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00:00:07,569 --> 00:00:12,769

My name is Randy Herrera and I'm on the projects system engineer for the cold atom laboratory.

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00:00:12,769 --> 00:00:14,740

It will be studying things called cold atoms.

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00:00:14,740 --> 00:00:22,470

I have a picture of my partner and sometimes I think people self-sensor at the laboratory

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00:00:22,470 --> 00:00:24,789

when they're not out yet.

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00:00:24,789 --> 00:00:27,920

That's something I think that every gay person struggles with.

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00:00:27,920 --> 00:00:30,750

How far to come out, what does that mean to me?

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I've struggled with that over the years and I feel like I'm in a very comfortable place

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00:00:34,670 --> 00:00:35,670

now.

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We have an organization here at the laboratory called Spectrum.

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00:00:38,280 --> 00:00:42,280

It's LGBT focused so Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender focused.

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About 20 years ago we helped lead the laboratory

toward offering domestic partnership benefits

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and adding sexual orientation to their equal opportunity statements.

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That was a big deal, this was the late 80's early 90's and we had a lot of folks in our

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00:00:55,680 --> 00:01:00,269

organization in our group who had who were losing spouses and there was no bereavement

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00:01:00,269 --> 00:01:03,250

leave there was no benefit what so ever for them.

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We urged JPL and presented a business case for why this was an important thing to do

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00:01:07,640 --> 00:01:09,490

and the lab came on board.

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00:01:09,490 --> 00:01:14,310

Part of I think the reason that this network, Spectrum exists is to help others who are

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00:01:14,310 --> 00:01:19,380

just coming into the workforce at the laboratory to feel like they can be open about who they

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00:01:19,380 --> 00:01:21,840

are and share their life with their colleagues.

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We're a part of the JPL fabric and like other communities here at the laboratory.

