

## LGBT-friendly corporations in the Carolinas

compiled by Q-Notes staff

Five companies in the Carolinas received a perfect 100 score on HRC's 2009 Corporate Equality Index:

- **Bank of America**  
Charlotte, NC
- **Mitchell Gold+Bob Williams**  
Taylorsville, NC
- **Replacements, Ltd.**  
Greensboro, NC
- **Reynolds-American Tobacco**  
Winston-Salem, NC
- **Wachovia**  
Charlotte, NC

Six other companies were ranked in the Index, but did not receive perfect scores. The companies receiving lesser scores and the reasons why are listed below:

**BB&T Corp.**, Winston-Salem, N.C.  
Score: 48 (2008 Score: 25) — Does not prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender-identity/expression, does not include gender-identity/expression in diversity training, does not offer partner health insurance or other benefits regularly given to heterosexual couples

**Compass Group USA Inc.**, Charlotte, N.C.  
Score: 65 (2008 Score: 65) — Does not prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender-identity/expression, does not offer transgender-inclusive health insurance coverage, does not have employer-supported employee resource

group or a firm-wide diversity council

**Duke Energy**, Charlotte, N.C.  
Score: 75 (2008 Score: 60) — Does not prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender-identity/expression, does not offer transgender-inclusive health insurance coverage, does not offer full partner health insurance or other benefits regularly given to heterosexual couples

**Food Lion, LLC**, Salisbury, N.C.  
Score: 95 (2008 Score: 80) — Does not offer transgender-inclusive health insurance coverage

**Progress Energy, Inc.**, Raleigh, N.C.  
Score: 68 (2008 Score: 68) — Does not prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender-identity/expression, does not include gender-identity/expression in diversity training, does not offer transgender-inclusive health insurance coverage

**Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice, LLC**, Winston-Salem, N.C.  
Score: 65 (2008 Score: 65) — Does not provide diversity training covering sexual orientation, does not prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender-identity/expression, does not include gender-identity/expression in diversity training, does not offer transgender-inclusive health insurance coverage, does not offer full partner health insurance or other benefits regularly given to heterosexual couples

— More detailed listings and figures are available at [www.hrc.org/cei](http://www.hrc.org/cei)

## Raleigh professionals work to bring 'Out & Equal'

*Group wants annual LGBT workplace equality summit to be held in state capital*

A group of LGBT Raleigh professionals are hoping their hard work to organize a Triangle chapter of a nationwide LGBT workplace network pays off in the form of a national conference.

Out and Equal Workplace Advocates is a national organization that works with corporate leaders to create safe and welcoming work environments for LGBT employees. Ronna Dornsife is leading the charge to bring the Out and Equal Workplace Summit to Raleigh. She says the state capital is currently being considered for the 2011, 2012 or 2013 summits.

"It is estimated that at that time 2,500 to 3,000 employees, executives, diversity champions and HR professionals from across the U.S., as well as other countries, would be expected to attend," she said.

Along with the 1991 Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays conference in Charlotte and 1993 National Gay and Lesbian Task

Force Creating Change conference in Durham, an Out and Equal Summit in Raleigh would rank as one of the largest LGBT conferences held in North Carolina gay history.

Dornsife said the summit would be a great opportunity for creating positive movement in North Carolina's business community. She said Out and Equal events



Workplace  
Advocates

include leaders from a variety of fields, including business, politics, sports and entertainment.

Triangle Out and Equal is currently looking for individual employees or leaders of informal or formal LGBT employee networks at companies in North Carolina.

Dornslife can be contacted via email at [dornslife@mindspring.com](mailto:dornslife@mindspring.com) (be sure to put "out and equal" in the subject line).

— compiled by Q-Notes staff

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