

LGBTQ+ Higher Education Pioneer Shane Windmeyer Launches Private College Consulting with SafeSpaceonCampus.com

Campus Pride founder & Campus Pride Index creator Shane Windmeyer offers personalized LGBTQ+ college guidance for families, plus consulting & training

CHARLOTTE, NC, UNITED STATES, August 24, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- As LGBTQ+ students and families navigate a rapidly changing higher education landscape, nationally recognized LGBTQ+ higher education expert [Shane Mendez Windmeyer](#) is launching private consulting services to help students evaluate colleges, campus climate, safety, belonging and life after high school. Learn more: [SafeSpaceonCampus.com](#)



"LGBTQ+ higher education pioneer Shane Mendez Windmeyer, founder of Safe Space on Campus and Campus Pride, launches private LGBTQ+ college consulting to help students and families find supportive colleges where they can belong and thrive."

Shane Windmeyer — founder of Campus Pride, creator of the Campus Pride Index, author of The Advocate College Guide for LGBT Students and founder of Safe Space on Campus — brings more than 30 years of experience to the new services available through SafeSpaceonCampus.com. Learn more about Windmeyer at [ShaneWindmeyer.com](#).

The expanded practice includes personalized LGBTQ+ college consulting for students and families, along with LGBTQ+ higher education consulting, campus climate strategy, Safe Space training, speaking and educational programs for colleges, universities and organizations.

"The LGBTQ+ college search has changed," Windmeyer said. "Families can't rely solely on a ranking, a rainbow flag or a college's reputation from five or ten years ago. We have to look at what LGBTQ+ students are actually experiencing on that campus today."

His approach centers on one important question:

Can I see myself here?
How Do You Find an LGBTQ-Friendly
College Today?

Finding an LGBTQ-friendly college requires looking beyond rankings and examining current evidence of policies, people, programs, campus practices, location and actual LGBTQ+ student experiences.

Windmeyer knows traditional LGBTQ+ college rankings well because he pioneered them. He founded Campus Pride, created the Campus Pride Index and authored The Advocate College Guide for LGBT Students, helping generations of students and families evaluate LGBTQ+ life in higher education.

But today's landscape is different.

Changes in state laws, institutional leadership, staffing, healthcare, housing policies, LGBTQ+ programs and political climate can significantly affect a student's experience. A college with a longstanding LGBTQ-friendly reputation may not necessarily offer the same environment today.

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Shane Windmeyer, LGBTQ+ Higher Education Pioneer & Founder of Campus Pride

Instead of only asking, "Is this an LGBTQ-friendly college?", Windmeyer encourages families to ask:

"What evidence shows LGBTQ+ students are supported here right now?"

What Does an LGBTQ+ College Consultant Do?

An LGBTQ+ college consultant helps students and families evaluate how campus climate, policies, safety, housing, healthcare, community and belonging may affect an LGBTQ+ student's college experience.



Everyone Deserves a Safe Space

SafeSpaceonCampus.com

Safe Space on Campus, founded by LGBTQ+ higher education pioneer Shane Mendez Windmeyer, helps students and families evaluate LGBTQ-friendly colleges, campus climate, safety, support and belonging.

Windmeyer's consulting complements traditional admissions counseling by focusing on a different question:

Will this be an environment where this LGBTQ+ student can learn, belong, grow and thrive?

Families can investigate nondiscrimination protections, transgender and nonbinary support, gender-inclusive housing, chosen-name practices, LGBTQ+ healthcare, student organizations, campus safety, institutional support, state laws, surrounding communities and current student experiences.

"The best college according to somebody else's ranking and the best college for you aren't necessarily the same place," Windmeyer said.

The 6 Ps of LGBTQ+ Campus Fit + YOU

At the center of Windmeyer's approach is the Safe Space on Campus 6 Ps of LGBTQ+ Campus Fit + YOU, a practical framework for looking beyond brochures, rankings and rainbow flags.

POLICY: What do they promise?

Examine nondiscrimination protections, housing, bias reporting, chosen-name practices, healthcare and other written policies. As Windmeyer emphasizes, policy is the floor — it is not proof of culture.

PEOPLE: Who supports you?

Identify the LGBTQ+ staff, faculty, student leaders, advisors and others actually providing support and community.

PROGRAMS: What happens here?

Determine whether LGBTQ+ organizations, events and resources are active, visible and institutionally supported.

PLACE: Where will you live and learn?

Consider housing, healthcare, transportation, the surrounding community and state and local environment.

PRACTICE: What really happens?



Shane Mendez Windmeyer, nationally recognized LGBTQ+ higher education pioneer, Campus Pride founder and creator of the Campus Pride Index, now offers private LGBTQ+ college consulting for students and families through ShaneWindmeyer.com.

Investigate whether institutional actions and everyday student experiences match written policies and public commitments.

PERSPECTIVE: What do people who experience the campus say?

Listen to current LGBTQ+ students and recent graduates who can provide firsthand insight into belonging, safety and campus life.

And finally:

+ YOU: Can I See Myself Here?

The right LGBTQ-friendly college is ultimately one where an individual student can see themselves being known, supported, challenged, safe and able to thrive.

LGBTQ+ identity matters, but so do academics, affordability, career opportunities, location, housing, activities, community and personal goals.

Helping Families Navigate Life After High School

Windmeyer's approach was recently featured during his August 18, 2026 webinar, "The Road Ahead: Helping LGBTQ+ Teens Navigate Life After High School," for Equality Florida's Parenting with Pride program.

Families were introduced to the 6 Ps framework and encouraged to look beyond traditional "Best Of" lists when evaluating postsecondary options.

The approach also recognizes that the right next step may be a four-year university, community college, trade or technical program, HBCU, Hispanic-Serving Institution, Tribal college, faith-based institution or another pathway.

The goal isn't finding one type of college. It's finding the right next environment for that student.

LGBTQ+ Higher Education Consulting for Colleges and Universities

Windmeyer's expanded practice also provides LGBTQ+ higher education and campus climate consulting for colleges, universities, schools and organizations.

Services include LGBTQ+ campus climate consulting, Safe Space training, policy and practice review, strategic planning, transgender and nonbinary inclusion, student belonging, campus safety, faculty and staff education, student leadership development, curriculum development, keynote speaking and customized workshops.

The work helps institutions examine a fundamental distinction:

What does the institution say about LGBTQ+ inclusion — and what do LGBTQ+ students actually experience?

Who Is Shane Mendez Windmeyer?

Shane Mendez Windmeyer is a nationally recognized LGBTQ+ higher education pioneer, best-selling author, educator, speaker and consultant with more than 30 years of experience improving campus life for LGBTQ+ students. He founded Campus Pride, created the Campus Pride Index, authored The Advocate College Guide for LGBT Students and founded Safe Space on Campus. His programs, educational resources and advocacy have reached more than 1,400 colleges and universities nationwide, while his Safe Space trainings have educated thousands of students, faculty, staff and administrators. Learn more: ShaneWindmeyer.com

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