

Exploring Trans Issues

Centrist College

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Alex's Story

- Alex is a freshmen at Centrist College. He lives in the residence halls, is on his floor's intramural basketball team and plays video games with his friends in his spare time. He is a pre-nursing major and is also on the campus wide programming board.
- Alex has not told anyone, but he has strong feelings that he is stuck in the wrong body and personally identifies as female.

Emerging issues and Centrist

- While our campus does not currently have issues with Transphobia, we want to be able to foster inclusive communities if it does reach our campus.

Current practices

- What do you see on our campus that is Trans-friendly?

Current practices, continued

- Services we offer include:
 - Gender neutral restrooms (at least one per academic building, multiple in Student Union)
 - SafeZone training (focus on LGBTQ students)
 - Campus wide programming
 - LGBTQIA Coordinator
 - Suite style bathrooms in residence halls
 - Free counseling for students

Alex's Story, part 2

- Alex's involvement on the campus wide programming board has allowed him to meet Jordan, an outspoken advocate for equal rights. Alex and Jordan have become fast friends, and Alex eventually tells Jordan that he believes he is Trans. Jordan is excited, and proceeds to tell Alex all of the on campus resources. In her excitement, Jordan tells her other friends of Alex's transition without permission.

Theories to know: Trans Theory

- **Biodeau's Model** (Evans, Forney, Guido, Patton, & Renn, 2010)
 - 1. Exiting traditionally gendered identity
 - 2. Developing a personal transgender identity
 - 3. Developing a transgender social identity
 - 4. Becoming a transgender offspring
 - 5. Developing a transgender intimacy status
 - 6. Entering a transgender community

Theories to know: Transition Theory

- **Schlossberg** (Evans et al, 2010)
 - **Situation**
 - What happened? How long will it last? etc.
 - **Self**
 - Demographics, values, resources, etc.
 - **Social Support**
 - Relationships and social networks
 - **Strategies**
 - Modify the situation, control meaning, & manage stress

Theories to know: Transition Theory

- **Schlossberg** (Evans et al, 2010)
 - **Situation**
 - Alex came out to Jordan
 - **Self**
 - Male to Female Transgender, Freshman, and member of clubs
 - **Social Support**
 - Friends on floor, Jordan, Faculty/Staff Support
 - **Strategies**
 - Reaching out to faculty/staff & using female pronouns

Theories to know: Identity Development

- **Chickering** (Evans et al, 2010)
 - Establishing Identity
 - Developing Competence
 - Managing Emotions
 - Developing Mature Interpersonal Relationships

Theories to know: Identity Development

- **Chickering** (Evans et al, 2010)
 - **Establishing Identity**
 - Using feminine pronouns, self-identifying to others
 - **Developing Competence**
 - Learning about being a female
 - **Managing Emotions**
 - Reaching out to friends and other resources
 - **Developing Mature Interpersonal Relationships**
 - Managing connections with friends and faculty/staff

Alex's Story, part 3

- Alex comes to you and expresses that she has been bullied by other members of the campus wide programming board because of the information that Jordan shared with them. While Alex has found the strength to use feminine pronouns, she is worried that if she starts dressing in feminine clothes, the bullying will intensify.

What can you say to Alex?

(Pair up with your neighbor and play this out)

What we can do: Looking to other institutions

- Making the best plan of action does not mean reinventing the wheel. Here's what other colleges are doing to become trans-friendly:
- University of California, Los Angeles
 - Healthcare for trans students
 - Queer Film Fridays
 - Trans-specific support groups
 - List of specific resources

What we can do: Looking to other institutions, continued

- University of Massachusetts, Amherst
 - List of “how-to” questions for trans students
 - List of “Allies in Progress”
 - List of “out” faculty and staff at UMass
 - Queer e-newsletter
- University of Oregon
 - Reach out specifically to trans-identified students
 - LGBT specific counseling
 - Gender-inclusive housing

Alex's story, final

- With your help and the help of the departments across campus, Alex has grown to be comfortable in her skin. She dresses in feminine clothing, wears make up, and has even formed a Trans-friendly sorority on campus. Alex has begun seeing a counselor on campus who has referred her to a clinic that has approved her to begin taking estrogen. Alex has found her place to shine.

Action Plan for Centrist

- Since we are only beginning to look at our policies, we should take a proactive approach.
- These are the items the team believes should be in place by Fall 2017
 - List of trans-specific resources readily available on Student Services' website
 - LGBT-specific support groups
 - More LGBT-specific programming (such as films related to the community)
 - Gender-inclusive housing
 - Webpages to show allies and out faculty/staff at Centrist

Bringing back to our students

- Alex's story could have gone very differently...
- What could have gone wrong?
- What could have gone better?

References

Evans, N.J., Forney, D.S., Guido F.M., Patton, L.D., & Renn, K.A. (2010). *Student development in college: Theory, research, and practice* (2nd ed.). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

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