Safe Zone is a new service being offered here at USC.

While it is the intention of the Safe Zone program to educate and identify certain members of the university community who are willing to be of specific assistance to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender individuals, it nor its members are an activist organization. Personal, religious, moral, or other views are not to be discriminated against. The foundation of safe zone is that each and every student at the University of South Carolina deserves an equal opportunity to strive towards academic success.

As dictated by the Carolina Creed, we will strive to respect the dignity of each person, discourage bigotry and strive to learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions. Further, as recently amended in the universities non discrimination policy, we shall not discriminate based on sexual orientation.

Research has proven that the GLBT population has special needs and faces special challenges throughout their university career. This includes the need of feeling safe, a basic need for survival and success.

Safe Zone is a resource for this group of minority students much like any other minority resource. While not every person at the university is expected to be a member of the safe zone program, it should be expected that each person should be aware of the resources available to all of our students. It would most benefit each student on campus if each faculty/staff member was aware of the various student organizations, campus offices, and programs and services available to students.

Lack of affiliation with safe zone does not in itself signify any level of homophobia, oppression, or hatred. Faculty and staff have diverse interests and areas of involvement. This program is designed to identify and support those who share a specific interest in the well being of this population of students.

If you are interested in becoming a member, there will be two more Orientation sessions this semester:

March 26th from 10am-12noon and
April 16th from 10-12noon

For more information or if you would like to become a member, please contact us at Safezone@gwm.sc.edu

Sincerely,

Jay Dempsey and Jimmy Moore
GLBT SAFE ZONE Program Coordinators
University of South Carolina
safezone@gwm.sc.edu