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INSTITUTE ON LGBTQ-INCLUSIVE EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES

Creating Affirming Environments for Gender, Sexual,
and Family Diversity in Colorado PK-12 Schools

JUNE 28 & 29, BOULDER, CO



Casey Middle School
1301 High Street
Boulder, CO 80304

Agenda

THURSDAY, JUNE 28th

3:00 – 5:00 pm Queering Up the Keynote, Auditorium

5:15 – 7:00 pm Social Hour at The Rio,
1101 Walnut St., Boulder

FRIDAY, JUNE 29th

8:15 – 8:55 am Breakfast in the Café/Commons

9:00 – 10:15 am Session #1

10:25 – 11:20 am Session #2

11:30 – 12:25 pm Session #3

12:30 – 1:25 pm Lunch in the Café/Commons

1:25 – 2:20 pm Session #4

2:30 – 3:25 pm Session #5

3:35 – 4:40 pm Session #6

4:45 – 5:00 pm Wrap Up & Certificates, Café/Commons

Thursday

3:00 - 5:00 Queering Up the Keynote

Drs. Bethy Leonardi & Sara Staley along with special guests

In this keynote session, you will experience all the feels. Our intention is to “queer” the keynote. Typically, keynote addresses include a person on a microphone in the front of the room talking to a passive audience. We want to change that and honor the most important people in the room—ALL OF YOU.

What we know about doing this work is that it is personal, vulnerable, sometimes emotional, and also heart filling. In this session, we will dig into these aspects of the work as we engage in critical self-reflection, dialogue, and community building. It will be a powerful introduction to what is to come on Friday.

5:15 - 7:00 Social Hour at The Rio

1101 Walnut St, Boulder, CO 80302

Join us for yummy appetizers-- on us (well, and a grant from CU Boulder's awesome Outreach & Engagement), and get to know one another! (Cash bar will be available for guests.)

Friday

8:15 – 8:55 am Breakfast Casey Middle School Café/Commons

Session titles are followed in parentheses by intended audience (i.e., educators, youth serving adults who work with elementary or secondary students)

9:00 - 10:15 Session 1

ROOM C210: Making Schools LGBTQ Inclusive: GLSEN's Ready, Set, Respect! (Elementary)

Amber Schweitzer & Jolee Jones (GLSEN Denver)

In this session, we will:

- Provide an overview of GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network) and the support we provide for LGBTQ educators and students
- Broaden the definition of gender and the work of gender studies
- Expand Family Studies to include non-nuclear families
- Overview the lesson plan and activities that GLSEN provides through Ready, Set, Respect!
- Participants will walk away with access to free resources from GLSEN (Ready, Set, Respect kit, GLSEN educator network, lesson plans).

ROOM C220: Breaking the Silence: Honoring the voices of LGBTQ youth and allies in supporting educators (All audiences)

Drs. Bethy Leonardi and Sara Staley (CU Boulder, Co-founders of A Queer Endeavor)

This interactive session will provide a foundational overview of gender and sexual diversity in PK-12 schools and current research and statistics on LGBTQ youths' experiences therein. We will engage participants in knowledge-building, critical self-reflection, dialogue, and action. The session is grounded in a screening and discussion of a locally produced, 21-minute documentary film *Breaking the Silence*, which centers the voices of LGBTQ youth and their allies. Participants will walk away with a series of "big" and "little" things they can do to become more affirming of gender and sexual diversity in their schools.

ROOM C215: From the Inside Out: Engaging GSAs in Racial & Educational Justice (Secondary)

Keri Smith (One Colorado, Program Manager/Educational Policy Advocate)

The time to make a change is now, and change has to start with us. In this interactive workshop, we will talk about the importance of ensuring that our Gay Straight Alliances and Student Clubs are inclusive beyond gender and sexuality. We will discuss a variety of activities and tools to use throughout the school year to examine intersections of identity, power, privilege, and oppression. Participants will walk away with a copy of the 4 I's of oppression activity and access to the online *From the Inside Out: Engaging GSAs in Racial and Educational Justice* 40-page curriculum.

10:25 - 11:20 Session 2

ROOM C220: Say what? Learning to talk about the work (All audiences) **Drs. Bethy Leonardi and Sara Staley (CU Boulder, Co-founders of A Queer Endeavor)**

In this session, participants will practice talking about the work of affirming gender and sexual diversity in classrooms and schools and why that work matters. We will share helpful frames and talking points and support participants to practice by responding to authentic scenarios that engage a range of audiences (e.g., “concerned” parents, colleagues, administration).

