Michigan SOGI

education conference

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues in Education

Jan 29 2016

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
About the SOGI Initiative

The School of Education and Human Services’ Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Initiative was launched in 2010. The goals of the SOGI Initiative are to provide a safe and welcoming environment; to create a more supportive and inclusive campus climate that encourages the success of all students, staff, faculty and administrators regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation; to increase awareness of the realities that face gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex (GLBTQQI) people, and to advocate for the larger GLBTQQI community.

The purpose of this initiative is to provide supportive, educational outreach and community events, as well as other networking opportunities for students, staff, faculty, administrators, and visitors to the School of Education and Human Services who identify as GLBTQQI, as well as their allies.

The acronym in the title of this initiative and annual conference, SOGI (soh'-jee), was chosen specifically because it is an all-inclusive term. All people have a sexual orientation towards others, as well as a sense of self that rests somewhere along a continuum of feminine to masculine, even if either – or both – may shift under different circumstances or at different times in life. If we are to enact positive change toward equality and social justice for GLBTQQI people, we must understand that SOGI issues are not about them – the ones who identify by an ever-expanding alphabet of labels. SOGI issues are about us – the students, educators and community leaders who care for all who come into our schools, businesses and communities, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. SOGI issues are not theirs alone; SOGI issues are ours.

This year, for our fifth annual conference, we are Creating Climate Change in our Classrooms and Communities. We are taking our next steps toward creating safe and inclusive climates in our classrooms, schools, and school districts. We are stepping out to change the climate in our communities and places of work to ensure all of us are safe and free from discrimination regardless of our actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

Timothy G. Larrabee, Ph.D.
School of Education and Human Services
Director, SOGI Initiative

SOGI Initiative Committee
Barb Begin-Campbell, Scott Crabill, Timothy Larrabee, Jonathan Larson, Susan Martino, Erica Ruegg, Davide Secord, Robert Wiggins

Conference Support Staff
Julie Chapie, Lori Crose, Carrie Sliwinski
Schedule

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Registration and Full Breakfast Buffet

8:30 – 9:45 a.m. Welcome
- Timothy Larrabee, Director, SOGI Initiative
- Emcee Stephanie White, Executive Director, Equality Michigan

Opening Remarks
- John Austin, President, Michigan State Board of Education

Keynote
- Sean Kosofsky, Executive Director, Tyler Clementi Foundation

9:45 – 9:55 a.m. Break

9:55 – 10:50 a.m. Concurrent Sessions I

10:50 – 11 a.m. Break

11 – 11:55 a.m. Concurrent Sessions II

11:55 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. Break

12:05 – 1 p.m. Lunch and Roundtable Session

1 – 1:10 p.m. Break

1:10 – 2:05 p.m. Facilitated Panel Discussion

2:05 – 2:15 p.m. Break

2:15 – 3:10 p.m. Concurrent Sessions III

3:10 – 3:20 p.m. Break

3:20 – 3:30 p.m. Closing Remarks/Exit Surveys
Wireless Network Log-On Instructions

In order to access wireless internet during the conference, use the WIFI code: SOGI2016

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Sean M. Kosofsky
Tyler Clementi Foundation, Executive Director
Bullying, Harassment, Humiliation. Stories and Solutions

Prior to joining the Tyler Clementi Foundation, Sean was the Executive Director for Amplify US. Amplify US was created to drive a research and data-driven agenda for charitable organizations working on social change. He served as Executive Director for Blueprint North Carolina, a statewide collaboration that brings together over 50 public interest advocacy organizations to shape policy and increase voter turnout.

Kosofsky was the Director of Policy for Michigan’s leading LGBT advocacy organization, the Triangle Foundation (now Equality Michigan). Among other accomplishments, Sean helped introduce and build support for the eventual passage of Michigan’s anti-bullying statute (Matt’s Safe Schools Law).

Kosofsky is a former board member and co-chair of the Equality Federation, the largest LGBT lobbying and activist network in the nation. In that role, he worked to grow state and local LGBT activism aggressively in every U.S. state and territory. Kosofsky is a former columnist for Between the Lines (Michigan) and an Op-ed writer for the Progressive Media Project. And he is an alumnus of Oakland University (class of 1998, Political Science).
OPENING REMARKS

John Austin
Michigan State Board of Education, President

Mr. Austin was elected in 2000 and re-elected in 2008. He is Director of the Michigan Economic Center at Prima Civitas Foundation. He is also a Non-Resident Senior Fellow with the Brookings Institution where he directed the Great Lakes Economic Initiative. He previously held the position of Executive Director of the New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan. He served as policy director for the Lieutenant Governor’s Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth. He is also a Lecturer at the University of Michigan. Mr. Austin holds a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and a Bachelor of Arts from Swarthmore College in Economics and Political Science.

