
**BEA Award in Support of Conferences and Workshop
2019**

Grant ID: 83991

Workshop or Conference name: "T" for Trans, "T" for Tennessee: Caring Holistically for Trans and Gender Expansive Appalachian Youth and Adults

Sponsoring Organization: UT Psychological Clinic, UT Counseling Center, UT Commission for LGBT People

Contact Name: Leticia Flores, PhD

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Goals and objectives

The clarity and nature of the conference or workshop goals and objectives and how they will enhance the training of faculty and supervisors of graduate students, interns, and/or postdoctoral fellows in psychology.

The University of Tennessee has doctoral programs in counseling, clinical, mental health counseling and school psychology. These faculty train and supervise graduate students who provide services to the city of Knoxville and surrounding communities, many of which are rural. This east TN region of Appalachia is seeing a rise in the visibility of transgender and gender expansive (TGE) youth and adults- many of whom are currently attending the university or are alumni. To date, the state of knowledge and expertise among UT faculty in all programs regarding TGE health care is woefully lacking. This in turn creates significant training gaps for psychology graduate students, who work in the schools, hospitals and other community spaces where Appalachian TGE youth and adults seek services. Graduate faculty are increasingly recognizing the importance of training and teaching in this field, but local opportunities are lacking to access this training and education. This conference aims to gather a core of local and regional experts in the field to educate psychology graduate faculty in clinical, counseling, mental health counseling and school psychology programs about the basics of TGE health care in Appalachia, so that future coursework, practica and related training can be better infused with TGE content.

Leadership

The qualifications of the person(s) identified to plan and lead the conference or workshop, relative to the topic of focus. Included in the qualifications should be evidence of national or regional leadership (e.g., publication of scholarly works related to education and training, participation in past workshops, etc.).

Leticia Flores is a clinical psychology faculty member who directs the clinical program's training clinic. She specializes in LGBTQ health, and supervises students who see LGBTQ community members for therapy. She has taught local workshops to a variety of health care providers (school nurses, psychologists), presented nationally and written for peer-reviewed journals on the topics of general LGBTQ and specific trans health, and serves as a university and regional advocate for the LGBTQ community. Judith Gibbons is the UT Student Counseling Center's Associate Director and Director of Clinical Services. She focuses on providing services for the LGBTQ students in the Counseling Center. Jennifer Jabson-Tree is faculty with the School of Public Health, and has published in numerous peer-reviewed journals on LGBTQ health disparities. She co-chairs the UT Commission for LGBTQ People with Leticia Flores. Dr. Rebecca Morgan is a sports medicine physician who works with TGE students at the UT Student Health Center. She is invested in working to enhance the QOL for all TGE students, and collaborates frequently with Drs. Flores, Jabson-Tree and Gibbons

in TGE patient care. Drs. Flores, Gibbons and Morgan all have local and regional contacts that they can recruit for such a conference.

Participants

The qualifications of conference or workshop participants relative to the topic of focus, including their potential for implementing outcomes of the conference or workshop toward enhancing graduate education.

The conference participants will include graduate faculty and instructors in counseling, clinical and school psychology, as well as mental health counseling. These faculty recruit students into their programs, teach all graduate courses, supervise therapists in internal and external practica, and sit on masters and dissertation committees. There are wide generational gaps within the ranks of faculty, where newer faculty may be more aware of and educated about TGE issues than more veteran faculty. Those less educated faculty in TGE issues consequently may lack nuanced and relevant coverage and attention to TGE issues in their courses and practicum supervision, and may ignore/minimize TGE concerns in their research programs. A university- and APA-supported workshop that can provide both general APA Continuing Education credits, and can address the state-specific requirements regarding ethics and cultural diversity content, will enhance the chances that TGE training and education will draw a large audience and raise consciousness about the community.

Impact

The estimated or potential impact of the conference or workshop in terms of the diffusion of new ideas resulting from its outcomes in the education community appropriate to the proposal's focus.

Given that we are starting from close to scratch, we estimate the potential impact of the conference to be significant in its ability to reach a wide swath of the graduate psychology training community. There are a few other graduate psychology programs in the region that we will advertise to, who will undoubtedly see this as a valuable opportunity. Given the rural nature of eastern Tennessee and Appalachia, such training opportunities are few and far between. Efforts will be made to record the conference and collect and disseminate the materials presented at the conference, so that individuals who are unable to attend in person can still benefit from the conference proceedings and connections. The faculty can also be provided with resources for future education as well as personal contacts for future networking on such training. We believe that such a conference can serve as a powerful statement of encouragement to develop more sustained collaboration among the programs to develop TGE-relevant curricula and training opportunities.

Budget

The clarity and completeness of the conference or workshop budget, how realistic it is, and how the grant funds are to be used to offset expenses incurred (e.g., travel, registration, speaker fees).

We anticipate that conference costs will run approximately \$9,500.00, which will include expenses for space and AV equipment rental for a day (\$2000.00) The proposed budget will also include food for the day-long conference (\$3,000.00); additional advertising (\$1000.00) ; parking waivers for off-site participants (\$500.00), registrant badges and other “day-of” materials like program brochures (\$1000.00), and speaker fees for a more regionally or nationally-renowned speaker on TGE health care (\$2000.00). BEA funding can help to offset any and all of these costs. The group also plans to apply for funding from university and local organizations to help cover these costs.