

HRC President Speaks to International Non-Profit Leaders

Post submitted by Ernesto Zelayandia, HRC Global Fellow.

On May 28, HRC President Chad Griffin spoke to a group of more than 60 non-profit leaders from around the world who are participating in the Atlas Corps Fellowship Program in Washington, D.C.

Griffin spoke to Atlas Corps' Global Leadership Lab summer session about his career as a human rights advocate and his trajectory as a leader for the LGBT equality movement. He delivered a compelling message that resonated with the entire audience, particularly with those who have overcome adversity.

"I came away invigorated after Chad Griffin's session," Anwuli Ojogwu, a fellow from Nigeria serving at Thinking Beyond Borders, said. "His journey, for me, illuminated the true meaning of *leadership* and *passion* -- uncharted, unplanned, yet seizing opportunity, taking a risk and rising to the occasion to defend his beliefs and the dignity of a minority community. That's the way we should all be."

Arturo Gonzalez, a fellow from Mexico serving at Kids' Food Basket in Grand Rapids, Michigan, described the experience similarly. He said, "Chad Griffin's career dedicated to equity made me feel inspired to keep moving forward on my own one."

Teresa Gonzalez, who works at the United Nations Foundation, explained, "It was especially inspiring to hear his message of following your passion, no matter where it takes you. I was surprised to learn he is from a small town in Arkansas."

HRC is a longtime partner of [Atlas Corps](#), a Washington, D.C. based organization that facilitates a professional fellowship program for young leaders in the non-profit sector. Atlas Corps fellows are highly qualified professionals who come from all over the world to serve in the U.S. for 12 to 18 months. While in the U.S., they work on a variety of issues, such as LGBT rights, conflict resolution, women's empowerment and even nuclear disarmament.

Through the Atlas Corps program, HRC Global has the privilege of hosting numerous LGBT advocates from countries such as El Salvador, India, Kenya, Mexico and Turkey. As part of the HRC Global team, our fellows help leverage HRC's domestic work in the international sphere.

