

The L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center's LifeWorks Program presents:

MODELS of PRIDE

L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center's LifeWorks Hosts World's Largest Free Conference for LGBT Youth up to age 24

More than 700 Expected to Attend Models of Pride Conference at University of Southern California (USC), Oct. 15, 2011

August 15, 2011-Los Angeles, CA More than 700 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth will come together for the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center's Models of Pride, the world's largest free conference for LGBT people up to age 24. Hosted by the Center's LifeWorks program, Models of Pride will take place on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011 on the University of Southern California (USC) campus.

The day will be packed with informative workshops, a resource fair and exciting entertainment. Models of Pride also includes a track for parents, guardians and foster parents. The event is free for youth and parents; there is also a workshop for service providers and educators, which costs \$50. The day includes breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as a dance for youth.

The conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will include workshops on topics such as:

- Relationships
- History
- Political activism
- Safer sex
- Cultural identity
- And much more!

Too many LGBT youth are isolated in their schools, where some face bullying and harassment—a problem that has come into public view following a series of tragic youth suicides. Models of Pride gives young people a safe place to meet others like themselves and to find out about resources that are available for them.

This year, the rapidly growing event moves to the USC campus, where the LGBT Resource Center will serve as co-host. Moving to a more central location will make Models of Pride—which was previously held in Eagle Rock—more convenient for many Los Angeles youth. And moving to a larger venue gives the conference room to grow.

“It’s so exciting to see hundreds of youth come together to learn and to connect with one another,” says Michael Ferrera, director of the Center’s LifeWorks program. “And this is so important for them. At a time when too many LGBT youth are tormented by their peers, treated badly in their schools and rejected by their families, we’re able to offer them a truly safe space where they can be who they are.”

The youth development program LifeWorks is best known for its flagship mentoring program, which pairs LGBT youth with trained adult mentors. LifeWorks also offers social activities, after-school programming and many other services. In conjunction with Opportunities for



Learning, it even operates a charter school for youth who have faced discrimination and harassment at traditional schools.

For more information about Models of Pride, or to register, go to www.modelsofpride.org. For more information about LifeWorks, go to www.lifeworksla.org.

- WHAT:** Models of Pride 19
The world's largest free conference for LGBT youth. The conference includes a full day of workshops, entertainment and more.
- WHEN:** Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011
8:30 a.m.- 9 p.m.
- WHERE:** University of Southern California
Exposition Boulevard & S. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90089
- COST:** FREE for LGBT youth, allies and parents;
\$50 for service provider track
- INFO:** For more information and to register for Models of Pride, go to www.modelsofpride.org. For publicity questions, please contact mopdaryl@gmail.com

About the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center

Since 1971 the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center has been building the health, advocating for the rights and enriching the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Our wide array of services and programs includes: free HIV/AIDS care and medications for those most in need; housing, food, clothing and support for homeless LGBT youth; low-cost counseling and addiction-recovery services; essential services for LGBT-parented families and seniors; legal services; health education and HIV prevention programs; transgender services; cultural arts and much more. Visit us on the Web at: www.lagaycenter.org.

About LifeWorks

LifeWorks is the youth development and mentoring program at the LA Gay & Lesbian Center. We offer one on one, peer, and group mentoring opportunities for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth ages 12-24. Our goal is to help LGBTQ youth to realize their goals and dreams with a safe space, positive and affirming role models, and workshops & activities that are fun and educational. Visit us at www.lifeworksla.org

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