

Development Series

Part one of five

Transgender Students

Submitted by:
Celian Terry
Jayde Nelson
Megan Sellers

Stephen F. Austin State University
Nacogdoches, Texas
MA Program for Student Affairs

Centrist College – Mission Behind the Series



In response to Centrist College President, Dr. Fogg, we have created a 5 part educational presentation for senior staff on student development and diversity. Part one of this series delves into how to better accommodate transgender students on our campus.

Transgender Defined

trans·gen·der

- Denoting or relating to a person whose self-identity does not conform unambiguously to conventional notions of male or female gender.



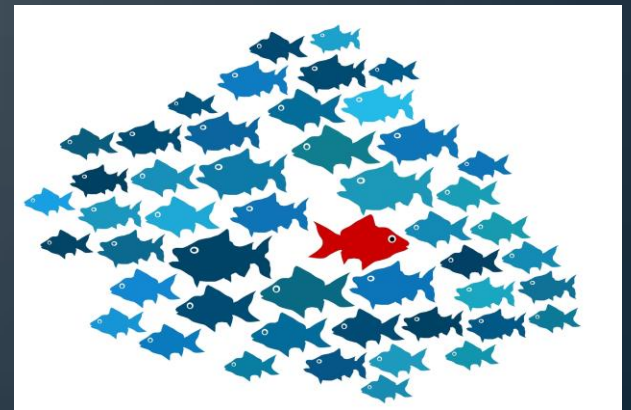
Transgender Symbol

Common Terms Defined

- Gay: sexually attracted to someone who is the same sex; commonly used for a man attracted to another man
- Lesbian: a gay woman
- Bisexual: sexually attracted to both men and women
- Queer: an umbrella term; Someone who feels somehow outside of the societal norms in regards to gender or sexuality
- Intersex: the condition of being intermediate between male and female; hermaphroditism.
- Asexual: without sexual feelings or associations
- Aromantic: a person who experiences little or no romantic attraction to others.

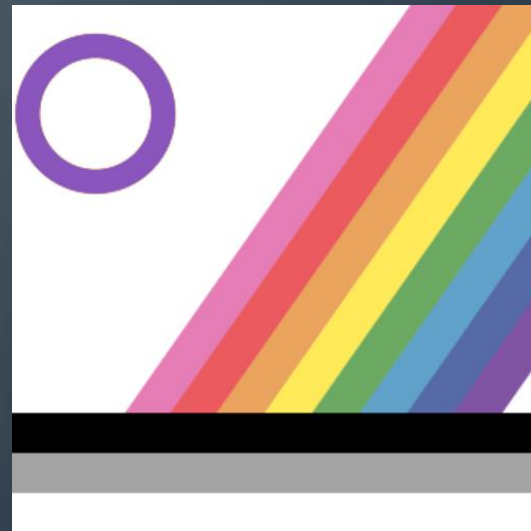
How is it Different?

- A lot of the time Transgender is referred to as “gay” or “bisexual” as previously defined
- Transgender is it’s own community
- For example, a gay male is a man who identifies as a male and is attracted to other males, whereas a transgender male was genetically born female, but identifies as a male that is attracted to females, making the transgendered male, straight



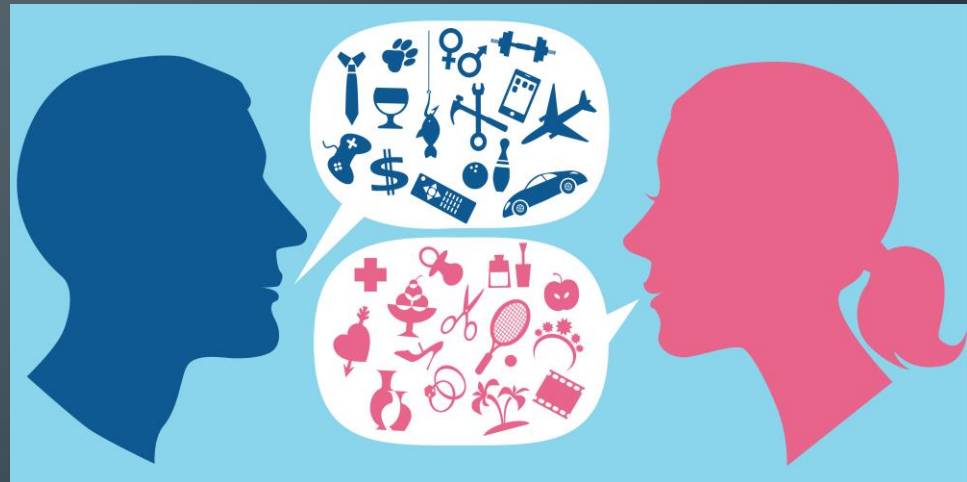
MOGAI – What is it?

