

UCLA Arthur Ashe Student Health & Wellness Center  
A Division of UCLA Student Affairs  
Geno Mehalik, Outreach Manager  
gmehalik@ashe.ucla.edu



*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**UCLA’s Arthur Ashe Student Health & Wellness Center Named  
“Leader” in HRC Healthcare Equality Index for Third Year**

*The Ashe Center joins only 418 healthcare providers nationwide  
to earn the “LGBTQ Healthcare Equality Leader” designation*

UC LOS ANGELES, CA –Apr. 2, 2018 – The Human Rights Campaign Foundation (HRC), the educational arm of the nation’s largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) civil rights organization, just released the 11th edition of its annual Healthcare Equality Index (HEI), recognizing The UCLA Arthur Ashe Student Health & Wellness Center as a “Leader” in its efforts to serve the UCLA student community for yet another year.

The Ashe Center, a division of UCLA Student Affairs devoted to providing quality, accessible, state-of-the-art healthcare and education to support the unique development of UCLA students, received a similar commendation from HRC last year (“Top Performer”). In 2018, however, The Ashe Center rose to the level of “Leader,” improving on its commitment to inclusive healthcare practices, and expanding on its efforts to meet the needs of all LGBTQ UCLA students.

This honor is given to facilities that meet LGBT-inclusive benchmarks that are part of the HRC Foundation’s [\*Healthcare Equality Index\*](#), a unique survey that encourages equal care for LGBT Americans by evaluating inclusive policies and practices related to LGBT patients, visitors and employees.

The Ashe Center earned top marks in meeting non-discrimination and training criteria that demonstrate its commitment to equitable, inclusive care for LGBT patients, and their families, who can face significant challenges in securing the quality health care and respect they deserve.

Dr. David Baron, Executive Director of The Ashe Center, said: “We are committed to healthcare equality as one of our core values in providing access to and delivery of the highest quality health and wellness services for *all* UCLA students. Receiving the HRC Foundation’s recognition validates our substantial efforts in this regard and is an honor we are truly grateful to receive. However, it is a distinction we must now continuously endeavor to earn.”

UCLA’s Ashe Center is one of a select group of healthcare facilities nationwide to be named *Leaders in LGBT Healthcare Equality*. Facilities awarded this title meet key criteria, including patient and employee non-discrimination policies that specifically mention sexual orientation and gender identity, a guarantee of equal visitation for same-sex partners and parents, and LGBT health education for key staff members.

“With some of our biggest battles still ahead of us, it is crucial that institutions continue to demonstrate that the march toward full equality is not slowing down,” said HRC President Chad Griffin. “The 626 participants in this year’s HEI continue this march in partnership with the LGBTQ community and we commend them for their leadership. For over a decade, the HEI has been the roadmap to closing the gap in ensuring equal care to LGBTQ patients and their families, and we urge every healthcare facility to join us in this continuing effort to provide inclusive care to all.”

The mission of The Ashe Center is to support UCLA students in the successful attainment of their educational goals through the personalized delivery of accessible, high-quality health and wellness services, rendered with kindness and competence, by diligent, dedicated professionals.

The *Healthcare Equality Index* offers healthcare facilities unique and powerful resources designed to help provide equal care to a long-overlooked group of patients, as well as assistance in complying with new regulatory requirements and access to high-quality staff training.

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation is education arm of America's largest

civil rights organization working to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. HRC envisions a world where LGBTQ people are embraced as full members of society at home, at work and in every community.

For more information about the *Healthcare Equality Index*, or to download a free copy of the report, visit [www.hrc.org/hei](http://www.hrc.org/hei).

To visit The Ashe Center website, visit [www.studenthealth.ucla.edu](http://www.studenthealth.ucla.edu).

# # #