

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 3, 2010

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**UH LGBT RESOURCE CENTER ANNOUNCES “COUGAR ALLY” TRAINING
September 24 and November 4**

The University of Houston’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Resource Center announces the continuation of its “Cougar Ally Training” (CAT) for faculty and staff on Friday, September 24 and Thursday, November 4. Participants receive a “Cougar Ally” placard to display as a visible statement of support of the LGBT community.

With over 70 Cougar Allies trained last year, members of the UH campus community are working together to increase the safety and comfort level for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students, staff, and faculty at the University of Houston. The goal of CAT is to provide factual information and dispel myths about LGBT individuals, reduce homophobia and heterosexism on campus, and to provide a safe, open environment to talk about issues of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.

“College students already have a difficult time keeping up with school work, employment, and life in general,” said Oliver Blanco, Bauer College of Business Career Counselor and recent Cougar Ally graduate. “Students who are part of the GLBT community may experience increased hardship. The ‘Cougar Ally’ placard is a beacon for any student seeking support, and allows them the comfort knowing they are not alone. Completing the Cougar Ally Training at UH has given me the tools to provide a sanctuary for these students. This kind of awareness is greatly needed and I am glad UH encourages it.”

The Cougar Ally Training is a collaborative effort between the LGBT Resource Center, Human Resources, Women’s Resource Center, Counseling and Psychological Services, Center for Student Involvement (formerly Campus Activities), and College of Technology as representatives from each of these departments helped to develop the training and facilitate one or more of the trainings each semester.

- WHAT:** COUGAR ALLY TRAINING
- WHEN:** Friday, September 24, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00p.m., or
Thursday, November 4th, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00p.m.
Student groups my contact LGBT Resource Center, Director, Lorraine Schroeder at 713-743-5463 or at lschroeder@uh.edu
- WHERE:** McElhinney, Room 341, University of Houston
- REGISTRATION:** www.uh.edu/hr/training/hrtraining.htm or Cody Pelletier, HR mgr, 713-743-5915 or cpelletier@uh.edu
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