Lesbian | Gay | Bisexual
Transgender Resource Center

INCLUSION, COMMUNITY, & BELONGING

The UC San Diego LGBT Resource Center presented a powerful week of programs, visibility and events during our annual Out and Proud Week the fourth week of the spring quarter. The week included a new partnership with undergraduate organizers and a series of programs in the evening entitled “Rainbows after Dark” which targeted students who live in the residence halls across all of the living areas on campus. The highlight of the week was Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, winner of the 2012 Lambda Literary Award, a queer disabled femme writer, teacher, performer and healer/organizer of Burgher/Tamil Sri Lankan, Roma and Irish ascent. A broad cross-section of UC San Diego and broader San Diego LGBT communities attended the event, and the evaluations were very high, including comments such as “Centering femmes of color voices and experiences was so amazing—including centering disabled bodies. Please more!” and “This was the only femme of color-centric event I’ve attended at UCSD and I hope there are more to come.”

PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL BEING

This quarter, the UC San Diego LGBT Resource Center hosted a Queer and Trans Self-Care Workshop. The event was built on and grounded in the working of Audre Lorde, who first noted that “…caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare.” The workshop assisted students in developing a wellness plan tailored to meet an individual’s specific needs. Strategies for grounding, support, resilience, transformation, and accountability were remembered, shared, and practiced as a way of ensuring continued well-being in the academy.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS/CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Each quarter UC San Diego’s LGBT Resource Center offers its conference room on a limited basis to professors to teach small seminar courses focused on issues pertinent to living the values, meeting the mission, and achieving the vision of the LGBT Resource Center. This quarter, Professor Gabriela Santizo led Critical Gender Studies 104 - Queer Lives in Latin America. The course considered question like “What does it mean to be queer? What constitutes a queer life? What does it mean to live a queer life in Latin America?” The course paid close attention to the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, and class and explored how different texts (re)frame queer lives in relation to social justice, historical memory, and various social transformations that have taken place in Latin America since the 1930s. Not only did students who were enrolled in the course experience these powerful conversations, but those who frequent the Center benefited from the side conversations before and after class, and the dialogues which were sparked within the Center based on the course content.
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TEACHING/TRAINING/CONSULTING

The Student Health Advocate (SHA) Program is a volunteer peer health education program at UC San Diego, and these undergraduates are an essential part of the Health Promotions Services and Student Health Services departments. This quarter the incoming 2015-2016 SHAs participated in a practicum training course that included a lecture by the LGBT Resource Center regarding the inclusion of LGBT issues throughout the areas in which the SHAs are trained to educate. Also this spring, most of the six colleges’ orientation leaders were exposed to the LGBT Resource Center through a number of different activities, depending on the needs and desires of each college. This included things like tours of the Center, brief presentations, and inclusive scenarios of supporting transgender and gender queer incoming students.

OUTREACH, YIELD, & RETENTION

Although UC San Diego does not systematically collect data on sexual orientation or gender identity from students, faculty or staff, that has not hampered UC San Diego’s Student Promoted Access Center for Education and Service (SPACES) Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC) “We are Family” Access and Retention Coordinators from presenting an annual QTPOC High School Conference in order to increase access, yield, and retention rates. This year the LGBT Resource Center presented “Healing Justice in Queer and Trans People of Color Social Justice Movements” at the conference. The session discussed ideas of social Justice spaces and movement work being both incredibly gratifying, nourishing, and healing- yet also being sites of conflict, violence, and isolation. The workshop explored healing justice, teaching skills for young queer people of color to center themselves, work through trauma, and affirm to themselves that their existence matters, regardless of the broader messages in society.