#Pride at Accenture: Bring My Authentic Self to Work

Video Transcript

**Jonathon Medina**
Being authentic to me, means being fabulous.

**Tax Attorney Karen Bowen**
Realizing, that not only is it okay, to be your authentic self, to be LGBT. It’s more than okay! It’s not tolerated, it’s celebrated: it’s great.

**Taylor Vanderway**
When I’m there, I can be myself.

**Rica Paras**
I am respected as a human being here in the company.

**Katy Cooper**
It means that you can just be yourself, be comfortable and natural.

**Melissa Dudek**
If I’m going to be a trusted advisor to someone that I’ve got to be honest with them about who I am.

**Allon Mieslic**
Being able to come into work each and every day and bring your whole self.

**Coming Out**

**Tax Attorney Karen Bowen**
When I came to Accenture I realized Okay... day one, you don’t actually need to come out if you’re already out. So I started out.

**Melissa Dudek**
I feel like it actually happens again and again and again. Like every time I go to a new client, I have a choice to make.
Allon Mieslic
And, making that decision can be a difficult one. So I think the culture that Accenture really has of being super supportive for LGBT people, makes that process easy.

What advice would you share with others who are considering coming out in Accenture?

Katy Cooper
You need to know that you have nothing to worry about. We have a really supportive LGBT network, if you want to talk anything through, then there are a whole range of people you can speak to.

Tax Attorney Karen Bowen
If you decide that you need to hide that or, or, be careful with that, to make other people comfortable? They're never gonna be comfortable enough to make it worth it to you.

Taylor Vanderway
We all have different backgrounds we all come from different places, and being able to be ourselves, help us come up with innovative ideas for our clients.

Melissa Dudek
Go all in! Like give it a shot and you’re going to be so extremely happy with the support that you get. It’s like going from black and white to color.

What Accenture does well when it comes to supporting LGBT?

Katy Cooper
There’s a really strong mentoring program, so people who are newer to the company can be paired up with people who have been here for a while.

Taylor Vanderway
It's having that support system having the ERG groups, having your managers, having your colleagues, having our managing directors, all support you and help support you bringing your authentic self to work every day.

Rica Paras
I’m very thankful for that Accenture acknowledges the individuality that we have, respects us as an individual.

Allon Mieslic
Accenture really puts the full force of the organization behind inclusion and diversity to make sure that LGBT equality is there for all of our people.

What does #PrideAtAccenture mean to you?

Rick Paras
I believe that we all inspire each other, and that’s something that I want everybody to learn and take away in this pride celebration that we have.

Jonathon Medina
We should be proud of who we are, as a member of the LGBT community, it, makes me very happy to know that I can come to work, at Accenture and be me and that’s important.