



Queering a World-Class Education: Centering Trans/Formational Space

The Q Center envisions a Washington community where justice, equality, compassion, and respect for all people prevail. We facilitate a brave, affirming, liberatory, and celebratory environment for students, faculty, staff, and alumni of all sexual and gender orientations, identities, and expressions.

**Social Justice.
It's the Washington Way.**

Our Story

The Q is more than a resource center, more than a fun space with vibrant colors and free candy. We are a home-place for students, faculty, staff, and alumni of all sexual and gender orientations, identities, and expressions. When a student's parents struggle to know how to love their queer child, that student finds family in the Q Center. When a transgender student leader seeks to increase the number of gender neutral restrooms on campus, they find advocates in the Q. When students collectively organize the Q provides advising and free community meeting space. When a member of the UW community seeks resources as they question their sexual orientation and gender, the Q's library, technology center, and knowledgeable staff are at their disposal. Finally, when a student holds their breath in the face of cultural and internalized fear of being gay, the Q embraces and nurtures them into exhalation and celebration. Everyone belongs in the Q, not in spite of who they are, but precisely because of who they are.

The Q: bringing social justice and fun to an issue important to you!

Our Commitment

Access – The Q serves UW community members of all sexual orientations and genders. We provide access to respectful and expansive gender and sexuality information as well as social justice education. The Q is an access point for advocacy, networking, social engagement, resources/referrals, community space, and cross-issue collaborations with Seattle communities, campus organization, and departments. We provide a transformative programming in which students' intersecting identities are nourished and affirmed.

Engagement – We are committed to serving all community members and their families. This is achieved through annual campus-wide functions such as our beginning of the year Luncheon, Lavender Graduation, and the Qolors Reception, a celebration of the many experiences of queer people of color at the University of Washington. We are also actively engaged in educating our community of faculty, staff, and students through our Safe Zone program.

Diversity – We work from a social justice practice model, which enables the Q to advocate for institutional change while also offering individualized services to students. The Q provides and encourages intellectually and culturally vibrant programs and services. The Q attends to students' multiple, complex identity experiences. Our hope is that members leave the Q Center on firmer ground, knowing that they are important and supported.

Care – Facilitating access to community and providing individual resources, the Q Center aims to bolster students as they confront their challenges and embrace their successes. The Q meets these needs through the peer-to-peer mentorship program, drop-in advising/counseling, and professional staff trained in short-term crisis intervention and resource/referral skills.

Student Learning – We believe that all students are innovators, whether they are theorizing their worlds, inventing their lives, or developing their visions. The Q is the space that embraces these visions. We bring to bear a transformative space, advocacy, education, celebration, support, and committed care to the whole student. We know that students learn more readily in environments in which they feel nurtured, affirmed, challenged, and respected. The Q not only creates a center with these values, we embolden the University of Washington to embody them as well.

Quick Facts

Access

- **\$29,000** allocated annually to support the efforts of student-initiated programming, thereby supporting the issues and topics that are most pressing and timely for students in any given year
- Accessible technology center: six computers with gaming, speech recognition software, screen readers, and printing available
- Free meeting and social space available to students, faculty, and staff
- **1000+** books, films, periodicals, and journals available in our lending library

Quick Facts *continued*

- **1000+** walk-in advising/counseling sessions provided by the director yearly
- Collaborations with Student Activities Office and Ethnic Cultural Center to advise Registered Student Organizations

Social Justice

- We successfully advocated for the most trans-inclusive Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP/SHIP+) in the United States
- **1,500+** faculty and staff trained by the Q Center in the nationally recognized Safe Zone program
- Three Queer 101 courses taught annually by Q Center undergraduate employees through CHID
- **100+** annually attend Qolors Reception, a celebration and recognition of the lives and experiences of queer people of color
- We sponsored **10-15** Cultural Events/Celebrations per year, including Transgender Awareness Week, Trans Day of Remembrance, Disability Awareness Week, Carnivale, Women of Color Reception, and other cultural events/celebrations

The Q is an engaging unit of Student Life

- Ranked among **"Top 100"** LGBTQ-affirming universities by The Advocate College Guide, a nationally recognized LGBT resource
- **\$1** million legacy endowment by David Kopay ('64) All-American Husky football player and first openly gay professional athlete
- **230+** students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members participated in homophobia in sports program featuring international rugby star Ben Cohen, professional football star David Kopay, UW Athletic Administrator Shannon Kelly, UW Professor Jennifer Hoffman, and moderated by Q Center Director Jennifer Self. The program is accessible on UWTV.
- **300+** people celebrated **53** graduates at the 2011 Lavender Graduation, noted as one of the most "fun" events on campus. Over the course of 10 years this event has launched **232** graduates and engaged **1,300** community members



Challenges & Opportunities

- **41%** of transgender people report attempting suicide as compared to **1.6%** of the general population; More than **33%** of LGB youth report having attempted suicide—our communities continue to be at risk
- Due to continuing and pervasive homophobia and transphobia, our work and expertise is often marginalized by the very institutional/learning communities that we serve
- We have **only one** professional staff. Peer institutions (Berkeley, Michigan, UNC) have between **2** and **4** professional staff
- Due to current staffing and requirements of SAF funding, we primarily focus our efforts toward students. Consequently, we have identified gaps in service related to LGBT faculty/staff but are unable to attend to the need.



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