

safe environment—for living and for learning, in which gay, lesbian and bisexual persons can say and be who they are and for everyone, at all levels, can feel safe and to begin asking questions, talking to one another and dispelling the myths that perpetuate prejudice. Invisibility and silence facilitate ignorance; although panelists agreed gay, lesbian and bisexual people must be free to come out as they choose and are ready, having students, staff and faculty who are visible is a crucial dimension in dealing with the issues.

Other issues for gay, lesbian, and bisexual students included dual minority status, eg., Afro-American, Jewish, Latino and women—any cultural or religious identity already marginalized in addition to sexual identity, and the difficulties in feeling at home anywhere, the struggle for gay, lesbian and bisexual people to be healthy having absorbed the culture's myths and mis-information and internalized the oppression and exclusion experienced within families and churches.

Closing remarks by the panel offered encouragement and an invitation to commitment on the part of gay, lesbian and bisexual students, staff, faculty and their allies. Don't assume everyone is heterosexual. Remember that gays, lesbians and bisexuals are some of the people you are considering for admission, speaking to in classrooms and alumni programs, and hiring as staff and faculty. Sponsor educational programs. Avoid and interrupt anti-gay jokes. Integrate gay, lesbian and bisexual culture into programming. "Once you're exposed to information you make choices about what you believe," said Jamie Washington as the conference concluded. The teleconference provided a rare opportunity for open, honest, educated discussion of gay, lesbian and bisexual issues and the impetus to create such programs on local college and university campuses. ▼

For confidential AIDS Information



Call
1-800-882-AIDS

Health Resource Organizations

AIDS HOTLINES:

Vermont 1-800-882-2437
New Hampshire 1-800-752-2437
New York State 1-800-541-2437
Massachusetts 1-617-522-4090
Maine 1-800-851-2437
National 1-800-342-2437
Canadian 1-613-563-2437

AIDS Community Awareness Project (ACAP)
PO Box 608
St. Johnsbury VT 05819
(802) 748-8116

AIDS Community Resource Network (ACoRN)
PO Box 2057
Lebanon NH 03766
(603) 448-4400

Bennington Area AIDS Project
PO Box 1066
Bennington VT 05201
(802) 442-4481 or 1-800-845-2437

Brattleboro AIDS Project
4 High Street, Suite 2-3
Brattleboro VT 05301
(802) 254-4444 (Helpline)
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Franklin-Grand Isle AIDS Task Force
8 Ferris Street
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H.E.A.L. Vermont (Holistic Education and AIDS Alternatives Liaison)
PO Box 795
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Lesbian Cancer Support Group
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Northeast Kingdom AIDS Coalition
PO Box 40
Newport VT 05855 • (802) 334-2437

North Star (Holistic Health Care)
RR2 Box 3255
Morrisville VT 05661 • (802) 888-2858

Vermont AIDS Council
PO Box 275
Montpelier VT 05601 • (802) 229-2557

Vermont C.A.R.E.S. (Committee for AIDS Resources, Education, and Services)
PO Box 5248
30 Elmwood Avenue
Burlington VT 05401
(802) 863-2437 (Burlington)
1-800-649-2437 (Rutland and Washington County support groups)

Vermont Department of Health
1-800-882-2437 (AIDS Hotline) or
(802) 863-7245 (AIDS Program office)

VT PWA Coalition
PO Box 1055
Brattleboro, VT 05502
1-800-69-VTPWA or (802) 257-9277

Vermont Women's Health Center
336 North Avenue
Burlington VT 05401 • (802) 863-1386