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## <u>June 13, 2016</u>

## Association for University and College Counseling Centers Directors Statement on the tragedy in Orlando, Florida

The Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors (AUCCCD) joins with the world in expressing our grief and sorrow to those family members, friends and loved ones who were impacted by the tragic violence that occurred in Orlando, Florida. We extend our support to those who continue to be healing from this senseless violence. Of particular note, are the members of the LGBTQ community and the impact this tragedy is having on them. As a professional association AUCCCD is committed to inclusive excellence and the affirmation of all individual's sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. We recognize how this tragedy can effect a person's sense of safety in the world and know that counseling centers are ready to support students impacted by this violence everywhere. We are also aware that individuals with a similar background to the perpetrator's identity can be unfairly victimized in the aftermath of such a tragedy. These individuals will certainly be supported by counseling centers as needed.

As this tragedy has impacted college and university students across the State of Florida and the world, we are particularly mindful of the campus communities in Orlando that were directly impacted and lend our ongoing support to those institutions as they continue to heal from this tragedy.