



**CONTACT:**

Lissette Aliaga  
801-821-5197  
lissette@utahpridecenter.org  
Utah Pride Center  
68 S. Main Street, 9th Floor  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**STUDENT PRIDE CENTER OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES TO SUPPORT U OF U LGBTQ+ STUDENTS**

**[Salt Lake City, UT – September 17, 2024]** – The Student Pride Center (SPC), an organization dedicated to providing services and resources to LGBTQ+ students attending the University of Utah launched last month, August 19, 2024. To commemorate its inauguration, the student-led organization is hosting a Grand Opening Fundraiser event on Thursday, September 19 from 11:00AM – 2:00PM at Presidents Circle on the University of Utah campus.

“I started the Student Pride Center to show the University of Utah administration and the Utah legislature that the continued disenfranchisement of, and prejudice toward LGBTQ+ identifying people will not be tolerated by students. I want to show active and prospective students that they don’t need a man in a suit to tell them if they do, or do not, belong somewhere - students can create their own belonging.” said Student Pride Center Executive Director, Ien Zielinski, a senior at the University of Utah this year.

SPC is a student-run community resource center providing services and support that unite, empower and celebrate the LGBTQ+ students and their allies on the University of Utah campus. The organization is run by a Board of four senior students: Ien Zielinski (they/them), Executive Director, Zoe Brown (she/they), Executive Assistant, Andrew Coda (he/they), Volunteer Coordinator, Brooklyn Mears (she/they), Finance Manager, and student volunteers. The Student Pride Center is a program of the Utah Pride Center.

“The Utah Pride Center is excited to be partnering with this student-led initiative.” said Chad Call, Executive Director of the Utah Pride Center. “If Utah’s law-makers are going to continue to find ways to exclude Utah’s LGBTQIA+ communities, the UPC is going to do everything it can to provide support and structure so our students can create their own belonging and safe spaces. This circumstance, unfortunately, is one our community knows all too well. However, when our community’s place in society is threatened, we know how to come together, we know how to support one another, and we know how to show up for each other; and that’s exactly what these students are doing at the university.” continued Call.





Located in room 2130-N of the Marriott Library, the Student Pride Center welcomes LGBTQ+ students and student allies of all ages and backgrounds, as well as University of Utah faculty and staff, Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 9AM – 5PM. “I feel better just knowing that we still have a Pride Center on the U campus. It means that queer students still have a place to go, and that students support each other.” said a U of U student about the creation of the new organization.

#### **EVENT DETAILS:**

- Event name: Student Pride Center Grand Opening Fundraiser
- Date: Thursday, September 19, 2024
- Time: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM MST
- Where: Presidents’ Circle, University of Utah in front of the John R. Park Building
- Schedule: Event will begin with remarks from the SPC student board, lawn games, and music.
- Where to donate: [Student Pride Center Harness Campaign](#)

The press is invited to attend the event. There will be an opportunity to place microphones on a podium.

#### **ABOUT THE STUDENT PRIDE CENTER**

The Student Pride Center’s mission is to support and empower LGBTQ+ students by offering educational and community resources, advocacy, and a safe space where everyone can express their authentic selves. It is a program of the Utah Pride Center. For more information about the Student Pride Center and its programs please visit [www.studentpridecenter.com](http://www.studentpridecenter.com) or contact: [uofustudentpridecenter@gmail.com](mailto:uofustudentpridecenter@gmail.com).

#### **ABOUT THE UTAH PRIDE CENTER**

The Utah Pride Center, based in the heart of Salt Lake City, Utah, is a community center dedicated to uniting, empowering and celebrating Utah’s diverse LGBTQIA+ community. The Utah Pride Center is a private 501(c)(3) organization that produces and funds the annual Utah Pride Festival and Parade, as well as year-round programs and events that directly serve the queer community. For more information about the Utah Pride Center, visit [www.utahpridecenter.org](http://www.utahpridecenter.org). For more information on the Utah Pride Festival and Parade, visit [www.utahpride.org](http://www.utahpride.org).

