



*Respectfully submitted to the Associated Students, Inc. of California State University, San Marcos*

**A Resolution in Support of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Intersex (LGBTQI) Students of California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)**

- Whereas** The Associated Students, Incorporated of California State University, San Marcos, here after known as ASI of CSUSM, is the official recognized voice of students at California State University, San Marcos, which will be known here after as CSUSM; and
- Whereas** The mission of The LGBTQ Pride Center of ASI includes sustaining and strengthening an open, inclusive, safe, and affirming environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, questioning, and ally communities. As an entity of Associated Students Inc., the Pride Center is grounded in commitments to social justice, student-centered advocacy, and student-empowered leadership; and
- Whereas** In response to the increasing number of student suicides in the LGBTQI community including, but not limited to, the tragic death of Rutgers University student Tyler Clementi, Johnson & Wales University student Raymond Chase, and the recent reported suicides of teenagers Asher Brown, Billy Lucas and Seth Walsh, the LGBTQ Pride Center identified, discussed, and reached consensus on the severity of the issues and dangers that LGBTQI Students face on and off campus; and
- Whereas** The January 2010 issue of the Journal of Adolescent Health suggested gay and lesbian teens get bullied two to three times more than their heterosexual peers, and some of them may take their lives because of it. It is impossible to know the suicide rate of LGBTQI youth because sexuality and gender minorities are often hidden and even unknown, particularly in this age group. Further research is currently being done to explain the prevalence of suicide among LGBTQI youths; and
- Whereas** A U.S. government study published in 1989, titled "Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Youth Suicide," found that LGBTQI youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than other young people. This higher prevalence of suicide and

overall mental health problems among gay teenagers compared to their heterosexual peers has been attributed to minority stress; and

**Whereas** Lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth are up to four times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers (Massachusetts Youth Risk Survey 2007). More than 1/3 of LGB youth report having made a suicide attempt (D'Augelli AR - *Clinical Child Psychiatry and Psychology* 2002) Nearly half of young transgender people have seriously thought about taking their lives and one quarter report having made a suicide attempt. (Grossman AH, D'Augelli AR - *Suicide and Life Threatening Behavior* 2007) LGB youth who come from highly rejecting families are more than 8 times as likely to have attempted suicide than LGB peers who reported no or low levels of family rejection (Ryan C, Huebner D, et al - *Peds* 2009;123(1):346-352); and

**Whereas** Increasing dangers associated with cyber bullying, taunting, and invasion of privacy, leave students of the LGBTQI community susceptible to relentless treatment and cruelty resulting in students needing further assistance and support throughout their campus communities; and

**Whereas** The variety of services and resources that The LGBTQ Pride Center provide are a community of understanding, support, and mentorship for LGBTQI students, staff, faculty and allies; a voice of advocacy fostering a positive campus climate for LGBTQI and ally communities by confronting prejudice and challenging barriers to student success; a convener and facilitator of programs, events and services which reflect the diversity within LGBTQ communities; and an institutional resource for enhancing communication, awareness, and knowledge across lines of sexual orientation and identity, gender identity and expression, race, ethnicity, and culture; and

**Whereas** The LGBTQ Pride Center received an overall Campus Climate Score of 2.5 out of 5 stars from the LGBT-Friendly Campus Climate Index which is owned and operated by Campus Pride, the leading national nonprofit organization for student leaders and campus groups working to create safer, more LGBT-Friendly learning environments at colleges and universities; and

**Whereas** The LGBTQ Pride Center recognizes that it needs to work towards improving the Sexual Orientation Score and its Gender Identity/Expression Score for the CSUSM Campus, especially in the areas of LGBTQI Policy Inclusion, LGBTQI Academic Life, LGBTQI Housing & Residence Life, and LGBTQI Recruitment & Retention Efforts to receive the "five-star" rating for the CSUSM Campus; and

**Whereas** The LGBTQ Pride Center must maintain a level of consistency regarding services provided to students of the LGBTQ community and to those who have received

recognition and appreciation throughout the LGBTQ community; now, therefore be it

**Resolved** That the ASI of CSUSM acknowledge and support the LGBTQI community in its struggle to improve LGBTQI campus life and ultimately shape the educational experience to be more inclusive, welcoming and respectful of LGBTQI and Ally people; and be it further

**Resolved** That the ASI of CSUSM urge the CSU Board of Trustees and University Presidents to work towards the goal of creating a CSU system that is more inclusive, welcoming and respectful of LGBTQI and Ally people; and be it further

**Resolved** That the CSUSM University President demonstrate support and advocacy for LGBTQI students by using and encouraging her senior administrators to use inclusive language such as "sexual orientation," "gender identity," and "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender" when discussing campus climate, diversity, and social justice issues on campus; and be it further

**Resolved** That the University make a commitment to ensuring the provision of safe, gender-neutral / single occupancy restroom facilities in all new buildings constructed on campus, and that the signage of current single occupancy restroom facilities be changed to reflect gender-neutral facilities; and be it further

**Resolved** That the Associate Vice President for Diversity & Educational Equity and Ombudsperson appoint a task force with the authority to issue recommendations to Executive Council for increasing CSUSM's score on the national LGBT-Friendly Campus Climate Index from its current score of 2.5 of 5 Stars , such that CSUSM's score is in line with other institutions of higher education in Southern California; and be it further

**Resolved** That the University administration demonstrate a commitment to providing new staff and faculty training opportunities for learning about issues of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression; and be it further

**Resolved** That the Women's Studies Department make a commitment to developing a Sexuality Studies minor and promote courses addressing LGBTQI identities and contributions; and be it further

**Resolved** That the ASI of CSUSM actively bring awareness to the issues facing LGBTQI students. Furthermore, ASI of CSUSM is urged to answer any calls for help from any fellow student throughout their campus communities; and be it finally

**Resolved**

That copies of this Resolution be distributed widely, including, but not limited to the CSU Board of Trustees; CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed; the Academic Senate of CSUSM; CSUSM President Karen Haynes; Campus Climate Advocate Scott Gross; Vice President of Student Affairs Eloise Stiglitz; Dean of Students Bridget Blanshan; Director of the University Village Apartment; and the San Marcos University Corporations Executive Director.