

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS
PRESENTS
LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER
AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQQA)
AWARENESS WORKSHOP

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PURPOSE

- This workshop was developed to help faculty, staff and students of Bowie State University to become aware or more aware of the myriad of issues surrounding sexuality, gender identity, and to promote acceptance of LGBTQQ youth within Bowie State University and nationwide.



MY EXPERIENCE

- The LGBTQ Workshop provides an opportunity for me as a trained Trevor Project educational facilitator on LGBTQ issues which include awareness, bullying and suicide prevention.

- What is the Trevor Project?

Leading national organization focused on crisis and suicide prevention efforts among LGBTQ youth. This organization was founded in 1998 by three filmmakers about a 13- year old boy Trevor who was rejected by his friend because of his sexual orientation and makes a suicide attempt.



WHAT TO EXPECT.....

- My goal is to
 1. Help faculty, staff and student to examine the impact of their language and actions on BSU's experiences and mental health of LGBTQQ people.
 2. Help understand the definition of LGBTQQA
 3. Help understand the myths and stereotypes of LGBTQQ individuals.
 4. Help understand and use correct terminology; “Offensive” and “Preferred”.



WHAT I INTEND TO ACCOMPLISH....

- Acceptance

Diversity is one of our core values, but inclusiveness must also be one of our mantras. Bowie State University is rooted in the belief that everyone should be treated like a human being regardless of their sexual identity, gender, or race. We as an institution will not turn away anyone who asks for help and show empathy.



WHAT I INTEND TO ACCOMPLISH

- Commitment

We should deliver this knowledge to classrooms, lectures and create discussions and dispel myths and stereotypes. In terms of suicidal behavior and depression, immediately refer students to :

Counseling Services

Division of Student Affairs

MLK Building (3rd Floor)

Office: 301-860-4164 or call Campus Police.



WHAT I INTEND TO ACCOMPLISH

- Innovation

I am a advisor and mentor for LGBTQ individuals in campus and will continue to be a pioneer in reaching out to our students in crisis, whether its in schools in the PG county area and of course the Bowie community.



ACTIVITY

The Power of Words and Language



QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT.....

- How would someone who identifies as LGBTQ feel knowing that nearly every word used to describe them can also be used to hurt them?
- Have you ever used or heard the phrase, “That’s so gay?” what do you think is meant by that phrase? How do you think someone who is LGBTQ would feel if they heard someone say that?



QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT...

- Do you think that is why there are LGBTQ people right here at Bowie State University who are too scared to come out? How would someone who identifies as or is perceived to be LGBTQ be treated in this environment?



LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQ) YOUTH DEFINITIONS

- Sexual Orientation is defined as an individual's enduring physical, romantic, emotional and/or spiritual attraction to members of the same and/or opposite sex, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual orientations (Trevor Project manual, p.11)



LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQ) YOUTH

- Gay and Lesbian are the adjectives used to describe people whose enduring physical, romantic, emotional and/or spiritual attractions are to people of the same sex. Avoid identifying gay and lesbian people as “homosexuals”.



WHY NOT USE “HOMOSEXUALS”?

- Berring (2008) states “the negative connotation of the word homosexual came initially from both religions who are against homosexuality and also from early psychoanalysis. Before the 1970's it was widely believed that one could change from gay to straight. those who are anti-gay and believe that homosexuality is always a sign of pathology never use the word "gay". They always use the term homosexual because they say there is nothing gay about being homosexual and that it is a choice-which today we know is not true”
(Psychology Today)



LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQ) YOUTH

- Bisexual refers to an individual who is physically, romantically, emotionally and/or spiritually attracted to men and women. Bisexual people need not to have had an equal sexual experience with men and women; in fact, they need not have had any sexual experience at all to identify as bisexual (Trevor Project Manual, p. 11).



LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQ) YOUTH

- Queer is increasingly being reappropriated by young LGBTQ people as an identity to reflect their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. “The word Queer seeks to destabilize categories of identity, such as gay/lesbian, man/woman (Gamson as quoted in Queer families and Politics of visibility, p. 3).



LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQ) YOUTH

- To be Questioning is to be unsure or less certain of one's sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Because of the shame and stigma inherent in even questioning one's sexual orientation or gender identity, many young questioning people find themselves without a support outlet (Trevor Project Manual, p. 11).
- Allies are supporters of LGBTQ rights also known as straight alliances. Supporters of gay rights organizations include Parents , families, friends of gays and lesbians (PFLAG).



LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQ) YOUTH

- Homophobia is the fear of lesbian and gay men. Prejudice is usually a more accurate description of hatred or antipathy toward LGBTQ people.
- Transphobia is the fear of transgender people. It is important to recognize that many “LGB” people may have trans-phobic feelings themselves that can impede helping transgender people reach the recognition and equality they too deserve.



LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQ) YOUTH

- Heterosexism is the attitude that heterosexuality is the only valid sexual orientation. This often takes the form of ignoring lesbians, gay men and bisexual people and can boil down to the assumptions that “one is straight until proven otherwise.” This term as defined by Devito (2008) refers to the attitudes, behaviors and language that disparage gay men and lesbians and to belief that all sexual behavior that is not heterosexual is unnatural and deserving of criticism and condemnation” (p. 85).



LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQ) YOUTH

- Gender is a collection of physical characteristics and personal mannerisms society associates with a particular sex.” “It is a classification based on genetic and biological factors and is acquired through interaction in a social world” (Wood, p. 23).
 - One’s Gender Identity is one’s internal, personal sense of being a man or a woman (or a boy or girl). Wood (2007) describes gender identity in the basis of masculinity and femininity. “to be masculine is to be strong, ambitious, successful, and rational. “Femininity is to be physically attractive, deferential, emotional expressive, nurturing and concerned with people and relationships”(p. 23)
 - For transgender people, their birth-assigned sex and their own internal sense of gender identity do not match.



LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQ) YOUTH

- To be Transgender “Trans” is to feel that your gender identity, how you feel yourself to be on the inside, does not match your physical sex.

An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth.

The term may include but is not limited to: transsexuals, people who engage in cross dressing, and other gender-variant people. “What defines them is that they reject the binary categories of male and female, masculine and feminine” (Wood, p. 25).



MYTHS AND STEREOTYPES

- All gay men are effeminate and all gay women are masculine.
- Gay people have been studied by older gay people and are more likely to be pedophiles as adults.
- Gay people only work in certain types of professions.
- Gay people cannot form stable romantic relationships.
- Homosexuality is unnatural.



OFFENSIVE, DEFAMATORY AND PROBLEMATIC TERMINOLOGY

Offensive

- “homosexual”
- “homosexual relations/relationship”, “homosexual couple”, “Homosexual sex”, etc.
- “sexual preference”
- “Gay lifestyle” or “homosexual lifestyle”
- “admitted homosexual” or “avowed homosexual”
- “special rights”
- “gay agenda”, “homosexual agenda”
- “Tranny”, “he-she”, “it”

Preferred

- “Gay”, “gay man” or “Lesbian”
- “Relationship”, “Couple” (or, if necessary, “gay couple”, “Sex”, etc.
- “Sexual orientation”
- “lesbian”, “gay”, “bisexual”
- “openly lesbian”, “openly gay”, “openly bisexual”
- “equal rights or protection”
- “lesbian and gay movement”
- Transgender, Transsexual



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- Wood, J. (2007). *Gendered Lives*. Wadsworth: Belmont, CA.



NATIONAL RESOURCES FOR LGBTQ YOUTH: ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

- Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)
 - The leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe schools for all students.
www.GLSEN.org
- Gay-Straight Alliance Network (GSA Network)
 - A youth leadership organization that connects school-based Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) to each other and community resources. www.GSANetwork.org



NATIONAL RESOURCES FOR LGBTQ YOUTH: COLLEGE AND GRADUATE-AGED STUDENTS

○ Campus Pride

- Serves LGBT and Ally student leaders and, or campus organizations in the areas of leadership and development, support programs and services to create safer more inclusive LGBT-friendly colleges and universities. www.CampusPride.org

○ Trans Youth Family Allies

- Empowers children and families by partnering with educators, service providers and communities, to develop supportive environments in which gender may be expressed and respected. www.lmaTYFA.org



NATIONWIDE RESOURCE DATABASES FOR LGBTQ YOUTH

○ The Trevor Project

- Provides lifesaving guidance and vital resources to parents and educators in order to foster safe, accepting and inclusive environments for all youth at home and at school. www.TheTrevorProject.org

○ GLBT National Help Center

- Is dedicated to meeting the needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and those questioning their sexual orientation and gender identity. www.GLBTNationalHelpCenter.org

