## Winston-Salem native appointed to Education department

Kevin Jennings, former GLSEN exec. joins Safe Schools office

by Matt Comer . Q-Notes staff

The founder and former executive director of the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN) has

been appointed to a position in the Obama **Administration's** Education Department.

Decided on May 19 and announced by the White House on June 1, Winston-Salem, N.C.native Kevin Jennings will become the assistant deputy secretary of education for the department's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools. The office oversees financial assistance for drug and violence

prevention and is in charge of developing program policy for the Department of Education. Eliza Byard, GLSEN's executive director,

praised her predecessor's achievement.

"This appointment is a tribute to Kevin's many contributions to education in this country and his commitment to the safety and well being of all students," she said.

Conservatives have expressed their outrage over the appointment. As reported by *The Washington Blade*, WorldNetDaily,

a conservative news website, quoted Linda Harvey of the antigay Mission America; she said it was a "tragedy" that an openly gay person would be appointed to the position.

Harvey said Jennings has "had an enormously detrimental impact on the climate in our schools," *The Blade* reported. Jennings grew up right outside

of Winston-Salem, in small town Lewisville, N.C. He is the son of a Baptist preacher. His memoir, "Mama's Boy, Preacher's Son," recounts his life growing up in conservative North Carolina. He

later went to Harvard College, graduating magna cum laude, and moved to New England, where he founded GLSEN.

# Sneak peek: Next issue

Be sure to pick up *Q-Notes*' 40th Anniversary Stonewall issue, "Red, White & Queer: 40 years of fighting for equality," on June 27, for an indepth look at Carolinas-centric LGBT history, from where we came from to where we're going:

· Carolinas LGBT movers and shakers: The ones who got us where we are today.

• At the ballot box: Openly gay politicians and elected officials throughout the Carolinas

• The Carolinas' MCCs and gayaffirming churches: The past, the present and future



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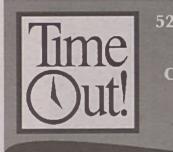


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