



Northern Illinois University Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

# Q-Connect Peer Support Program

## Mentor Information Sheet

### Program Description

The Q-Connect program is a pilot program designed to provide support and assistance to LGBTQ students of Northern Illinois University. Peer mentors are students who will staff an online “chat”-style mentoring service. The program is dedicated to providing a real-time safe space for students who want to discuss their thoughts and feelings about their sexual and/or gender identities.

### Position Requirements

Q-Connect mentors will be asked to:

- Provide concern, support, and understanding to users of the program.
- Answer questions about lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender issues, including helping others with the coming out process.
- Serve as a resource to users and make referrals when appropriate.
- Maintain a helpful relationship (not a counseling relationship) with users.
- Respect the degree of “outness” desired by users.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Respect appropriate boundaries in the mentor-user relationship.
- Be comfortable with using computer technology for interpersonal communication.
- Commit to the mentoring program for approximately 7-10 hours a month during the school year and for at least one semester.
- Commit to assigned shifts and complete mentor log after each shift
- Commit to attending training sessions, supervisory meetings and program evaluations
- Contact the LGBT Resource Center if any problems or concerns develop.

The first training will be held **Sunday, April 10**. The remaining trainings will start in August or September 2010.

### Selection Process & Timeline

- Applications must be received by **4:30 p.m., Friday, March 11th, 2011.**
- Preference will be given to those students who have demonstrated leadership experience as well as prior involvement with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community at NIU.
- Applicants may be required to complete an in-person interview.
- All applicants will receive notification of selection results by early April.

### Questions

Please direct any questions about Q-Connect to:

- LGBT Resource Center, Holmes Student Center 707, BROUSH1@NIU.EDU or 815-753-LGBT



Northern Illinois University Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

## Q-Connect Peer Support Program

### Mentor Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NIU E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
(We will only use your NIU student email address)

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ (must be 18 or older)

Year in School: \_\_\_\_\_ Major/Minor: \_\_\_\_\_

How do you identify? (select all that apply)

Sexual Orientation: Lesbian\_\_\_ Gay\_\_\_ Bisexual\_\_\_ Queer\_\_\_ Heterosexual\_\_\_ Ally\_\_\_  
Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Gender Identity: Female\_\_\_ Male\_\_\_ Transgender\_\_\_ Queer\_\_\_  
Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

What involvement or history do you have with the LGBT community, if any? (select all that apply)

Know someone LGBTQ\_\_\_ Campus Organization\_\_\_ Same-sex/gender relationship\_\_\_  
LGBT Resource Center\_\_\_ LGBT Studies classes\_\_\_ Attendance at events \_\_\_  
Other\_\_\_\_\_ No Involvement\_\_\_

Are you available for a half-day training on Sunday April 10th as well as a training in late August (August date to be determined)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe/No (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose answers to the following 4 questions on a separate sheet with your completed application (typed, 2 page maximum):

1. Why are you interested in being a Q-Connect Mentor?
2. What leadership roles or campus involvement have you had?
3. What do you think makes a good mentor?
4. What do you think you can contribute to the Peer Support Program?

Please return your completed application to **the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center** no later than **4:30 p.m. on Friday March 11th, 2011**

Email: [Broush1@NIU.EDU](mailto:Broush1@NIU.EDU) Phone: 815-753-LGBT (5428)  
Fax: 815-753-2201