Transgender Allyship in Library Instruction

NCNMLG & MLGSCA Joint Meeting
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University of San Francisco

Facilitator Introduction

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They, Them, Theirs / She, Her, Hers

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Agenda

1. Grounding

2. Context

3. Basic Terminology

4. Classroom Tips

5. Questions

"Sometimes the most uncomfortable learning is the most powerful." - Brene Brown

[Image description: Wrestlers Macho Man and Hulk Hogan exchange awkward facial expressions]

Community Agreements

- Move Up, Move Back

- Curiosity

- Try It On

- Intent / Impact

- Compassion

Systemic Oppression

- 30% experienced homelessness

- 58% experienced police mistreatment

- 40% have attempted suicide

- 24% physically assaulted at school

Herman, J. L., James, S. E., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & Anafi, M. (2016). *The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey*. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality.

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Impact of Allyship

"Transgender youth who were able to use their chosen names in multiple contexts reported fewer depressive symptoms and less suicidal ideation and behavior."

Russell, S. T., Pollitt, A. M., Li, G., & Grossman, A. H. (2018). Chosen name use is linked to reduced depressive symptoms, suicidal Ideation, and suicidal behavior among transgender youth. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, (4).

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Terminology

Gender Identity:

An internal sense of being male, female or something else, which may or may not correspond to an individual's sex assigned at birth or sex characteristics.

American Psychological Association. (2018). A glossary: Defining transgender terms. Retrieved from Monitor on Psychology website: https://www.apa.org/monitor/2018/09/ce-corner-glossary

Terminology

Transgender/Trans*:

An umbrella term encompassing those whose gender identities or gender roles differ from those typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth.

American Psychological Association. (2018). A glossary: Defining transgender terms. Retrieved from Monitor on Psychology website: https://www.apa.org/monitor/2018/09/ce-corner-glossary

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Terminology

Nonbinary:

Transgender or gender nonconforming person who identifies as neither male nor female.

Center of Excellence for Transgender Health. (n.d.). Guidelines for the primary and gender-affirming care of transgender and gender nonbinary people: Terminology and definitions. Retrieved from http://transhealth.ucsf.edu/trans?page=guidelines-terminology

Terminology

Cisgender/Cis:

Used to describe an individual whose gender identity and gender expression align with the sex assigned at birth.

American Psychological Association. (2018). A glossary: Defining transgender terms. Retrieved from Monitor on Psychology website: https://www.apa.org/monitor/2018/09/ce-corner-glossary

Pronoun Go-Rounds

1. Explain why you are doing it

2. Invite, don't mandate

3. Use name when no is pronoun shared

4. Model sharing pronouns

Problematic Subject Terms

- Openly acknowledge the issue when teaching controlled vocabulary

- Note that the terms used may not correspond with how people self-identify

- Share avenues for user suggestions and feedback on subject headings

Questions

[Image description: Large question mark]

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References

American Psychological Association. (2018). A glossary: Defining transgender terms. Retrieved from Monitor on Psychology website: https://www.apa.org/monitor/2018/09/ce-corner-glossary

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Shlasko, D. (2017). *Trans allyship workbook : Building skills to support trans people in our lives* (2nd ed.). Madison, WI: Think Again Training.