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Nationally Known Commentator on LGBT Athletics to Speak at Cal Poly May 14

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Media personality Cyd Zeigler Jr. will present “How We Got to Michael Sam: Lessons from a Movement, Athletes and Advocates Who Opened the Door on the NFL's First Openly Gay Player” from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, in Room 204 in the University Union at Cal Poly.

Zeigler is co-founder of Outsports.com, a leading online publication in the field of gay sports, and a regular contributor to CBS Sports radio. He has appeared on ESPN, and his work has been published in Sports Illustrated, The New York Times, and other publications.

His talk will draw from his experience working with high-profile athletes who have come out while staying involved in sports. The talk is free and open to the public.

Through his work, Zeigler has learned that students who are able to come out and stay involved in their sport perform better academically and on the field or court. He also believes they benefit emotionally.

Zeigler will spend two days at Cal Poly meeting with students, faculty and staff. “What's so important about Cyd's work is that it breaks down the culture in locker rooms that tends to be homophobic and misogynistic,” said Camille O'Bryant, a kinesiology professor. “What's most exciting about him coming to Cal Poly is his ability to connect to students. College students often seek him out for advice.”

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