



Daniel Cortese

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OUT at UCSF IN our communities

Daniel has been associated with UCSF since 2006. He has been OUT for 16 years and identifies as an Italian white gay male from New York City. Daniel serves the missions of UCSF as a

postdoctoral fellow in the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education, where he researches tobacco marketing to young adults.

A job is more than just a title. What do you do for/at UCSF?

I study the ways in which the tobacco industry markets tobacco products to comport with their own psychographic research into the lives, dreams, and desires of their young adult target market.

How Daniel serves the UCSF mission of Research, Patient Care and/or Education:

I live by the adage: "To believe is to care. To care is to do." I try to do more than just serve, but to *live* the UCSF mission of research and education through both caring and doing for our communities.

What he likes about working at UCSF:

My office is comprised of an eclectic group of researchers who share a common goal: follow a rigorous

research agenda that is accessible way beyond academia and outreach through advocacy and community-based programs.

How Daniel is OUT, IN the UCSF Community:

It takes courage to be OUT, even in San Francisco! Those of us who are OUT know that every day we must dismantle the lavender ceiling still prevalent in medical schools.

I draw my strength to break through the lavender ceiling from my faith. My partner and I serve the Roman Catholic Church openly, and we consider the occasional negative remarks from parishioners as an opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue with them as a way to challenge their prejudices.

Similarly, medical schools are conservative institutions where LGBTQ people must contend with prejudice. By living openly and dignified, I try

to transform the institution from the bottom-up, and impart some small bits of wisdom along the way.

What he considers his most OUTstanding, INcredible achievement:

Achieving my Ph.D. was my most outstanding and incredible achievement because it was a testament to my family of our resolve. I grew up in a single-parent family that hovered precariously near the poverty line.

Now, in six months, my answer may change to "running the AIDS Marathon."

UCSF LGBT Visibility Project

The UCSF Visibility Project aims to increase visibility of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender communities at UCSF by profiling faculty, staff, and students who work to support UCSF's mission of patient care, education and research. For podcasts and more information, visit <http://www.ucsf.edu/cge/lgbtr/visibility.htm>