ROOM C215: A Journey from Awareness to Affirmation: Lesson Ideas and Activities for Middle School (Secondary) **Jack Ganse (Eldorado K-8)**

In this session, participants will learn about lesson ideas and activities that can be used in middle school to celebrate kindness and allyship, including resources from GLSEN’s Ally Week and No Name Calling Week. Participants will be guided through lesson ideas and activities that have been used in my school. Participants will also have an opportunity to share ideas and resources that they have used. Participants will walk away with a slideshow full of lesson plan ideas, links, and resources for use in their classroom or school. Ideas and lessons include read-aloud picture books, video clips, useful statistics, surveys, discussion questions, and other allyship activities.

ROOM C225: Queering Diversity and Inclusion (All audiences) **Dr. Krishna Pattisapu, Katharine Lindauer, Lorely Sanchez (CU Boulder)**

In this session, participants will tease apart definitions that schools and universities use to express commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion. By scrutinizing terms like “multiculturalism,” “diversity,” “inclusivity,” “equity,” and “unity” in institutional mission statements, participants will discuss which students and which types of difference are present and absent. Participants will examine their own institutions’ statements and discuss them within the context of school culture and the identities of the students, faculty, and staff that shape it. Participants will walk away with tools to critically examine definitions of diversity, equity, and inclusion; deeper understandings of the definitions and perceptions of diversity, equity, and inclusion in their schools; time to consider which groups of students are often absent in statements of diversity, equity, and inclusion; a move toward more substantial, clear and equitable diversity and inclusion work.

ROOM C230: Beyond Binary: Sex, Gender, & Sexual Orientation 101 (Secondary) **Michal Duffy (Out Boulder County, Education & Program Manager)**

In this session, we will cover sex assigned at birth, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation. We will discuss the differences between these concepts and their corresponding identity terms, the importance of pronoun use, and allyship strategies. Audience questions are encouraged. As time allows & the audience desires, we will also talk about experiences of LGBTQ students. Participants will leave with handouts on the basics, allyship strategies, and awareness of Out Boulder County as a resource.

11:30 - 12:25 Session 3

ROOM C210: Counselors in Action: Being a SUPERHERO for LGBTQ+ students (All audiences)

Mary Campbell (Counselor at Peak to Peak Charter School) & Sarah Hunter, MSW, LCSW (Suicide Prevention and Crisis Recovery Specialist Adams 12 Five Star Schools)

Gotham City, watch out! Your Superhero powers can CHANGE the world! Adults of trust play a crucial role in creating a Superhero culture at their schools. Without a phone booth to change in, two Superhero mental health professionals made school climate, student support, and community connections central to their daily professional lives. Safe adults have the perfect platform to assist students in feeling supported and empowered so they can be their best selves. ENGAGE educators! EMPOWER leaders! SUPPLY strategies! INFLUENCE lives! This interactive workshop will INSPIRE you and give you a framework to “take stock” of your own contexts and practices, SUPPORT you in implementing gender support plans, and PROVIDE you with resources to take back to your building. BAM! POW! Hear from two committed individuals who are not afraid to share their shortcomings and successes. SHAZAM!

ROOM C215: Queer This Class! Tips and Tricks for Queering Your Secondary Language Arts Curriculum (Secondary)

Amanda Cherry (Southern Hills Middle School)

This session will introduce participants to activities, lessons, and unit plans that incorporate LGBTQ topics. Examples include:

- Pronouns- First Day: What’s involved in sharing pronouns & learning/using gender neutral pronouns
- Critical Literary Lenses - I teach multiple lenses (e.g., critical, feminist) but will focus on teaching Queer Theory. I’ll share how I teach the queer lens and share examples of student work. I’ll walk participants through a mock lesson and share how I use George, by Alex Gino, as a read-aloud to model and apply queer theory.
- Poetry – I’ll share lessons I’ve taught using Andrea Gibson’s poem “Your Life” and my own poem “Me and the Elements.”

Participants will have guided work time to develop materials, collaborate, ask questions, and share.

ROOM C220: The Possibilities of Gender: Queer Pedagogy as a Response to Gender-Based Bullying in the Elementary Classroom (Elementary)

Jax Gonzalez (CU Boulder) & Karen Halverson (Boulder Community School of Integrated Studies)

A queer pedagogy trusts youth with agency and fosters their ability to develop critical thinking skills at all ages. By working from a place that values youth knowledge and knowing, we destabilize the education process, and develop a space for queer possibilities. We used selected texts (Keenan, 2017; Ryan, Patraw, & Bednar, 2013) and queer ideology to develop a two-part lesson on gender-based bullying. Important to this lesson is introducing students to critical ideas about gender that move beyond the gender binary, and are inclusive of intersecting marginalized identities. The goal is to foster critical thinking that leads students to be okay with not knowing and to explore gender possibilities, as opposed to definitions of gender transgression that only allow for individuals to be girls/ feminine or boys/ masculine.

