Division of Student Affairs Announces the Launch of LGBT Safezone Office
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Division of Student Affairs is excited to announce the launch of FSU’s first-ever Safezone Office, a resource and ally office for the LGBT community. A part of the Division’s diversity initiatives, the Safezone Office will serve the entire FSU community as a resource for LGBT awareness and education as well as provide an affirming and supportive office environment for LGBT students and their allies. Fayetteville State University is now the 3rd reported historically black college or university to open an LGBT-specific office or center.

The FSU Safezone office will be located in Hood Hall, Office 34 for the 2013-14 school year. The Safezone office will host a Grand Re-opening and Open House for its official opening on Friday, October 11, 2013 from 12:00pm until 5:00pm. Refreshments will be served in the Safezone Office while available throughout the day and special performances will begin at 1:30pm outside of Hood Hall. The October 11th grand re-opening date has larger significance as the commemorative National Coming Out Day for LGBT identified persons across America.

The Safezone Office program outcomes include:
- Raising the cultural competence of Faculty/Staff to include more knowledge of the LGBTQ population
- Providing assistance to an often marginalized student group through visible, structured office support
- Educating the student population on the issues and concerns facing the LGBT community
- Referring students to appropriate campus and non-campus resources for issues and concerns
- Retaining LGBT students at the University through assistance and visible support

The Fayetteville Observer recently published an article about Fayetteville State University’s Safezone program. The article featured commentary from FSU Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Dr. Janice Haynie, Student Affairs Safezone Consultant & Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, Dr. Emily Lenning, and Safezone Staff & Career Counselor, Ms. Latosha M. Williams.

The Safezone Office opening has been featured in national news outlets such as the Huffington Post and the blogs of two national organizations, the Human Rights Campaign and Campus Pride. Please see below to read more:

Huffington Post: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/marybeth-gasman/meeting-the-needs-of-lgbt_b_4101327.html

The Safezone Program at Fayetteville State University exists to create an affirming and supportive campus climate through identifying and educating members of our campus community who are open to and supportive of all individuals regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Safe Zone Office | Hood Hall, Office 34 | 910-672-2307 | www.uncfsu.edu/studentaffairs/safe-zone