

## **ACUHO-I Conference New Professional Scholarship**

The ACUHO-I New Professionals Scholarship was established in 2005 to provide new professionals with financial support to attend the annual ACUHO-I conference. The recipient of the scholarship will receive up to \$1000 USD toward registration hotel, meals, and transportation for the conference. The scholarship will be in the form of a reimbursement which the recipient will receive at the ACUHO-I conference.

The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage:

- Critical thinking around relevant and important issues in the field
- Professional writing experience and practice
- Involvement in regional and professional organizations
- Innovative and creative approaches to important issues
- Professional development opportunities

The ACUHO-I New Professionals Scholarship opportunity is available to those who meet the following eligibility requirements:

- No more than three years of fulltime experience in the Housing & Residence Life career field. (Undergraduate and graduate experience do not count toward the “three year” limit.)
- Be from an ACUHO-I member institution.

In order apply for the scholarship, you must submit:

- A paper on an assigned case study (3-5 pages)
- A letter of interest: Why is the scholarship important to the candidate?

Application materials must be submitted by email to Natasha Reynolds by April 16, 2010. The recipient of the award will be announced by April 23, 2010.

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## Case Study:

You are a hall director for Residence Life at the University of the Northwest, a four-year mid-sized private liberal arts institution with no religious affiliation. University of the Northwest (Northwest) was established one hundred years ago and is located in downtown Centerville, a city of 200,000 people in the northwest United States. Founded as a liberal arts college, Northwest is known for its Business, Humanities and International Programs degrees. Centerville residents have historically looked to Northwest as a cultural center of the community. Northwest enrolls 5,000 traditionally-aged students from across the country. You house 3,500 of those students on campus. About 50% of these students come from out of state. Approximately 80% of students receive some sort of financial aid.

Charlie, a student who identifies as transgender lives in one of the residence halls under your supervision at Northwest. Charlie has experienced harassment from his male roommate since Charlie recently brought a man he is dating back to their room. Charlie's roommate told others on the floor about this and now it seems that everyone in the building is talking about Charlie's gender and sexuality. Although Charlie is out, he is hurt and offended that so many students seem to be insensitively and hatefully gossiping about him. Charlie has heard others in his building make negative comments such as "that faggot" and, at one point, anti-gay epithets were scrawled on the dry erase board of his door. Charlie erased the markings and did not file any report. A few days after the epithets were written, Charlie decided to approach his Resident Assistant (RA) and talk about all of these concerns. The RA listened thoughtfully and told Charlie that the best next step would be to hold a community meeting to talk about these issues. Charlie was not comfortable with this approach, but the RA persisted. The RA called a mandatory community meeting the following evening to address some of these concerns. The meeting did not curb the behaviors and, although the RA spoke in general terms and didn't mention Charlie specifically, has only made Charlie feel more isolated. The RA did not report the situation to her hall director. Charlie's roommate and floor mates have continued to be so hostile that Charlie no longer feels safe in the room. For the last week, he's been staying overnight at a friend's room in another building.

It is 3pm on Sunday afternoon. You are relaxing in your apartment, which is located inside of Charlie's campus residence hall. You hear a knock on your door and answer it to find Charlie's parents on the other side. Charlie's parents are very angry and upset. Charlie called home on Saturday and told them about what has been happening and the parents immediately got on a plane. They are demanding a response from the university and trying to figure out how to file a complaint and who best to talk to. They are also demanding that Charlie be moved to a new room. They can't afford a single room and Charlie wants to live with a female roommate. Although there have been conversations about it, you currently have no gender inclusive housing options available on campus.

### Your Task:

Please describe what you believe to be the key issues in this case study and detail what you would consider to be an appropriate resolution process.