ROOM C225: Queering Science Education (Secondary)

Meghan Mosher (Monarch High School)

The session will begin with an opening activity that gets participants to work together and use problem-solving skills. The ideas of critical thinking and inquiry in science will be leveraged to explore the topic of queering the curriculum. The facilitator will share sample lessons from the biology and environmental science classroom, and participants will discuss what are they already doing in their classrooms to disrupt the norm. Lastly, participants will have an opportunity to collaborate with other educators and develop their own lessons.

ROOM C230: From Outsiders to Activists: Integrating LGBTQ into the Humanities Curriculum (Secondary)

Heather Frazier (Facing History & Ourselves, Facilitator-adult professional learning)

In what ways can an individual’s identity influence civic participation? What are the connections between fear, stereotypes, and homophobia? This interactive workshop will explore the lives of individuals who successfully fought to make their communities safer places. Using the themes of identity, membership and civic participation, we will introduce resources to make classroom content more inclusive of the experiences of LGBTQ people and model how to integrate LGBTQ content into the Humanities while promoting civil dialogue. This is an interactive workshop. Participants will be in conversation with colleagues. A variety of teaching strategies will be modeled as resources are discussed and participants will leave with teaching Strategies and some LGBTQ resources.

12:30 - 1:25 Lunch

Casey Middle School Café/Commons

1:25 - 2:20 Session 4

ROOM C210: Bilingual and Critical Multicultural Resources to Support LGBTQ students in K-12 Classrooms (All audiences)

Dr. Carol Brochin (Teacher Educator, University of Arizona)

In this session, Dr. Brochin will share resources for engaging bilingual and Latinx students. In particular, she will focus on children's and young adult literature. Participants will be introduced to book lists and links to videos and digital resources, and will engage in role-playing.

ROOM C215: An Introduction to Gender by a Gender Fluid High School Student (All audiences)

Asher Cutler (Local high school student)

This session will be organized as a lecture interspersed with time for questions and answers, turn and talk, and discussion. The direction of conversation may be influenced by attendees' questions; however, certain topics and vocabulary will be taught. Activities will include the practice of introducing oneself with pronouns, practice using language for non-binary individuals, and an explanation of why certain terms and phrases are not appropriate. Participants will walk away with a guide to terminology, numerous online resources, and access to a gender-fluid high school student for further discussion outside of the presentation.

ROOM C220: Unpacking the T: Sharing the diverse experiences of parents navigating schools for trans and gender expansive youth (All audiences)

Drs. Bethy Leonardi (A Queer Endeavor) and Amy Farley (Teacher Educator, University of Cincinnati)

In this session, facilitators will share data from parents and guardians of transgender and gender expansive youth and their experiences navigating school contexts. Often, data reported on the experiences of transgender students in schools lump all students into the same category-- "T." What we've noticed is that these experiences vary based on the unique ways that students identify (e.g., trans girl, trans boy, beyond the binary/ gender expansive). Participants will engage in conversation and reflection about their schools and classrooms, how certain norms and assumptions might be contributing to students' experiences, and how they might disrupt some of those norms. Participants will leave with tools for taking stock and taking action to make their schools and classrooms more welcoming and affirming of gender diversity.

ROOM C230: Making the Puberty Talk Inclusive (Elementary/ Middle School) Elizabeth Weyer-Hudson & Andy Nuanhngam (Sexual Health Educators + Trainers in the Responsible Sex Education Institute at Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains)

This session will prompt participants to consider their own values and biases when it comes to sexual health education and inclusiveness at the upper-elementary level. We will model several ways to facilitate an inclusive conversation about puberty and discuss ways to integrate these practices into teaching across subjects. Facilitators will briefly lecture and then guide discussions and lead interactive activities to help participants articulate broad themes and promising practices for puberty & sexual health education at the upper elementary or early middle school level. Facilitators will provide participants with several lesson plan outlines and activity ideas. By attending this session, they will also gain access to the Responsible Sex Education Institute's sexual health textline for youth-serving professionals, SEXED, for ongoing support.

