Greetings!

Are you thinking about the possibility of attending Indiana University? If you’re asking yourself, “Why IU?” I’d like to point out a few things you may not know. Indiana University is a top-notch research university on one of the most beautiful campuses in the country, nestled in a progressive small town in America’s heartland with a rich history and a cosmopolitan feel. And when I say it’s progressive, here are just a few examples of what I mean.

More than sixty years ago, a little-known IU professor named Alfred Kinsey astounded the world with his research on the diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. His amazing research continues at the world-renowned institute bearing his name, the Kinsey Institute, and that research was instrumental in leading to the sexual revolution in American culture in the 1960’s—which, in turn, led to greater acceptance of people with diverse sexual identities.

In 1994, in the midst of a great deal of political controversy, Indiana University established an office for students who identified as lesbian, gay, and bisexual—and soon thereafter, as transgender. The GLBT Student Support Services office has helped IU gain the reputation of being one of the most LGBTQ-friendly universities in the nation, and over the years, we’ve consulted with scores of other colleges and universities that have sought to create similar centers on their campuses. Check out the rest of our web page at glbt.indiana.edu for more information about the services we provide.

Last year, a thematic unit called Spectrum was opened in one of our residence halls for students to live with others of any sexual orientation or gender identity. It’s been a great success. And now, as we look to the future, we are seeking a new name for the GLBT Student Support Services as we learn from and listen to students who identify as asexual, nonbinary, genderqueer, and more—all that while being grateful for the students of various identities, including straight students, who assist us in our work and whom we learn from in the process.

So as you continue your search, keep IU in mind. This is a campus that affirms and celebrates diversity in a wide variety of ways, always encouraging students (and parents, faculty, staff, and alumni) to learn more. We’d love to have you become part of the conversations that go on in our office every day. Maybe you’d like to visit the campus! If so, check out admissions.indiana.edu and arrange a visit—and please stop by our office if you do. Or simply contact us with any questions you might have.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Doug Bauder
Director, GLBT Student Support Services