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North Shore Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth (NAGLY) Announces Executive Director Search as Long Time Director Plans June Retirement

The North Shore Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth (NAGLY) Board of Directors has announced that long time Executive Director Steve Harrington plans to retire at the end of June 2020 after 11 years in leadership roles with the organization. He began his involvement with NAGLY as a member of the Board of Directors in 2009 and became its first paid Executive Director in 2014. In conjunction with a strategic planning effort already underway, the board will immediately begin the search process for a successor. The board seeks to identify a strong leader committed to build on Steve's success, including the 2015 move to new quarters, The NAGLY Center in Salem, MA, one of the largest spaces in the country supporting LGBTQ+ youth.

"All of us at NAGLY will miss Steve", said Board Chair Kirsten Freni. "His dedication, hard work, expertise and ability to expand our presence and build relationships within the LGBTQ+ community and the community at large has been amazing and instrumental for our growth. He will leave NAGLY on solid footing with a strong base of programs and in good financial condition. During his tenure as ED, he has managed the expansion of our donor base and has done an outstanding job securing new grant funding. We are committed to finding new leadership to build on this foundation."

The board, in conjunction with Harrington, engaged an outside consultant and began a strategic planning process last month. The board will utilize this process to review its vision, programs, and organizational and client needs, to inform its search for a replacement.

"My time with NAGLY has been an incredible experience", said Harrington. "I have had an opportunity to work with and learn from so many people – including our youth, our wonderful volunteers, donors and supporters, as well as our partners in the community. It's time for me to move on, but I am confident in NAGLY's future and committed to working with the board and staff to ensure a successful transition."

Harrington also expressed his excitement about a celebration planned for April to commemorate the organization's fifth anniversary of operation in The NAGLY Center space in Salem's Witch City Mall.

As a testament to Harrington's positive impact, Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll said, "For more than a decade Steve has been a critical part of NAGLY, leading its growth and success as an organization, and its positive impact on the lives of countless Salem and other North Shore youth. From his time on the Board to his last six years leading NAGLY's daily work, Steve has made Salem and our region a more welcoming, inclusive, and loving place for all. I am so proud to have been able to know and work with Steve as he led NAGLY's efforts and I wish him nothing but happiness in his well-earned retirement."



Witch City Mall
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Founded in 1992, NAGLY's mission is to honor, respect, educate, and empower LGBTQ+ youth. It does this through regular support meetings, leadership trainings, and social and cultural events, as well as defending and enhancing the civil and human rights of this community. Weekly programming topics range from safe sex, healthy relationships, bullying and coming out, to lighter matters such as poetry slams, heritage night, world spirituality, open mic nights, game nights, movie nights, dance nights and more. www.nagly.org