

To the future gays of SDSU Liberal studies,

Being a part of the LGBTQ community comes with challenges. You know this. However, college is a perfect environment to surround yourself with people and groups and values with which you identify. My biggest fear, being gay, was always that I would never feel comfortable with my identity in school. Luckily, San Diego is one of the more accepting regions, which will also genuinely help you to feel more comfortable, if you don't already. I am proud of you for being yourself, even if nobody else in the world knows the true YOU. You may not always feel that you are being supported, your parents may not agree with your "lifestyle," you may not always have a significant other, but you are NEVER alone. You NEVER have to prove yourself to anybody else. Everyday that you wake up, you have the opportunity to be shamelessly, unapologetically yourself. YOU know who you are. I am not telling you that your journey will not be difficult; in fact, I'm telling you that it WILL be. But I promise you that the feeling of empowerment that pairs with overcoming the seemingly inevitable pain and shame and doubt, will be worth it. Again, I am proud of you and I stand with you, always.

Love,
Hannah.