What is IWU Safe Zone?

IWU Safe Zone is a program which identifies "gay friendly" faculty, staff, and students to provide support and resources for IWU lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT*) community members. The IWU Safe Zone symbol is a message to LGBT students and colleagues that you are an understanding, supportive, and trustworthy ally. LGBT individuals will know they can come to IWU Safe Zone members for help, advice, or just to talk with someone who is supportive of their sexual orientation.

Posting the IWU Safe Zone symbol in your area also means that homophobic and heterosexist comments and actions will not be tolerated, but will be addressed in an educational and informative manner. Colleagues and students have a right to their opinion and deeply held beliefs; however, if someone is stating myths or misinformation about lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender individuals, IWU Safe Zone members will connect them to more accurate information in a respectful manner.

What Does the IWU Safe Zone Symbol Represent?

The symbol represents the LGBT student, faculty, or staff member within the safety of the circle and the embrace of open support on the Illinois Wesleyan campus. The rainbow triangle is a common symbol among the LGBT community and is adopted for IWU Safe Zone. IWU community members understand that the individual displaying the symbol has participated in IWU Safe Zone trainings and is committed to eliminating homophobia and heterosexism from the campus.

*LGBT=Lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. The letters in the acronym are often interchanged depending on the organization/person using the acronym. GLBT is also a common order. Many acronyms also include more letters to represent different populations. (Example: Q may be added to include “queer” or “questioning” individuals.)