

To: Potential Outlets (GMU listservs, 4<sup>th</sup> estate, LGBTQ+ organizations, etc)

From: Josh Feldhousen

Dear Potential Outlets,

George Mason University is committed in its ongoing mission to spread diversity and inclusiveness on campus. One of the ways the college tries to achieve that goal is with the recent introduction of the LGBTQ Studies minor, which began in the fall semester of this year. George Mason is the only public university in Virginia to offer this minor, providing students the opportunity to study the history and current issues of LGBT activism and theory.

Would you be interested in publishing a story about the minor, focusing on the history of why it was created, why students should consider choosing it, and how it can impact their future careers?

This story would be invaluable to your audience of students, both as a potential base for knowledge and to allow them to succeed in future workplace settings.

Let me know what you think about this idea, and have an excellent week.

Josh Feldhousen

Communication major, minoring in Public Relations and Journalism

George Mason University, Class of 2020

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This is very simple to use in relation to the press releases. Simply use this template, while obviously swapping out things like name or information about the release. Using this pitch, and sending it to the media list or other organizations you're aware of, will grow awareness immensely.

The George (Mason news for faculty and media) <https://www2.gmu.edu/news>

Loudoun Times-Mirror (Local news outlets would be interested in local stories) 703-777-1111, [LTMEditor@loudountimes.com](mailto:LTMEditor@loudountimes.com), <https://www.loudountimes.com/>

Local DC LGBTQ+ Centers (Could provide other resources and tactics, such as Capital Pride) +1 (202) 719-5304

Washington Blade (LGBT- specific news) Editor Kevin Naff, [knaff@washblade.com](mailto:knaff@washblade.com), (202) 747-2077



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Josh Feldhousen

703-801-1159

[jfeldhou@gmu.edu](mailto:jfeldhou@gmu.edu)


**George Mason University Encourages Students to minor in LGBTQ+ studies**

The new minor, added in Fall 2019, seeks to educate students on LGBTQ+ history

**Fairfax, Virginia** – November 13, 2019 – George Mason University has recently added a LGBTQ+ Studies minor to its Women and Gender Studies Program. Starting in the Fall 2019 semester, students may take a variety of courses relating to LGBTQ+ topics, including “LGBTQ Health”, “LGBTQ Issues in Education”, “Gender, Sexuality, and Disability,” and more to accompany their major. This minor is also the first of its kind in Virginia, offering a unique experience for George Mason University students.

Any student from any major is welcome to register, if, for instance, they wish to know more about LGBTQ+ topics, and have already taken advantage of LGBTQ+ Resources in Sub I. According to David Corwin, the advisor for the minor, 10 students have already signed up, and more will be expected in upcoming semesters. Corwin says that the students who go through this program will “make change in our world... Our faculty and students are excited about where we are headed next.”

In addition, the minor opens a variety of post-graduation opportunities. Corwin also mentions that students will “use what they learn to be activists in a variety of organizations. Even in organizations that do not seem to [have] missions that are rooted in social justice, our alumni can be advocates for LGBTQ inclusive policies and allies for their LGBTQ identified colleagues.”



According to GLSEN, an organization working to promote LGBTQ+ inclusiveness in K-12 schools, students who receive LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum and resources report a better, more inclusive climate on-campus.

Additionally, August Tenney, a psychology major, mentioned excitement for the project, saying that it was a good idea to create the major. Tenney also added that the minor was “a valuable resource that will greatly benefit students.”

For more information about the minor, visit <https://wmst.gmu.edu/programs/la-minor-wgst-lgbt>, or email them at [wmst@gmu.edu](mailto:wmst@gmu.edu). Interested students can also visit the Women and Gender Studies office in the Johnson Center, in room 240K.

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