EMCEE

Stephanie White
Equality Michigan and Equality Michigan Action Network, Executive Director

Stephanie White’s career spans over two decades of leading collective action from U.S. Army Commander to Political Director for the Michigan Democratic Party and the Schauer for Governor Campaign.

Stephanie first moved to Michigan in 2002 when she served as the Campaign Manager for the Ypsilanti Campaign for Equality and subsequently worked for the Michigan Environmental Council. She then spent six years in Washington D.C. working on federal policy issues, including serving as the Managing Director for the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE).

Stephanie currently serves as the Treasurer of the Board for NCTE. She holds a B.A. from Texas Christian University where she was a Distinguished Military Graduate. She originally grew up in Kansas and lived in Texas, New York City, and Washington, D.C. before settling in Ann Arbor, MI with her wife, son, dog, cat and picket fence.
9:55 – 10:50 a.m. Concurrent Sessions I

**Tips for holding an educational community event on Gender Spectrum for Youth – Part I**

Stephanie Lange – Dakota High School, Chippewa Valley Schools  
Room: Salon A

*Dakota High School held a "Family Night Out" where over 150 people came to learn the basics about gender spectrum and related issues for youth. This session will provide you with marketing tips, content tips and a step-by-step guide to lead the educational portion and the small table discussions.*

**Out and Proud: Being Out at School**

Julia Music – Abbott Middle School, West Bloomfield School District  
Room: Salon B

*Participants will be guided through the processes for writing a coming out TED talk. Topics covered will include, risks of being an out teacher, assessing if your staff ready for TED talks, how to craft your speech, and review of an example speech.*

**Basics for Improving the School Climate for LGBTQ Youth**

Pamela Alexander – The Ruth Ellis Center  
Room: Salon C

*This workshop will address some of the basic approaches for school administrators and staff to consider in creating a safe space for LGBTQ students who are faced with a multitude of challenges in schools, including the development of a Diversity and Inclusion Plan, and implementation of best practices.*

**Mindfulness and Stress Reduction – Part I**

Caryn Wells – Oakland University  
Room: Salon F

*This session will introduce how mindfulness serves the LBGTQ students to reduce stress and serves the students in the school to learn to be less critical of self and others. This session will invite participation in mindful practices to learn how to calm anxious moments and be fully present in a relaxed state.*
Building a Movement for Michigan Gay Straight Alliances (BAMM GSAs): Year 2
Alex Cicalese and Erin Busbee – Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH)
Room: Salon H

MOASH is in its second year of the BAMM GSAs program, working to increase the number and capacity of GSAs statewide. Findings from the situational assessment will be shared, including implications for next steps, followed by interactive discussion of new challenges as program staff work one-on-one with GSAs in Michigan.

11 – 11:55 a.m.  Concurrent Sessions II
Tips for holding an educational community event on Gender Spectrum for Youth – Part II
Stephanie Lange – Dakota High School, Chippewa Valley Schools
Room: Salon A

Dakota High School held a "Family Night Out" where over 150 people came to learn the basics about gender spectrum and related issues for youth. This session will provide you with marketing tips, content tips and a step-by-step guide to lead the educational portion and the small table discussions.

GLSEN’s Professional Development for K-12 Educators
Eric Folkmire and Lia Fabbri – Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, Southeast Michigan Chapter (GLSEN SEMI)
Room: Salon B

The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network’s SE Michigan Chapter (GLSEN SEMI) will review GLSEN National’s most recent School Climate Survey. Facilitators will introduce the various professional development training options available through the local GLSEN Chapter in Southeast Michigan. Participants will discuss various scenarios that have arisen in our schools.

From Words to Action
Principal Rachel Guinn and Student Panel – Seaholm High School, Birmingham Public Schools
Room: Salon C

Seaholm high school students and administration will discuss their journey toward promoting inclusivity in order to combat the heteronormativity/cisnormativity that lends itself to the alienation of LGBTQ students. Students will present followed by an open Q and A regarding their path to a more inclusive school environment.
Practice of Self-Compassion to Develop Resilience: What Schools Can Do – Part II
Caryn Wells – Oakland University
Room: Salon F

LBGTQ students are under considerable risk of being bullied in schools. School personnel can do much to change the culture of the school to be more inclusive. This session will include the practice of Loving kindness and practices of self-soothing and self-compassion, designed to empower students and work to change the culture of the school.

Beyond the Binary: Preparing Teacher Candidates to Support Transgender Youth
Heather McEntarfer – State University of New York at Fredonia
Room: H

This presentation addresses preparation of teacher candidates to support transgender youth and counter cissexism in schools. The presentation features research addressing teacher candidates’ discussions about gender identity, as well as concrete activities that can be used within teacher education to address gender and the needs of transgender youth in schools.

