

SPECTRUM

During my summer orientation at Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine, I was amazed at everything the school had to offer its students. I became more involved with student organizations, and I thought something was missing. As an openly gay podiatry student, I felt that Temple needed an organization that would provide a welcoming and inclusive environment to students, faculty, and administration of all sexual orientations and genders. I also understand the need to create a safe place for students struggling with their sexual identity and fear of what others may think. An organization not only to provide a place to help support fellow students struggling through a difficult time, but also to teach allies about our experiences. My classmate, Camille Kim, and I decided to bridge that gap and create our own student organization called SPECTRUM.

The mission of SPECTRUM is to provide educational resources and professional networking to its LGBTQ members and allies. Through seminars and group meetings, our club hopes to educate other students and members about LGBTQ issues and concerns in the health field and community. For example, some issues all podiatric medical professionals will encounter is how to appropriately address LGBTQ patients and how to assess their social history. We also hope to provide connections and advice to residency applicants who are concerned with disclosing their sexuality during externships and residency interviews.

We are proud to have the positive support from our faculty, administration, and fellow classmates thus far. We have an excellent faculty advisor who is willing to help us reach our goals. I hope to bring change and great impact to many people, and especially Temple's podiatry program. By learning to be more aware, we can become better trained physicians and improve the personal care of our patients.

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