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DW11CD - "Shared Responsibilities: What Advisors and Administrators Need to Know to Better Assist GLBTQA Students"

WEBINAR broadcast February 7, 2008 (Season 2)

As advisors, administrators, and as representatives of our institution we have a responsibility to learn about diverse student experiences, analyze the work we currently do, and work together to take action! Many advisors and administrators are interested in knowing how to better serve diverse populations, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer* and allied (LGBTQA) students but don't know how to assess their current efforts and create an action plan for the future.

In this Webinar, **Jennifer Joslin** (LGBTQA Concerns Commission Chair) and **Casey Self** (NACADA Vice-President and former LGBTQA Concerns Commissions Chair) discussed how education, assessment and action are necessary to better assist LGBTQA students on our campuses. Participants learned:

- current terminology related to LGBTQA issue.
- about myths and stereotypes about LGBTQA issues
- about the needs of different LGBTQ student populations
- about NACADA resources and other general resources that are available for advisors and administrator.
- how to assess current office and institutional strategies for success
- how to create an action plan for assessing and improving services for LGBTQA students

One viewer said: *We appreciated the definitions and the many ideas for meeting the needs of this population. As a result of the presentation our staff engaged in an in depth discussion as to how to better and more effectively serve this population.*

Others found particularly helpful:

- *Affirmation that dialog and action regarding LGTBQA are important to the entire campus - academic and student affairs*
- *Terminology, advice for working with students, list of resources*
- *Ppeople liked both the theory review and the action plan, but were especially pleased to simply have a structured way of talking about this topic*
- *The reminder to learn about theories and take a closer look at what we are presenting to students through our environment. Is it welcoming? Are we using "safe" language?*

***A Note about Language:**

Prior to the event, some NACADA members asked questions about the use of the term "Queer" in this event. One of Jennifer and Casey's goals for the broadcast was to talk about the terms in use by students, advisors, and researchers. Jennifer and Casey believe that these questions demonstrate the need for open dialogue on these important issues that affect our students, and they were pleased to have the opportunity to address them in this event!

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