

Council's 1999 statement is noted within the bill alongside several other mental health organizations' statements, with actual research on the topic specifically noted. Currently there are 11 co-sponsors to this vital resolution that will bring more attention to the serious issues inherent in reparative therapies.

While we celebrate these gains, we still have many anti-LGBTQQIA laws or practices that need our attention. SB-975 in Michigan, which is inherently anti-LGBTQQIA and discriminatory towards multiple communities, nearly made it to the governor's desk. This legislation went further than previous legislation in Arizona, which allows counselors to discriminate against LGBTQQIA persons for religious reasons.

Both the Arizona legislation, which was signed into law by Gov. Jan Brewer (R-AZ), and the SB975 in Michigan dealt with issues of "conscience". The fundamental difference between the two bills is that Michigan's bill attempted to allow the right to discriminate for medical professionals along with practicing counselors and therapists, and imposed sanctions against organizations that tried to punish providers for discrimination.

Thus, a medical/mental health professional can decide to deny treatment to anyone based upon "conscience". This is obviously a seriously troubling ethical issue, which would allow direct violations of the ACA Code of Ethics' specific code requiring the ethical practice of non-discrimination.

In essence and substance, this legislation meant that marginalized populations, such as (*but not limited to*) the LGBTQQIA community, may have even less access to

needed counseling, medical treatment, testing, and emergency care. In an environment where it is incredibly difficult for LGBTQQIA persons to have equal access to these needed forms of care laws that make it feasible for medical and counseling professionals to discriminate will serve as larger barriers.

Another issue with this legislation was it allowed for persons (namely students) at educational institutions the right to discriminate which seems to be a direct result of the *Julea Ward v. Board of Regents of Eastern Michigan University* in which a student refused to see a gay client because of her religious beliefs. This case was recently resolved and left intact the Eastern Michigan counseling program's policies and procedures regarding non-discrimination. The program's procedures are informed by and inherently include the ACA Code of Ethics thus representing an ethical code counselors are bound by in order to protect clients from stigmatizing and unscientific practice. The fact the program's policies and procedures were left intact shows how the ACA Ethical Code is instrumental in protecting our clients. You can find the press release below.

<http://www.emich.edu/univcomm/releases/release.php?id=1355161741>

Reading SB-975 in its entirety is strongly suggested to understand the scope of effect, which was nearly limitless as it left all persons vulnerable to discrimination. Please see the language of the bill below.

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(4xwxtuqpbk12id3wnvsvbjrx\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2012-SB-0975](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(4xwxtuqpbk12id3wnvsvbjrx))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2012-SB-0975)

ALGBTIC strongly opposed this legislation and the current law in Arizona because of the inherent discrimination written into each of

these laws. ALGBTIC made phone calls and sent information to the Michigan governor strongly urging him to not sign the legislation. In the end the legislation passed the Senate chamber but did not make it to the House floor for a vote.

There were two other pieces of anti-LGBTQQIA legislation that allowed adoption agencies to discriminate in their practices based upon moral/religious convictions. This time around these two measures failed along with SB-975 but the legislators who introduced and supported these efforts will surely be back. See the latest info below.

<http://www.advocate.com/politics/2012/12/14/michigan-legislature-kills-bills-legalized-discrimination>

All of these bills and the current law in Arizona address "conscience" or values. ALGBTIC addresses issues of "values or morals" in the recent set of Competencies in the "Professional Orientation and Ethical Practice" section (ALGBTIC, 2012):

"E. 3. (Counselors will:) Consult with supervisors/colleagues when their personal values conflict with counselors' professional obligations related to LGBQQ individuals about creating a course of action that promotes the dignity and welfare of LGBQQ individuals (p.16)."

There is a demonstrated lack of discrimination in this statement. Denying treatment and discrimination is antithetical to "the dignity and welfare of LGBQQ(IA) individuals," thus laws that seek to allow

it are intruding deeply into personal rights and ethical professional practices of "do no harm". Furthermore, these types of laws denigrate counseling approaches that affirm and respect the client.

At the time of printing of this article there are several pieces of proposed legislation in Tennessee that will irrefutably harm LGBTQQIA youth in particular if passed. Many of us may be familiar with the "Don't say gay bill" proposed in the last few years and yes, it is back and may make it to the House floor for a vote soon. See more information about this piece of legislation below. <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2012-02-16/tennessee-bill-homosexuality/53116470/1>

In addition to these pressing issues there are a myriad of other issues facing the community. Currently, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) has decided to hear two cases of LGBTQQIA rights including benefits for legally married same-sex federal employees and California's Prop 8 case. These national issues often garner most of the attention so staying cognizant of what is going on in our states and communities is particularly relevant.

