

Dear fellow Nebraskans,

We, the LGBTQIA+ Student Organizations of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, are appalled by the Clery Reportable Hate Crime that took place on our campus this past weekend.

First and foremost, we want to express our solidarity and support for those impacted. Hate has no place at UNL, and no student should have to live in fear of being harassed or assaulted.

In 2021, we celebrated 50 years of LGBTQIA+ studies at UNL. Our community is not going anywhere. Our students, faculty, staff, and community members deserve to feel safe and supported. Despite many who may believe that discrimination and hatred are a thing of the past, that everyone is valued fairly and equally, and that there is nothing left to fight for, this event is proof that we—as a Nebraska community—have many more steps that must be taken before we can assert ourselves as a campus that welcomes all.

In times like this, it is vital that we create a community that supports each other. While we cannot directly change the opinions of those who hold prejudice and hate, we have the ability to find consolation in one another. Resilience is built on trust, community, and the motto that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln stands for: in our grit, our glory. It is sad to say that the grit required has to go towards standing against hatred. Every person and every interaction matters, and that includes every identity present on our campus. We want to make it clear that everyone's safety, well-being, and community matters.

We are disappointed in the lackluster response of the university in advocating for the LGBTQIA+ community on campus and urge that leaders in the University of Nebraska System stand in solidarity with us. We call on the university's leadership to take action—not just words, but tangible steps and acknowledgment to ensure the safety and well-being of LGBTQIA+ students. A lackluster response is unacceptable. Students cannot thrive in an environment where they feel unsafe or unsupported. Students who do not feel safe will spend more time in fear and isolation and less time towards their studies and applying themselves to their fullest potential. Every student should have the same ability to succeed.

In these difficult times, community is more important than ever. We want our community to know that we, the LGBTQIA+ student organizations, strive to provide safe spaces. We encourage students, faculty, staff, and community members to stand up against hate. While we cannot change the minds of those who choose hate, we can choose to uplift, protect, and support one another.

To every LGBTQIA+ student feeling fearful: We are here for you. You are supported, and there are people who care about you. We will fight for a campus community that values your safety and rights. We wish to ensure that students, faculty, and all those affected maintain hope and continue to strive for a better tomorrow. It is now more crucial than ever for us to come together and stand united as a community against the hate that is ever present in our world. Stay strong.

If you or someone you know has experienced discrimination, harassment, or violence, we urge you to report it and seek support. You can reach out to the following resources:

- UNL Gender and Sexuality Center: 402-472-1652 or unlgsc@unl.edu
- UNL Center for Advocacy, Response, and Education: 402-472-3553 or care@unl.edu
- UNL Counseling and Psychological Services: 402-472-7450 or <https://caps.unl.edu>
- UNL Institutional Equity and Compliance: 402-472-3417 or oiiec@unl.edu
- UNLPD: 402-472-2222 (Dial 2 for Blue) or 911

We stand together in support of this message:

The Student Members of the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Gender and Sexual Identity

oSTEM@UNL

SpectrumUNL

TRANScend UNL

Pride in Business

Out in CASNR

Husker Athlete Ally

Other Supporters:

Ascend

Association for Women in Mathematics at UNL

Campus Connect

Cinema 16

Coding Club

Engineers Without Borders - NU

Environmental Studies Student Advisory Committee (ESSAC)

Games Guild

Gamma Iota Sigma - Gamma Iota Chapter

Generation Action

Huskers Against Gun Violence

Insect Science Club

Jewish Community Relations Council

Karaoke For A Cause

Lincoln Fantasy and Science Fiction Club

Mexican American Student Association (MASA)

Mind & Craft

National Residence Hall Honorary - Maverick Chapter (MNSU - Mankato)

Operating Systems & Open Source Group (OS2G)

oSTEM @ University of North Dakota

Out of the Darkness UNL

Philosophy Club

Presentation Club

Queer and Trans Services @ University of Nebraska-Omaha

Queer Trans Alliance @ University of North Dakota

Raikes School Pride Inclusion Network

Sandwich Club @ University of Nebraska-Omaha

Slam Poetry at UNL

Society of Physics Students

Students for Justice in Palestine at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Sustain UNL

The F Word, University of North Dakota

The Marvel Bunch

The UNL Red Keys A Cappella

UNL Aerospace Club

UNL Biology Club

UNL EMA Animation Club

UNL Engineering Student Advisory Board

UNL Feminism Club

UNL Herpetology Club

UNL Hillel-Jewish Student Association

UNL Lutheran Center

UNL Marine Biology Club

UNL Percussion Club

UNL Residence Hall Association

UNL Society of Women Engineers (SWE)

UNL Taekwondo Club

UNO Concrete Canoe

Women and Gender Equity Center @ University of Nebraska-Omaha