

**Contact: Alex
Gant**

OUT for Work
Phone 1-866-571-5428

1325 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, DC 2005
info@outforwork.com
www.outforwork.org

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Press Release

Only 3% of College Career Centers Score Top Mark on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Certification Assessment

OUT for Work's Annual LGBTQ Career Center Certification Assessment Results Released

Washington, DC, December 16, 2013: Overall, career centers in higher education are gradually improving in providing services to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) students. However, OUT for Work's 2014 Career Center Certification Report indicates there is still much work to do with only 3% percent of the career centers surveyed earning an A+ Gold ranking.

The newest findings are based on a comprehensive assessment completed by 150 career resource centers in higher education. The goal of the assessment is to gauge the current career tools, available resources, and programmatic efforts accessible to LGBTQ students through campus career centers. Career centers may earn an A+Gold, Gold, Silver, or Bronze certification ranking based on their responses from the annual assessment.

See http://issuu.com/outforwork/docs/2014_cccp_report for all findings of OUT for Work's 2014 Career Center Certification Report. [Note: All university and college career center leaders are encouraged to contact OUT for Work to learn more about the annual assessment, and to ensure they participate in future years.]

While modest, results show incremental progress over last year's scores. 11% of career centers surged from Bronze level to Silver and 6% from Bronze to Gold level in just one year. This suggests that the awareness, consultation, and resources provided by OUT for Work enhances awareness and expertise. Macalester College's Career

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Development Center, Thiel College's Career Services Office, the University of Illinois at Chicago's Office of Career Services, and the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh's Career Services Office each received the A+ Gold level of certification.

General findings show:

- 92 percent of the career centers assessed provide tools, resources, information and/or advice to students on finding LGBTQ friendly employers;
- 70 percent of career centers have a specific website or a link to LGBTQ workplace issues on their career center webpage; and
- 23 percent of career centers assessed have a designated staff member specializing in serving the needs of LGBTQ students.

Current and future students, academic institutions, as well as employers are all encouraged to use the report as a means to support the needs of LGBTQ identified students. OUT for Work also works closely with employers to ensure that assessment results are included in their campus recruitment strategies. Further, the organization is committed to strengthening the tools, resources, and programs that career centers provide to their LGBTQ students by offering expert consultations, training opportunities, and resources to career center staff.

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About OUT for Work: OUT for Work functions as a complementary component in the total educational experience of LGBTQ college students; helping effect change in the development, evaluation, initiation, and implementation of career plans and opportunities. The nationally recognized non-profit organization is dedicated to educating, preparing, and empowering LGBTQ college students as they transition from academia to the workplace.