An honorable advocate, mentor and leader, USU student Jared Gheen truly cares about being part of the Aggie family. He has become an instrumental voice for LGBTQ+ students as a peer mentor, as a Sexual Assault and Anti-Violence Information peer educator, as a member of the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Advisory Committee, as part of the Anti-Racist Focus Group and as vice president for the Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity. These leadership positions provide Gheen the opportunity to not only represent the LGBTQ+ community, but to make sure they are a recognized and integral part of life on the university campus.

Gheen works as a student intern at USU’s Access and Diversity Center, where he has become a mentor and provided a welcoming space for the many LGBTQ+ students who utilize the office. Not one to shy away from the critical and sensitive issues facing the community, Gheen has been an integral part of fostering a welcoming atmosphere for LGBTQ+ individuals who are also members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. In his former role as Queer Student Alliance president, Gheen dedicated much of his time to mentoring the up and coming LGBTQ+ student leaders and provided guidance and unconditional peer support to club members.

This past year, Gheen has also taken on the role of coordinating the Access and Diversity Center’s OUTspoken panels. Having started as a panel participant, then moving on to become a facilitator, Gheen’s experience and ability to navigate difficult conversations made his new role as panel coordinator a natural fit. The program is one of the best tools in educating the campus about the LGBTQ+ community and provides yet another opportunity to highlight the importance of diversity. Many credit the panel’s success to Gheen’s exemplary leadership and the acceptance he fosters during panels.