SAFE SPACES

CREATING SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR LGBTQ STUDENTS ON CAMPUS

Boise State University
Center for Teaching & Learning
September 2011
Boise State University's Vision

- **Academic Excellence** - high quality, student-focused programs that integrate theory and practice, engage students in community based learning, and are informed by meaningful assessment.

- **Public Engagement** - the University's academic mission is linked with its community partners to address issues of mutual benefit.

- **Vibrant Culture** - embraces and fosters innovation, responsiveness, inclusiveness, accessibility, diversity, and effective stewardship.

- **Exceptional Research** - progressive scholarship and creative activity, and graduate programs that have groundbreaking applications locally, regionally, and globally.
Being an Ally

An ally is someone who confronts heterosexism, homophobia, transphobia, and heterosexual privilege in themselves and others; a concern for the well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex people; and a belief that heterosexism, homophobia, and transphobia are social justice issues.
3 conceptualizations of sexuality
Heterosexual

- or -

Homosexual
Kinsey’s Continuum

- Exclusively Heterosexual
- Equal heterosexual and homosexual experience
- Exclusively Homosexual

#2
Klein Sexual Orientation grid

- Sexual Attraction
- Sexual Fantasy
- Sexual Behavior
- Sexual Identity

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<tr>
<th>PAST</th>
<th>PRESENT</th>
<th>IDEAL</th>
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Same Sex Only

Other Sex Only
732 BSU students

- Heterosexual: 85%
- Mostly heterosexual: 9%
- Bisexual: 1.5%
- Mostly gay/lesbian: 1%
- Gay/lesbian: 1%
- Curious/questioning: 0.5%
- Other: 2%
Trajectories of development

- Awareness (males 9; females 10)
  - Sexual & emotional
- Behavior (males 14; females 16)
- Identification (males 16, females 17)
  
  \textit{sex-first} (20\% of females; 51\% of males)
  \textit{label-first} (80\% of females; 49\% of males)

- Disclosure (males 18; females 18)
- Community involvement & synthesis
Protective Factors for LGBTQ Youth

- Family functioning
- Support and acceptance from family and friends
- Self-acceptance
- Positive attitudes towards sexual and gender diversity
- Active coping strategies
- Educational achievement
- Connection to school
- Disclosure of sexual orientation to parent (sometimes)
Ways to show your support:

• Stay informed
• Reflection and awareness
• Use your resources
• Curricular application
• Get involved
• What are your experiences?
• What are your challenges?
• What are your needs?
• What are the barriers to change?
History of LGBTQ Rights

- Until 1961 homosexuality and sodomy were illegal in all 50 states.
- 1969 Stonewall Riots
- 1973 American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses.
- 1975 Federal government lifted the employment ban of gays and lesbians
- 1993 DADT appears as a compromise between Bill Clinton and congress, allowing homosexuals to serve in the military providing they are not open about their sexuality.
History continued…

- 1994 Proposition 1 campaign in Idaho
- 1994 United Nations ruled discrimination based on sexual orientation to be a violation of human rights
- 1996 Defense of Marriage Act
- 2000 Vermont is the first state to allow civil unions
- 2003 Supreme Court strikes down a Texas state law banning sex between adults of the same sex in Lawrence and Garner v. Texas.
History continued…

- 2003 Several courts ruled favorably towards claims by transgender prisoners to be entitled to hormone therapy.
- 2003 Massachusetts lifts the ban on gay marriage
- 2008 Connecticut legalizes same-sex marriage while California passes Proposition 8
- 2009 Same sex marriage legalized in Iowa
- 2010 Same-sex marriage legal in New Hampshire
- 2011 Same-sex marriage legal in New York
- 2011 Repeal of Don’t Ask Don’t Tell