Pride Month 2019 was a huge success!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year’s events. Your bravery inspires personal growth in all of us, including this alliance member who anonymously and inspiringly responded to the 2019 Pride March photo album:

"I just wanted to send a private note saying how much these pictures make my heart so incredibly happy. Sadly, I never got the time to join up with any of the UNMC LGBTQ+ group activities, but this sure makes me wish I had!

I am an ally and a mother of an adult bi son who came out to me a just a few years ago. I am also a former jerk who needed to get to know a few wonderful people who happened to be LGBTQ+ before I got over some unfortunate homophobia that I carried due to a close-minded upbringing. It took working next to someone who was LGBTQ+ every day to spark that change...I cannot emphasize that enough. If I hadn’t formed that friendship and changed my views, my son’s coming-out to me may have ended up very differently! Interaction is the key to changing people’s understanding! What a positive influence your group is having in our community – thank you so much for all you do to be visible, be positive, and to make the lives of people like my son easier in the Omaha area.

I will soon be leaving my position here at UNMC to move out-of-state for a new job. I will be
heading to small-town mid-America, where it still isn’t always easy for everyone to be open about who they are. I will greatly miss Omaha, but rest assured, I will continue to be a staunch ally, ready to give unwavering support and “free mom hugs” to anyone who needs it.

Thank you for making Omaha a better place to live for everyone. Pride day is every day!”

Volunteers Needed!

The alliance aims to have a representative at every UNMC and Nebraska Medicine new employee orientation event in order to educate all colleagues on our group's existence and mission. Currently, more volunteers are needed.

If interested, please use our Signup Genius site to register as a "Trainee" for your first instance, and as a "Leader" once you feel comfortable. The "Leader" you are paired with will train you on booth setup and talking points.

It’s not boring, we promise!

In an effort to be more inclusive to our alliance members, the monthly "Business Meeting" will now be referred to as the "Strategy Meeting." The name change more accurately depicts the brainstorming and conversational nature of the sessions. All alliance members are encouraged to bring your lunch, bring a friend, and get involved!

Strategy Meetings are the first Monday of every month. Details are in the events section below.

GenderWorks conference to educate providers on transgender care

The 2019 Genderworks Conference is Friday, Nov. 8, at the Hilton Omaha. The conference, aimed at advancing transgender care in the heartland, is intended for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, counselors, social workers, policymakers and educators.

Speakers include a physician, clinical psychologist, advocacy group leaders, students, and Nebraska policy makers. Visit the event website for more information and to register.

Mark your workspace as a Safe Space

Persons who have completed the Reimagining U Safe Space training and wish to advertise their work area as an LGBTQ+ friendly zone with a magnet should email Rachel Huggins.
The Safe Space training is offered twice a year, in the spring and fall.

Ally Education: How did the rainbow flag become a symbol for LGBTQ+ Pride?

Artist Gilber Baker popularized the design as a celebration of the gay community. The flag first appeared at a gay pride march in San Francisco on June 25, 1978. Originally, it had eight colored stripes, each with its own significance: pink for sex, red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sun, green for nature, turquoise for magic, blue for peace and purple for spirit.

In 2015, the Museum of Modern Art added the rainbow flag into its design collection and interviewed Gilbert to gather the history of its inception.

Member Spotlight: Emily Glenn

Tell us about your professional life:
I am the Associate Director for Education and Research Services at the McGoogan Library at UNMC. The library moved out of Wittson Hall in June for renovation, so the other librarians and I are temporarily located in Eppley Science Hall in close proximity to research labs.

What motivated you to join the LGBTQ+ Alliance?
I sought it out when I considering applying for a job at UNMC. Moving to Omaha from Seattle, I had major concerns about being out on campus or being able to have a social life in a much smaller city. Knowing that this group existed was comforting and helped me ease into professional networks that I still rely on today.

Describe a meaningful moment or person that helped you embrace your identity.
As an undergraduate, I volunteered in my university's special collections where I worked with lesbian periodicals. The librarian there, a lesbian, introduced me to some authors I admired and had me work on one artist's manuscripts. I learned about queer communities formation and read intimate letters. It also meant a lot to me, at age 20, to
Hear about how this librarian and her wife found their way through careers and family and were happy together.

**How do you think UNMC and Nebraska Medicine employees can better support LGBTQ persons on campus?**

I'm excited for our gender-inclusive restrooms signage project to move forward. Visibility-raising events will continue to contribute to an environment that is welcoming and affirming. Continuing to normalize the inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in messaging, marketing, and representation of the university and Nebraska Medicine will contribute to our campus being known as an LGBTQ-friendly workplace. We are more friendly and welcoming than people can tell from a web search!

### July Events:

**Strategy Meeting - Mon., Aug. 5, 12-12:50 p.m.**
Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, 7th Floor, Room 2330 ([map](#))
Join us to get involved in various educational, social and outreach topics. All are welcome. Please view the [upcoming meeting agenda](#) or review [minutes from our last meeting](#). Attend in person or [call in using Zoom](#).

**Board Game Social - Wed., August 21, 6-8 p.m.**
Spielbound Cafe, 33rd and Harney Streets, Omaha
Please join your alliance members and their significant others/friends/children for this unique, interactive, social event. [RSVPs on the event website](#) are much appreciated.

---

**Our mission:** The UNMC and Nebraska Medicine LGBTQ+ Employee Alliance group promotes an accepting and diverse culture across the enterprise for all LGBTQ+ patients, employees and allies.

### Emily Glenn, Co-Chair
Interim Associate Director
Education & Research Services
McGoogan Library of Medicine
402.559.4085
emily.glenn@unmc.edu

### Angela Vasa, Co-Chair
Nurse Manager
Nebraska Biocontainment Unit
Nebraska Medicine
402.559.1780
AVASA@nebraskamed.com

LGBTQ+ Employee Alliance
unmc.edu/LGBTQ