- MOGAI is the acronym that commonly surrounds this community
- MOGAI stands for Marginalized Orientations, Gender Alignments and Intersex
- It is meant to be an umbrella or all inclusive term for all terms previously defined



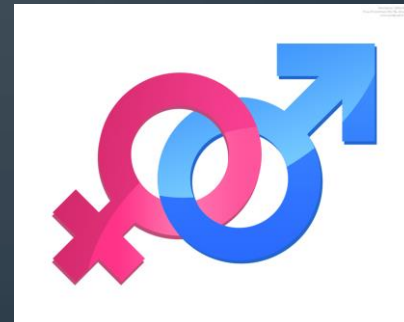
Stereotypes of the Transgender Community

- Transgender people are confused
- Transgender people are gay
- Transgender people live crazy lives
- Transgender people are mentally disturbed



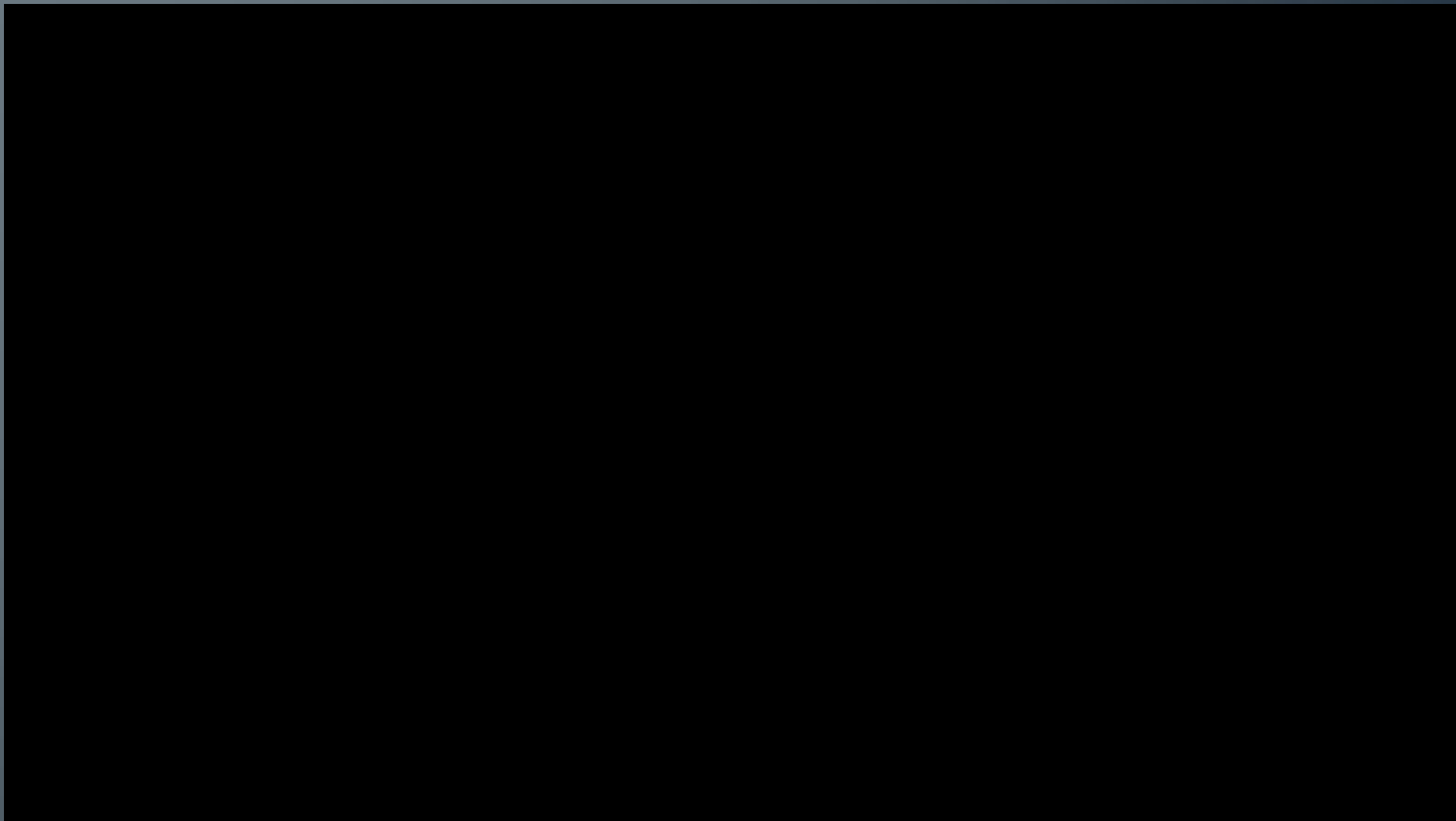
Facts

- Just because people are different does not mean they don't know who they are.
- Gender identity and sexual orientation are different.
- Gender identity is how we identify genetically (male or female) whereas sexual orientation is what we are physically and romantically attracted to (male or female)
- This community suffers emotional and mental stress like everyone else, but the gender variant tends to cause more stress, leading to more suicide and self harm within this community



Current Issues in the College Environment

- Gender Neutral Bathrooms
- Application gender selections
- Residence Hall Environments
- Learning Environments
- Use of Proper Terminology
- Policy surrounding all male/all female groups
 - i.e. Fraternities, Sororities, etc.