Encourage other interested parties such as students, colleagues and educators to advocate for positive change in the following ways.

- 1 Contact Michigan's Governor, Rick Snyder, to strongly urge him to not consider any legislation similar to SB -975 in the future. You can do so at the following link: <http://www.michigan.gov/snyder/0,4668,7-277-57827-267869--,00.html>.

2. Write letters to legislators/editors of periodicals and other forms of media in Michigan and Tennessee and your own states denouncing current efforts to discriminate.
3. Write letters to U.S. and state legislators at both the House and Senate levels in strong support of Rep. Jackie Speier's "Stop Harming Our Kids" and PA State Rep. Babette Josephs' HB-2691 legislation. Ideally we desire co-sponsors in the House and a corresponding bill introduced in the Senate with co-sponsors to support such legislation. In the instance of HB-2691 we need another representative to pick up the legislation.
4. All interested parties can write letters to the editor of periodicals such as local/national newspapers, magazines and other periodicals supporting marriage equality, equal treatment in regards to housing, adoption practices, medical/mental health treatment, school policies, etc.
5. Bring these issues to light in your agencies, schools, administrations, and classrooms.
6. Be an advocate and inspire others in their journeys of social justice advocacy. Utilize social networking, your classrooms and break rooms as an outlet.
7. For those in counselor education, strongly consider what you can do in your role as a gatekeeper to the profession.

8. Please read and share ALGBTIC's two sets of competencies (Transgender and LGBQQIA) and other resources at [algbtic.org](http://algbtic.org) for more ideas of how to effectively advocate as an ally for and with LGBTQQI community members. For your convenience here is the direct link to the sets of competencies: <http://www.algbtic.org/resources/competencies>.
9. The LGBTQIQA community needs everyone to become engaged and involved. Some of our lives will depend on it.
10. Make your spaces safe for all persons. You can be the Ally for those marginalized!

#### References

- Harper, A., Finnerty, P., Martinez, M., Brace, A., Crethar, H., Loos, B., Harper, B., Graham, S., Singh, A., Kocet, M., Travis, L. & Lambert, S. (2013). Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Counseling (ALGBTIC) Competencies for counseling with lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, questioning, intersex and ally individuals. *Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling*, 7(1). 2-43. DOI: DOI: 10.1080/15538605.2013.755444
- Lewis, J. A., Arnold, M. S., House, R., & Toporek, R. L. (2002). ACA Advocacy Competencies. Retrieved February 3, 2009, from: <http://www.counseling.orgPublications>.
- American Counseling Association (2005). ACA Code of Ethics. Alexandria, VA: Author.

# ALGBTIC Events at ACA 2013

Hello to the ALGBTIC community!

I hope life is well and you are all excited for the ACA Conference in Ohio! For those you making the trip I wanted to send you information for some of the ALGBTIC Events to allow you to consider them in your conference planning.

First of all, I hope you will join us for the education sessions on Saturday for the ALGBTIC Day of Learning but I also want to let you know about the other meetings and opportunities to gather and network.

**ALGBTIC Queer People of Color Gathering** is Friday, March 22nd from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Statesman at the Millennium. This gathering celebrates the intersectionality of diversity through offering a space for LGBTQIQA persons of color to meet and greet. Please remember this is for all members and interested parties who value diversity.

**ALGBTIC Reception** is Friday, March 22nd from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in Mayflower I at the Hilton. Join ALGBTIC members and prospective members for light appetizers and the option to purchase a beverage as we meet and greet each other before the ACA Kickoff Reception. Bring a friend or colleague who's interested in ALGBTIC to meet our members.

**ALGBTIC Brunch** is Saturday March 23rd from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Buckeye A at the Hyatt. Join us for our annual awards and division brunch to enjoy the company of friends and celebrate the spirit of ALGBTIC and the LGBTQIQA community. If you have yet to purchase your ticket please do so soon by navigating the ACA site to purchase your ticket online or simply call ACA Member Services at 1-(800) 347-6647. There are only a few tickets left so act soon!

