

## BestColleges.com and Campus Pride Announce 2022 Best Colleges for LGBTQ+ Students Rankings

Part of the New LGBTQ+ Hub on BestColleges.com

June 7, 2022 (Seattle, WA) - BestColleges.com, in partnership with Campus Pride, released today its 2022 college rankings for LGBTQ+ students. As in years past, the Best Colleges for LGBTQ+ Students in 2022 and the Best College for LGBTQ+ Students in Each State were ranked to help students of various gender and sexual identities find an inclusive and quality academic institution to begin their educational journey. New this year, the Best Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) for LGBTQ+ Students were ranked for LGBTQ+ HBCU students looking for a supportive educational environment.

"In the last 20 years of our work at Campus Pride, the paradigm has continually shifted for greater LGBTQ+ inclusion. Nobody wants to attend an unsafe, unwelcoming, or discriminatory campus," said Shane Windmeyer, executive director of Campus Pride. "We're proud to continue our partnership with BestColleges.com to provide these best colleges for LGBTQ+ students looking at academics and our LGBTQ + inclusion metrics. Plus, it is truly exciting to release the first-in-the-nation ranking of HBCUs for LGBTQ+ students. We hope that it will be helpful to HBCUs to continue supporting LGBTQ+ inclusion and for LGBTQ+ students to find a supportive environment that's right for them, to live, learn, and grow."

The nationwide and best-in-state rankings combine BestColleges.com's traditional methodology that considers academic support and affordability data along with the <a href="Campus Pride Index">Campus Pride Index</a> score, which is a comprehensive national rating system that measures LGBTQ-friendly variables. Campus Pride takes an exhaustive and multifaceted approach, considering eight LGBTQ-inclusive factors to reach a measurement. It also breaks down <a href="what LGBTQ+ students should consider in this video">what LGBTQ+ students should consider in this video</a>. The Best HBCUs for LGBTQ+ Students ranking combines BestColleges.com's traditional methodology that considers academic support and affordability data along with an assessment of HBCUs based on variables listed by the <a href="Campus Pride HBCU">Campus Pride HBCU</a> Clearinghouse. The listings also include descriptions of unique campus resources that provide support to students of various gender and sexual identities.

This year's rankings are part of <u>BestColleges.com's new LGBTQ+ Hub</u>, which explores everything current and prospective students should know about the college experience of this diverse group. The suite of resources includes exploratory pieces about issues facing LGBTQ+ students, specifically tailored tips on financial aid and scholarships, guides for allies and families, and even real student perspectives.

"There is improved visibility of this group of students' experiences due to increasing enrollment among LGBTQ+ students and expanded institutional DEI efforts," said Cobretti Williams, Ph.D., senior editor of diversity, equity, and inclusion for BestColleges.com. "But this group still faces

unique challenges, including concerns about safety and protection and the need for more supportive and inclusive spaces, programs, and services, which can make navigating the higher education landscape difficult. This resource hub offers LGBTQ+ students a place to begin or to refer to throughout their experience."

## About BestColleges.com

BestColleges.com empowers students to make smarter educational decisions and find schools that best fit their needs through proprietary research, user-friendly guides, and hundreds of unique college rankings. As a trusted education advisor, it also provides a wide array of college planning, financial aid, and career resources to help students realize life goals and overcome educational challenges as they prepare for careers after college. BestColleges is a Red Ventures company.

## **About Campus Pride**

<u>Campus Pride</u> is the leading national educational organization for LGBTQ and ally college students, as well as campus groups building future leaders and safer, more LGBTQ-friendly colleges and universities. The organization provides resources and services to thousands of college students and nearly 1,400 campuses annually.