



TAMPA BAY NOW HOME TO FLORIDA'S FIRST OUT & EQUAL REGIONAL AFFILIATE

WHEN: July 7, 2009

WHERE: Tampa, FL

WHAT: Florida's first Out & Equal Workplace Advocates Regional Affiliate for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) workplace community calls Tampa Bay home.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Tampa, FL] Out & Equal Workplace Advocates announces that the Tampa Bay workforce now has a resource for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) employees and their employers with the new formation of the Out & Equal Tampa Bay Regional Affiliate.

Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, and their associated regional affiliates, work to educate and empower organizations, human resource professionals, Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) and individual employees through programs and services that result in equal policies, opportunities, practices, and benefits in the workplace regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, or characteristics.

"I am very excited to be part of the core team that is bringing Out & Equal to the Tampa Bay area", said Cheryl Madelle, co-chair of the Tampa Bay Regional Affiliate. "By extending their national mission and vision to our local level, Out & Equal will be able to provide much needed resources and training for our bay area LGBT workforce. By diversifying the talent pool, employers will be able to reap the benefits of recruiting and retaining qualified and diversified employees while building an inclusive workplace where all individuals know they are equally valued and respected."

"By helping LGBT employees bring their whole selves to work each and every day, we at Out & Equal Tampa Bay can partner with employers to develop a diverse and inclusive workforce here in Florida" added co-chair Anthony Virostko.

Out & Equal Tampa Bay will be hosting a kick-off event on Friday, August 7th starting at 6:30PM at the Metropolitan Community Church located at 408 East Cayuga Street in Tampa for anyone interested in learning more about Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, as well as persons interested in participating in future Out & Equal functions. The kick-off event is free of charge; however, we ask that you register attendance by visiting www.outandequaltampabay.org.

Out & Equal offers a wide range of programs and services to promote LGBT workplace equality. Upcoming activities from Out & Equal include the 2009 Out & Equal Workplace Summit-the world's premier conference on LGBT workplace equality-Oct. 6-9, Disney's Coronado Springs Resort Florida.

Out & Equal Tampa Bay

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Out & Equal Workplace Advocates™ is a national nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Out & Equal champions safe and equitable workplaces for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people. The organization advocates building and strengthening successful organizations that value all employees, customers, and communities. See our website, www.outandequal.org, for more details.

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