**ALGBTIC 1st annual Rainbow Run 5k and 1 Mile Walk for Mental Wellness and Equality on Sunday, March 24th at 8:00 a.m., Sawyer Point Park, Cincinnati.** <http://www.active.com/running/cincinnati-oh/rainbow-run-5k-and-1-mile-walk-2013>

We are excited that for the first time we are sponsoring a LGBTQ and Allies run/walk to raise awareness and support for mental health recovery. We hope everyone will be a part of this important event either by participating in the race or walk or by volunteering. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Tonya Hammer at [Hammer@UHCL.edu](mailto:Hammer@UHCL.edu).

**ALGBTIC Annual Open Member Meeting and Nominations** is Sunday March 24th, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Buckeye at the Hyatt. This meeting is open for all persons to come share in ALGBTIC's yearly plan. Members will be able to share their interests, concerns, and ideas for the coming year. During this time nominations for leadership positions within ALGBTIC will be taken or letters will be read which express the nomination of an individual to a leadership position.

If you cannot attend, you can submit a letter of nomination acceptance to be read in the meeting in writing to Hugh Crethar, ALGBTIC President-Elect ([crethar@okstate.edu](mailto:crethar@okstate.edu)) or you can send it along with someone else who will be attending. In your letter please address your qualifications for the position and what interests you in serving.

The open positions for this year are:

**President-elect-elect** (beginning July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017)

**Graduate Student Trustee** (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015)

**Trustee** (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2017)

See you in Cincinnati!

Best,

Hugh C. Crethar, PhD

ALGBTIC President Elect

Associate Professor and Jacques Flannery Community Counseling Professor

Oklahoma State University

# Interested in Submitting Articles...?



ALGBTIC News, the newsletter of the Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Counseling, is published at least three times annually. The ALGBTIC News is typically published online for summer and fall but we are excited for a special edition this coming April. Our Pre-Conference issue is typically a mailed hardcopy. The publication dates and submission deadlines are:

**Special edition:** April 19th

**Submission deadline:** March 22nd

## Submission Guidelines:

Submit articles and items that would be of interest to our readership and ALGBTIC members. Information should be current and informative. Submissions that promote research, dialogue and opinion are especially encouraged.

All submissions should be sent to the Editors via email as a Microsoft Word attachment. Please be advised that the Editors have the right to edit your submission due to space considerations and/or content issues.

Please send your submission to:  
ALGBTIC NEWS

Arien Muzacz @ [arien@mylmhc.com](mailto:arien@mylmhc.com) or

Ryan Hancock @ [rh\\_cwby@yahoo.com](mailto:rh_cwby@yahoo.com)

**Disclaimer:** Although ALGBTIC News attempts to publish articles and items of interest that are consistent with the mission and goals of ALGBTIC, they do not necessarily reflect the overarching opinions, policies, or priorities of ALGBTIC or ACA.

## Meet our new ALGBTIC News Editors!

**Arien Muzacz, LMHC, NCC**  
Licensed Professional Counselor  
New York, NY

**Doctoral Student-Oregon State Univ.**

My approach to treatment is informed by multicultural counseling principles and existential/humanistic philosophy, which suggests that all people are searching for meaning in their lives and aspire to feel connected to others, while struggling with feeling alone in the world. I am committed to multicultural counseling and have worked with clients from diverse racial and ethnic groups, from various socioeconomic circumstances, of different ages and sexual and gender identities. I provide affirming support while challenging clients to identify obstacles to the realization of their potential.

I am currently a PhD student in the Counselor Education program at Oregon State University. As a researcher, I have given presentations and workshops at state and national conventions hosted by such organizations as the American Psychological Association, New York Mental Health Counselors Association, Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, Philadelphia Trans Health Conference, Southeastern Regional Counseling Psychology association, Institute for Human Identity, E/Quality Cares, and the State Society on Aging of New York.



**Ryan Hancock**  
Assistant Professor of Counseling  
Northwestern State University of Louisiana

Dr. Ryan Hancock is a native of Dunlap, Illinois. In May 2002, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in both Psychology and Scandinavian Studies from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. He earned a Master's of Art degree in Human Development Counseling in 2009 from Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois. He completed the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Counselor Education from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia in May 2011. Ryan is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) in Illinois. He is also a National Certified Counselor (NCC) and a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor (CCMHC). He worked in counseling and child welfare investigator for several years before teaching at the university level. He has presented at local, state, national, and international conferences on a wide range of counseling topics including domestic violence, abuse, and cultural competency with sexual minorities.

