

ROBERT LOPEZ, LEAD PREVENTION SPECIALIST
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Hello, my name is Robert López, and my pronouns are He, Him, El.

I am the Lead Prevention Specialist for Project Eden Education and Prevention, a program Horizon Treatment Services. I also facilitate Project Eden’s Lambda Youth Project serving our LGBTQIA+ youth in Hayward, CA and throughout Alameda County.

When asked, “So when did you Come Out?” my response is, “I am always coming out because I am meeting new people every day.”

The other question asked is, “How old were you when you came out?” My response is, “Twenty-seven” which for the time I did come out was the average age of a cisgender gay man.” In the 12 years working with youth in the Lambda Youth Project, whose average age of coming out, gender and orientation, is 13yrs and younger, I have adopted the mindset that I must be open to the ever- expanding orientation and gender identities as to best serve the next generation(s) to come. To understand myself better, I must avoid making judgements to better understand my orientation or gender fluidity and expression. I hope that in better understanding who I am, I can be mentor and role model to the youth and parents I serve.

I have been fortunate to have had many mentors and role models who have helped me along the way, including my father who addressed social injustices, prejudice, racism, and equity. I have learned the intersectionality of being gay, biologically male, Mexican-American, rural born, religious, etc. and that they do not stand separate and apart. This has been the most important lesson I have learned, and model for my peers, youth, and communities.



**Behavioral Health
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