

Call for Proposals

Religious Organizations and LGBTQIA+ Inclusivity in Bloomington-Normal

Sponsored by The Prairie Pride Coalition, Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning, and Office of Student Research.

Project Description

The Prairie Pride Coalition (PPC) seeks research proposals to study the inclusivity of sexual orientation and gender identity diversity within Bloomington-Normal religious/spiritual establishments (churches, mosques, synagogue, etc.). Although several local organizations identify themselves as welcoming, efforts to create affirming and inclusive environments for LGBTQIA+ community members vary.

PPC calls for research proposals to address these issues across the Bloomington-Normal religious landscape.

The PPC is an all-volunteer, community-based organization serving McLean County's LGBTQIA+ community. The PPC pledge themselves to the awakening of compassion and understanding among all peoples. They strive to foster mutual respect regardless of sexual orientation, creed, race, gender, gender identity, or physical ability through outreach and education. PPC core values are caring, compassion, respect, and understanding. They serve as advocates and develop resources.

The PPC is specifically interested in research proposals that will help them develop a guide to the Bloomington-Normal religious/spiritual community for LGBTQIA+ residents. As such, proposals should aim to include all religious establishments in the B/N area. Project might include a survey of organizations' specific welcoming/affirming efforts, or other methodologies, that can be used to create an "equality index," or similar tool, with indicators of participating establishments' level of inclusivity. Results of the research will be used to develop resources for the local LGBTQIA+ community and has the potential to be utilized throughout the state of Illinois and nationally.

PPC envisions a faculty/staff-led research team. Proposals may include additional goals, methodologies, and projected outcomes as determined by the faculty or research team. All projects must obtain necessary Institutional Review Board and any other necessary approvals.

Timeline

The research period spans Fall Semester 2020 with the resources to be developed by end of Spring 2021.

Resources

The Center for Community Engagement will provide compensation for a .25 Graduate Assistant for Fall 2020 and, if necessary, Spring 2021. The Office of Student Research will provide funds for hourly compensation for one or two undergraduate researchers to assist with the project.

Proposal Submission

Interested faculty/staff should send letter of interest and proposal (1,500 word limit) by July 1, 2020. Proposals should outline a plan for recruiting and training research assistants, developing research instruments, obtaining permissions, as well as data collection and analysis.

Proposals and inquiries should be sent to Dr. Gina Hunter at glhunt2@ilstu.edu.