Credit for video to BuzzFeed

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9JhGNysgrk>

What is a Gender-Neutral Bathroom?

- A gender neutral bathroom can be as simple as a typical “Family Bathroom” where any gender can comfortably enter and feel safe



Small Solutions

- Gender selections on an application, something as simple as adding an “other” category
- Implementing “gender neutral” or “family” bathrooms into new buildings on campus
- Possible implementation of programs in residence halls for this community



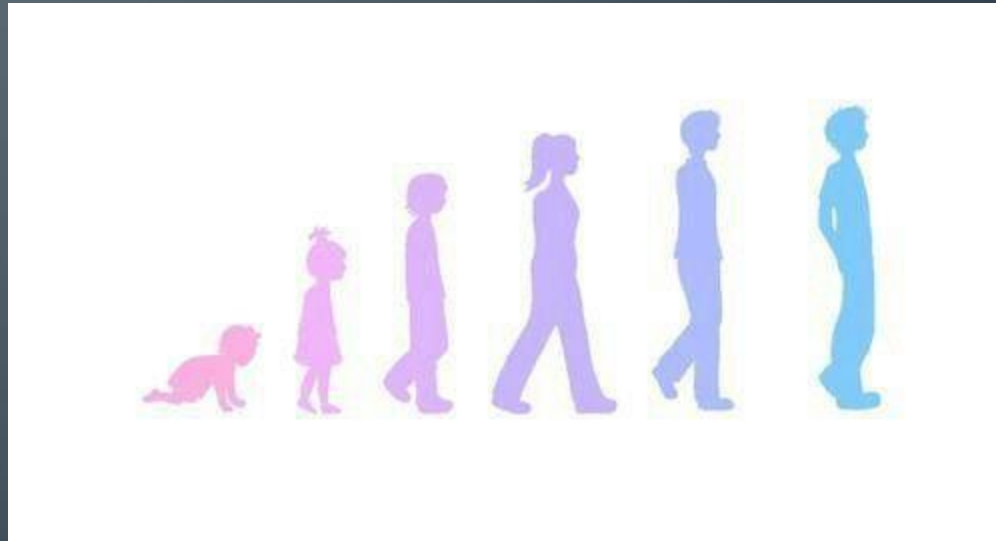
Small Solutions Continued

- Implementation of 'Safe Spaces' on campus
- A safe space is a great initial starting point for students to feel like there is an open door and a listening ear. An environment where they feel 'safe'



It's an Evolution, not a Quick Fix

- Implementing change like this into any institution takes time, it will not be an overnight solution
- This community has taken ages to make the strides they have in the legal world, being accepted and respected as an average person in society is the next step



“Picture This...”

Have everyone in the room close their eyes, open their minds, and picture this...

You are an average college student named Stephanie. It's Wednesday morning and you have a class at 8 a.m.. Your alarm yells out at 7 a.m. sharp. You run to the community bathroom down the hall to take a shower, brush your teeth, and get ready for the day. You look at your watch and realize you're almost late, you gather your things, bolt back to your room to drop off your stuff, grab your backpack and run to class.

Now, Picture This...

You are a transgender college student named Stephanie. Still in transition from male to female. It's Wednesday morning and you have a class at 8 a.m.. Your alarm yells out at 7 a.m. sharp. You run to the community bathroom down the hall to take a shower, brush your teeth, and get ready for the day. The looks from other girls and 'female only' sign on the bathroom door stops you dead in your tracks. You are wondering every day if this community will ever accept you for who you are. You push these thoughts into the back of your brain, not unlike every other day, and proceed with your morning routine of stares and hushed gossip. You look at your watch and realize you're almost late, you gather your things, bolt back to your room to drop off your stuff, grab your backpack and run to class.

Discussion

- How were the two situations different?
- Why were they so different?
- Are these situations avoidable on college campuses?
- How would you feel put into the shoes of these students?



How will you proceed?

- It's up to institution's staff to make all students feel welcome and safe on our campus
- It is in our best interest as an institution of diverse students and faculty to, over time, better educate ourselves and those around us on how to make everyone feel at home here



Mission Statement

Centrist College mission is to provide a quality education that prepares it's students for extraordinary and positive contributions to society. The focus of Centrist College's mission is upon fostering commitment to excellence and character, performance, leadership, involvement, service to others and encourage life-long learning.



Sources

"Google." Google. Web. 24 Feb. 2016.

"The Transgender Fight For Safe Bathrooms." YouTube. YouTube, Web. 24 Feb. 2016.

"Transgender 101 Myths. Facts. Truths." Thecenterforequality.org. The Center For Equality, Feb Web.

|