

Residence Hall Staff: Who's Who

Community Advisors (CAs) — have at least one year of NIU experience and live on each residence hall floor. They are the first point of contact for their residents, and receive training on campus and student life issues, including LGBT topics. If needed, they can help roommates resolve conflict. In Northern View Community, the Community Development Assistants (CDAs) play a similar role as CAs and receive similar training.

Hall Directors (HDs) — Depending on your area, HDs can be graduate students who work 20 hours per week, or full-time staff members. They receive training on LGBT topics and other student needs and concerns as well as provide crisis management, roommate mediation, and provide a level of assistance beyond the CA. The Community Director (CD) in Northern View Community provides a similar role for their residents.

Complex Coordinators (CCs) — are full-time staff with at least 2 years of full-time residence life and student affairs experience. CCs are responsible for the overall operations of their complexes. They also receive training on LGBT student concerns. CCs intervene when serious issues arise that affect the community or go beyond the expertise of the HD.

If you have questions or would like more assistance, contact us:

Housing & Dining
East Neptune Hall
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115
(815) 753-1525
housingdining@niu.edu
www.housing.niu.edu

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center
Holmes Student Center, 7th Floor
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115
(815) 753-5428
lgbt@niu.edu
www.niu.edu/lgbt/resourcecenter

Additional Resources

Office of the Ombudsman
Holmes Student Center, 6th Floor
(815) 753-1414
www.niu.edu/ombuds
ombuds@niu.edu

Public Safety (University Police)
(815) 753-1212
www.finfacil.niu.edu/PublicSafety
niupd@niu.edu

Counseling and Student Development Center
Campus Life Building 200
(815) 753-1206
www.niu.edu/csdc

NIU NORTHERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Residence Hall Life For Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Students

Lesbian gay Bisexual Transgender
resource center

HOUSING
& DINING
division of student affairs

Welcome to Our Community!



Living in a Residence Hall

Moving into your residence hall can be exciting, but intimidating for some students. Students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender (LGBT) may have specific questions or concerns about living in the residence halls. One important thing to know is that you are not alone. We are proud to say that at NIU our goal is to provide a welcoming and supportive environment for all students. Each year residence hall staff are educated about the needs and concerns of LGBT students. Also, we have an active and vibrant LGBT community on campus with many activities and resources to support you.

Living With a Roommate

Living with a roommate can be a very exciting opportunity, but also add some challenges. You might need to consider how to disclose your sexual orientation and/or gender identity. This is a decision only you can make. There can be both risks and benefits in coming out. If you have concerns about coming out, you might want to talk with a residence hall staff member, other students you trust, or staff at the LGBT Resource Center to get a sense of the climate for LGBT students on your floor and/or in your residence hall. It might also be helpful to spend some time thinking about the possible responses you might encounter, how you will handle them, and what sources of support you have available to help you with this process. The LGBT Resource Center provides a guide "Before Coming Out: Questions to Consider" that is available on their website: (www.niu.edu/lgbt/resourcecenter/resources/topical/index.shtml)

Support and Assistance

There are several options available for finding support. Your floor Community Advisor (CA) is there to help everyone feel welcome and included on your floor. If you are hesitant to talk to your CA, you can seek out other residence hall staff members to help you with any questions or concerns. The LGBT Resource Center is a great place to go for support for LGBT-related concerns or needs. You can also find fellow students, staff or faculty who are supportive allies through the NIU Ally Program. Volunteers in the Ally Program display the NIU Ally symbol door signs or buttons to identify themselves as supporters of the LGBT population. You can also find out who are allies by using the Ally Finder search tool on our website.



Transgender Living Environments

We know that transgender students may have specific needs, and we will be happy to work to find a living option that best meets their needs. To best assist you, we encourage you to contact us before you begin the room selection process so that we may answer your specific questions. We recognize that the needs of transgender students may vary depending on particular situations, so we will assist students on a case by case basis.

If you experience any problems with your roommate or someone on your floor, we encourage you to let your CA, another residence hall staff member, or the Resource Center staff know about the situation as soon as possible. They can provide guidance and work with you to resolve the conflict. Depending on the problem, possible solutions could be as simple as a conversation or could involve programs and training to raise awareness among others in the residence halls.

We take any instances of harassment or discrimination seriously and respond accordingly. University policies prohibit offensive, discriminatory or harassing behavior based on an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. If you or anyone you know experiences any harassment or discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, we encourage you to report it. As with other LGBT-related residence hall problems, you can speak with your CA, another residence hall staff member, or staff at the LGBT Resource Center. You can also seek assistance through the Office of the Ombudsman or the University Police.

"Housing & Dining is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and educationally empowering community where students can learn, grow and be successful within a complex and diverse world."

From the Housing & Dining Mission Statement