2:30 - 3:25 Session 5

ROOM C210: Inclusive Sex Education in Middle & High Schools (Secondary)
Daniella Escobar (Youth Specialist, GENESISTER at Boulder County Public Health) & Rose Leaven (Youth Services Coordinator at Boulder Valley Women's Health)

In this session, we will deliver a mock presentation of our Sex Education talk that is delivered in schools in Boulder County. Participants will experience inclusive sex-ed that doesn't focus on a specific type of sexuality or group, but instead on the importance of acknowledging the different bodies and preferences that people have. We will share strategies for handling anonymous questions asked by curious youth and give audience members the opportunity to answer some questions themselves. Participants will walk away with educational resources.

ROOM C220: Building Affirming School Spaces: Testimonio, Critical Witnessing, & Trauma (All audiences)
Brittni Laura Hernandez & Jasmine Gandarilla (Ricardo Flores Magon Academy)

This session will explore testimonio and critical witnessing as tools for building successful, affirming classrooms and school culture. Inspired by the work of Elizabeth Dutro and Gloria Anzaldua, we argue that educators are never solely witnesses to the stories and wounds of their students and families. Rather, we are active participants in need of our own witnessing (Dutro, 2008). Our aim is to encourage educators to make their own trauma explicit; to create intentional spaces where our stories, and those of our students and families, are in constant relationship. We argue that this is essential for successful and affirming classrooms and school culture. We will provide our own testimonio as an example of the possibilities and difficulties of this work. We will invite participants to dig into their own stories and fears. We hope to challenge the notion of what is "appropriate" and address common fears and blocks to doing this type of work.

ROOM C225: Engaging LGBTQ Youth in Libraries and Community Spaces: Centering and Listening to Voices of Color (All audiences)
Dr. Carol Brochin (Teacher Educator, University of Arizona) & Em Lane (Public Librarian)

Participants will learn about two community resources in Tucson, Arizona that could easily be translated into a Colorado context: a youth-driven maker space at the public library and community based conversations that centered Latinx trans and non-binary. Our roles will be to briefly describe what we do and then open it up for discussions. Participants will walk away with ideas for how to create community conversations and examples of activities youth engage in at the public library.

ROOM C230: Queering Classrooms, Transforming School Climate (All audiences)
Sean Kenney & Kathryn Leslie (CU Boulder)

Queer theory provides a helpful perspective in illuminating how classroom spaces can unintentionally perpetuate oppression. This session highlights how attendees can apply a queer pedagogical framework to classroom settings in order to question how existing practices and norms might become more inclusive of marginalized identities. Attendees will walk away with a broad understanding of what a queer theoretical lens can lend in terms of identifying oppressive practices in their courses. Attendees will also understand ways to apply a queer pedagogical approach in the classroom to work towards anti-oppressive practices that foster inquiry and interrogation of school spaces.

3:35 - 4:40 Session 6

ROOM C215: A Town Hall for LGBTQ Youth and Families, Community Members, Service Providers, and Affiliated Scholars Related to Queer and Trans Research (All audiences)

Dr. D-L Stewart (Colorado State University) and Drs. Bethy Leonardi & Sara Staley (University of Colorado Boulder, A Queer Endeavor)

This session will facilitate discussion and listening between queer and trans youth, their families, adults who serve queer and trans youth, and the research community. Researchers in academic institutions often focus on problems they feel are worth solving, with perhaps not enough attention to the stated needs of youth they hope to serve. The goal of this session is to encourage research and service partnerships about queer and trans issues and concerns that are informed by, responsive to, and with direct benefit to queer and trans youth, families, and service providers.

ROOM C220: Supporting Transgender and Gender-Expansive Students and Peers (All audiences)

Keri Smith (One Colorado, Program Manager/Educational Policy Advocate)

This session will provide an overview of gender identity, gender as a social concept, and review the lived experiences of Transgender and Gender-Expansive youth in Colorado schools. Then we will engage in discussion and activities regarding the things we can do as educators and school community members to make our schools welcoming and affirming for Transgender and Gender-Expansive youth.

ROOM C210: Making Schools LGBTQ Inclusive: GLSEN's Ready, Set, Respect! (Secondary)

Amber Schweitzer & Jolee Jones (GLSEN Denver)

In this session, we will:

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- Participants will walk away with access to free resources from GLSEN (Ready, Set, Respect kit, GLSEN educator network, lesson plans).

4:45- 5:00 Wrap Up & Certificates

We'll wrap up our time together in community with one another. One way to sustain this work is to be part of a powerful network of colleagues. Our hope is that you make lasting connections with one another. We'll also give certificates of completion (10 hours of re-certification/ professional development credit).