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Leadership ISU

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Horizons Project

As I began this Horizons Project, I must say that I was a little worried. I chose to attend a LGBT meeting, and I don’t support their cause and frankly, I’m against what they’re fighting for. Going into it, I expected to learn more about this group of people and why they were there. I hoped I could learn what they fight for and if I could ever support some of what they stand for.

I faced a lot of difficulty in this experience, from both my peers and myself. When I told some of my friends what I was attending, they poked fun at me for going, even as I explained it was for class. I faced a lot of internal struggle as well, from worrying that I might speak up and be looked down upon by the group, to physically having to bite my tongue when a member said people choose their gender later on in life.

It surprised me when one of their cabinet members came around at the beginning and met everyone personally, and was even warm and open as I told him I was only there for a class, and not actually interested in the group. I was also surprised by the lack of structure in the meeting, but from what I gathered it wasn’t the norm. During the meeting we sat in small groups and just talked about many different topics or whatever topics we wanted. This was interesting, just not as organized as I expected or hoped.

By attending this meeting, I learned more about the LGBT community and who they are. I learned some of the stories about people being homosexual, how they were taunted in the hallways of high school, and how college was so different and accepting. They talked about how much they love this club and the support it gives them every time they have a meeting. I learned a lot about the people in the club, or at least in my small group, but not as much about the club as a whole or the LGBT movement as a whole. The most I learned however, was mostly about myself.

By going to this meeting, I learned that it didn’t help me appreciate the LGBT community anymore than I already did. I realize that this was the purpose of this assignment, but their view on life and sexuality goes against my religious views. For the sake of civility, I still cooperate with them and talk to them even as I disagree with their lifestyle.

While being a leader, I will take this group’s views into consideration when I make important decisions, or even minor decisions. No matter what my personal views are, I must take everyone’s thoughts into consideration whether I agree with their views or not. And if this community makes up the majority of my group, I would need to agree and come to a consensus with them, or give into their desires altogether as long as it’s for the betterment of the group.

Overall, I didn’t like having to go to this meeting, but I felt that I learned a lot from it about myself, about how I can lead better, and about this community.