

Dave Oliveria

From: Brian Keenan [bkeenan@hrei.org]
Sent: Friday, October 12, 2012 1:11 PM
To: Brian Keenan
Subject: With Friends Like These: "Ally Carnival" at Human Rights Education Institute

NEWS RELEASE

With Friends like These: North Idaho College Gay-Straight Alliance and Human Rights Education Institute Host 'Ally Carnival'

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 12, 2012

CONTACT: Danni Bain, President, NIC GSA, 406-381-5681, dcbain@nic.edu; Josh Swan, NIC GSA representative, 208-769-7841

CONTACT: Brian Keenan, Program Coordinator, HREI, 208-292-2359, bkeenan@hrei.org

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho — October in Coeur d'Alene might typically be a bit cold for a carnival, but the North Idaho College Gay-Straight Alliance and the Human Rights Education Institute aren't letting that stop them from putting on an "Ally Carnival" in support of the nationally celebrated "Ally Week."

The "Ally Carnival" will take place on Friday, October 19, from 5 – 9 p.m. at the Human Rights Education Institute, 414 W. Mullan Rd. in Coeur d'Alene. In the institute's main hall, an array of organizations associated with issues that affect the LGBT community will put up information booths and host carnival-style games with prizes. (LGBT refers to individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.)

Admission to the carnival is free, but a barbeque dinner will be available, with proceeds benefitting the programs of the NIC GSA and HREI. The whole community is invited.

At 6:30, speakers from the community will give a presentation on LGBT history and on the role of allies in the community. Speakers will include Jon Downing, board member at the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations, and Christie Wood, sergeant with the Coeur d'Alene Police Department.

Ally Week is a week for students, community members, and organizations to lend their support and affirmation against anti-LGBT language, bullying, and harassment. The week is a way of making known the support for LGBT persons and issues held by a broad spectrum of people, from students to like-minded organizations to individual community members — support which may sometimes be unnoticed, unspoken, or unfelt.

"An ally is someone who shows positive support to the LGBT community, even if they themselves don't identify as LGBT," said NIC GSA representative Josh Swan. "Allies are so important to help bridge what is sometimes still a gap in understanding between people in the LGBT community and others."

Organizations that will have a presence at the fair include the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations, the Pride Foundation, the North Idaho Aids Coalition, and many more. In addition to putting together the event, the NIC GSA and HREI will also have a booth and games.

"This is a great way to show our support for the LGBT members of our community and for the issues that affect them," HREI Executive Director Thomas Carter said. "It's also a great chance for the community to come and learn more, meet others, and just have some fun."

The event is sponsored by a grant from the Pride Foundation.

###

Brian Keenan

Program Coordinator

Human Rights Education Institute

P.O. Box 3281

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

(208) 292-2359

Cell: (208) 819-7767

bkeen@hrei.org

www.hrei.org