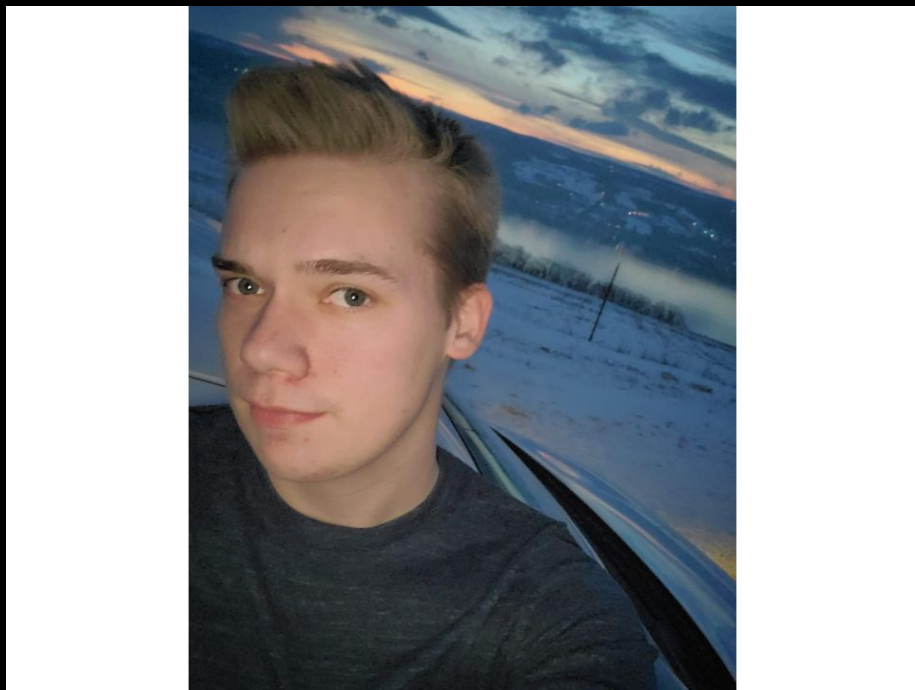


A Bit of Me

This series of profiles on SUNY Broome community members is a part of the Student Village diversity calendar initiative. We will be highlighting members in our community who identify with or can speak on the diversity theme or topic for each month. The theme for October is LGBTQ+ pride and the topic is cultural appropriation. To be featured in this series please reach out to Pamela Alvarez or Alexandria Donkor.

Caleb Harrower

SUNY Broome Alum



Background: I am now 22 years old, and I'm originally from Waverly, NY. Currently, I'm a Marketing Specialist for two huge resort campgrounds in the beautiful Finger Lakes region of New York.

WHO IS YOUR HERO?

My hero is definitely my Grandma Alice. She was always there for me back when I dealt with family issues. I would not be as motivated or ambitious as I am today, without the support and guidance from my loving grandma. She never saw me any differently, only saw me as strong. She always reminded me how much I have accomplished, and how much further I could go, which was always a boost into my motivation.

WHAT WOULD YOU SING AT KARAOKE NIGHT?

Even though I'm not much of a singer in front of people, I'd definitely sing some Lewis Capaldi song. I know just about every lyric to every one of his songs! Definitely recommend him if you haven't heard of his music!

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK HARD?

I always keep in mind how much I want to prove myself. Not to anyone in particular, but to myself first and foremost. I fully understand this is my life, so I should reach for my own goals, and not ones where people try setting for me. I strive for stability, happiness, and success of some sort. After years of self-motivation and lots of hard work, I can definitely say I've fortunately

obtained those three goals. Though, I remain ambitious because I know there's always room for improvement in character, in performance, and in my personal life.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT YOUR CAREER?

In my current workplace, I am definitely fortunate enough to have wonderful bosses. My bosses, Matt & Lavender have definitely helped guide me a lot in my life for the last 5 years. They've truly believed in me more than anyone else. Being able to work side-by-side with them, in planning many functions and creative parts for our resort campgrounds, I couldn't ask for better mentors in my life.

WHAT IS YOUR PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT?

My proudest accomplishment would be never allowing anyone to tell me I cannot accomplish something. It may sound a bit cliché, but I have always made it a point to prove someone's doubts wrong in my life. I always try to maintain a professional and hardworking quality of work in just about everything I do.

WHAT DOES LGBTQ+ PRIDE MEAN TO YOU?

LGBTQ+ pride to me, means that everyone who identifies as such, should be able to experience the freedom in being comfortable in their own skin. To whichever capacity that may mean. Everyone deserves the chance to live their life happily. I hope someday that everyone identifying themselves as LGBTQ+, may feel pride within themselves.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO CELEBRATE THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY?

It is very important to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community, because it may help others who are struggling with their personal identity or desires. It's important for those having a hard time coming to terms with their sexuality and/or identification, to realize they aren't alone, and things will get better once they get to surround themselves with people who will love & care for them for who they are.

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU WISH MORE PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY?

I wish more people wouldn't feel uncomfortable being around a person who may identify as LGBTQ+. Even though someone has a different sexuality or identity,

doesn't mean their other personal interests won't align with some of yours. Their sexuality or identity is just a small glimpse of their life. Personally, I love football, archery, and fishing.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO STUDENTS WHO MAY NOT FEEL PROUD OF THEIR DIFFERENT IDENTITIES?

My advice to them would be to first try your best to understand why you don't feel proud about yourself. Is it because of the people around you? Is it because you're not 100% sure? Really try to self evaluate it. Once you can figure that out, the rest is trying to navigate around it to find the self-appreciation you rightfully deserve to find in yourself.

WHAT MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST?

The sense of humor within my work group, and specifically between my bosses and I. Truly, it's the most entertaining and most rewarding job to be a part of.

IF YOU COULD CHOOSE TO DO ANYTHING FOR A DAY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Anything? I'd definitely choose to travel through Italy as much as I could in one day. It seems like such a beautiful country filled with wonderful culture and nature. I'd thrive!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GAME OR SPORT TO WATCH AND PLAY?

This is easy! The Kansas City Chiefs have been my favorite NFL team to watch since I was young! They won the Superbowl this past February, and now are having a great early season so far! I love football & enjoy how supportive of civil rights the league has been so far this year. As it's an important message to showcase!

WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT YOURSELF IF YOU COULD?

Absolutely nothing! I wouldn't be where I am right now without all the mistakes, the curiosities, or experiences I've had in my life. Everything I've gone through, whether it be positive or negative, is an experience to learn and grow from. As an example, being a Resident Assistant at SUNY Broome, definitely helped shape me better for current job position & all other future opportunities.