

Heather Carter

## Biography

Ms. Carter has a background in intercultural communication with a B.A. from The Evergreen State College in Sociology with a focus on cultural competence and an M.A. in Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management with a focus on Intercultural Communication. She has worked for years in mental health at organizations such as Behavioral Health Resources in Washington State and Healthcare and Rehabilitative Services in Vermont.

Most recently Ms. Carter developed The OUTLoud Project for The Youth Suicide Prevention Program in 2007 and ran the project until September of this year. Since 2007, OUTLoud has grown from one training presentation and minimal exposure to a menu of training modules and recognition across Washington State and beyond. Ms. Carter serves on a statewide committee to oversee the implementation of HB 1163. In partnership with the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, she was also a member in a national community of practice focused on LGBTQ youth suicide prevention and she provides trainings throughout Washington State and the country on the issues of LGBTQ youth suicide and bullying and bias based harassment.

Because of the work Ms. Carter provided through OUTLoud, YSPP was given the Seattle Mayor's award in 2008 and June 5th of that same year was declared LGBTQ youth suicide prevention day. Most recently, Ms. Carter received the 2012 GSBA (Greater Seattle Business Association) Community Leader of the Year Award and was chosen by the Whitehouse as a Champion of Change. She was invited to the Whitehouse to speak about LGBT issues and bullying.

Currently, Ms. Carter is starting an independent consulting business to ensure the work she has started will continue to grow and get stronger so that every youth can thrive no matter how they identify and to ensure that everyone possible understands the risks and protective factors for youth suicide so they can make a difference in the lives of ALL youth.