



For Immediate Release
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MSU inaugurates “Out Racers: Take Your Place!”

MURRAY, Ky. – Murray State University’s LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) office is launching a new program called “Out Racers: Take Your Place!” The new 12-member cohort, which is funded in part by a grant from JustFundKY, will be dedicated to helping eliminate discrimination against the LGBT community in Kentucky. This high-impact, hands-on leadership development program, designed for LGBT and ally-identified students, is open to Murray State students, as well as the public community colleges in MSU’s service region.

Jody Cofer Randall, primary coordinator for the new group, noted that in addition to monthly seminars and activities featuring LGBT-identified education and advocacy professionals, participants will be provided with a budget to plan and implement a community-based project of their own. Students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender are strongly encouraged to apply.

Participants chosen for this year’s membership include nine students from Murray State, one from Madisonville Community College and one from Hopkinsville Community College. MSU’s new members are Alec Brock, freshman, Louisville, Ky.; Tyler Davis, junior, Dexter, Ky.; DePaul Hendrix, senior, Murray; Lauren Johnson, junior, Murray; D. Andrew Porter, junior, Scottsville, Ky.; Robert Scott, junior, Springville, Tenn.; Steven Shupe, junior, Farmington, Ky.; Eric Spence, junior, Paducah, Ky.; and Tim Stone, freshman, Louisville, Ky. Madisonville’s new member is sophomore CeNedra Rodriguez; Hopkinsville’s is Darren Scott, also a sophomore.

Dr. Peggy Pittman-Munke, associate professor of social work, will serve as co-coordinator for the program throughout the year. After the initial leadership camp on Aug. 31, the group will come together to hear various LGBT and ally-identified leaders present information on topics such as “Knowing where our community came from and how to use that knowledge” and “It’s a complex world: cross-issue movement building.”

“Leadership development is one of the many areas of focus for student affairs professionals. Out Racers: Take Your Place! provides a well-rounded, in-depth platform of information delivery about the LGBT community and grassroots organizing that culminates in a hands-on service learning experience to create change in the community,” said Dr. Don Robertson, vice president for student affairs at Murray State University.

“I think Out Racers: Take Your Place! is exactly what the LGBT movement needs. Almost all aspects of LGBT work requires movement leaders to have good development skills. Making sure people have access to good

training opportunities is key to advancing the fight for LGBT equality at the local, state, national and international level,” said Jeff Krehely, vice president and chief foundation officer, Human Rights Campaign.