12:05 – 1 p.m.  Lunch
Roundtable Discussions
Room: Salons D/E

Join session facilitators for informal roundtable discussions. Roundtable discussions are small group sessions that provide attendees the opportunity to network and share in a more intimate setting. Participants are welcome to visit several tables to connect with presenters outside of their formal sessions. Attendees may want to touch base with presenters they may have to miss due to a scheduling conflict, or follow-up with presenters after attending their session.

1:10 – 2:05 p.m.  Facilitated Panel Discussion
SOGI Issues: Embedded in Education
Taylor Little, Student, Harrison High School, Farmington Public Schools
Erika Rust, Teacher, North Farmington High School, Farmington Public Schools
Rachel Guinn, Principal, Seaholm High School, Birmingham Public Schools
Naomi Kahlil, Director Instructional Equity, Farmington Public Schools
Laurie Bechhofer, Michigan Department of Education
Stephanie White, Moderator, Equality Michigan
Room: Salons D/E
2:15 – 3:10 p.m.  Concurrent Sessions III

**Inclusiveness Through LGBTQ Literature**

Rick Joseph – Michigan Teacher of the Year 2015-16  
Room: Salon B

*How can we strive to create atmospheres that support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) students from elementary through high school? Come and join our conversation as we explore the wealth of literature that empowers and celebrates characters, families and themes in books that feature individuals who are LGBTQ.*

**Safety, Bias and LGBTQ Issues: An Educator Training from the NEA**

Frank Burger and Tracy Hobbs – National Education Association  
Room: Salon C

*This session provides a comprehensive examination of NEA’s training capacity on LGBTQ issues. The training series addresses the importance of schools addressing these issues, effectively integrating them into the classroom, and their impact on the whole child. Participants will engage in sample activities from the training modules.*

**Creating an Inclusive Classroom for Transgender Students**

De’Andrea Matthews – Wayne State University School of Medicine  
Room: Salon G

*Creating climate change in our classrooms begins with setting an atmosphere of inclusivity. This session will immerse participants in critical dialogue and reflection of being transgender by active engagement in a literary circle.*

**Climate Change: Creating Safer and More Welcoming Schools for Queer Youth Through Transformative Leadership Theory**

Thomas Zook – Wayne State University College of Education  
Room: Salon H

*Inspiring educators to trouble their notion of a “normal school climate” by introducing a different approach to leadership, this presentation calls on educators to reexamine the familiar through a queer lens, and deconstruct the values, beliefs, and attitudes that perpetuate hostile and unwelcoming school climates that often face queer youth.*
“All young people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to achieve their full potential.”

- Harvey Milk

“I imagined a time when being gay is as unquestioned and un-judged as is having blue eyes. Some might call it fantasy or science fiction. I’d like to think it’s the future.”

- Missouri Vaun, All Things Rise
“You’re not under attack when others gain rights and privileges you’ve always had.”
- DaShanne Stokes

“The only queer people are those who don’t love anybody.”
- Rita Mae Brown
“We are all tied together in a single garment of destiny... I can never be what I ought to be until you are allowed to be what you ought to be.”

- Martin Luther King Jr.
The Women and Gender Studies Program at Oakland University announces their new LGBTQ Studies Minor

For More information contact: WGS Director Jo Reger at reger@oakland.edu or visit our website - www.oakland.edu/wgs
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SPECIAL THANKS TO OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Dr. George W. Hynd | President
Dr. Susan Awbrey | Senior Associate Provost
Mr. Glenn McIntosh | Vice President of Student Affairs
Dr. Patricia Dolly | Senior Advisor to the President, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Dr. Jon Margerum-Leys | Dean, School of Education and Human Services

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

- Abbott Middle School, West Bloomfield School District
- Affirmations
- Birmingham Covington District Wide 3-8 School, Birmingham Public Schools
- Dakota High School, Chippewa Valley Schools
- Department of Organizational Leadership, Oakland University
- Equality Michigan
- Equality Michigan Action Network
- Equality Research Center, Eastern Michigan University
- Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, Southeast Michigan Chapter (GLSEN SEMI)
- Harrison High School, Farmington Public Schools
- LGBT Resource Center, Michigan State University
- Office of Instructional Equity, Farmington Public Schools
- Michigan Department of Education
- Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH)
- Michigan State Board of Education
- National Education Association (NEA)
- North Farmington High School, Farmington Public Schools
- Pride Source Media Group: Between the Lines
- The Ruth Ellis Center
- School of Education and Human Services, Oakland University
- Seaholm High School, Birmingham Public Schools
- State University of New York at Fredonia
- Tyler Clementi Foundation
- Wayne State University College of Education
- Wayne State University School of Medicine
- Women and Gender Studies Program, Oakland University