Transgender Allyship in Library Instruction

NCNMLG & MLGSCA Joint Meeting
June 14, 2019
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

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.”

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.
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.

Terminology

Nonbinary:

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

Terminology

Cisgender/Cis:

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

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]
References


