Trans Students at the Intersections

K. Tajhi Claybren, Harper Rubin, and Eli Erlick

Trans Student Educational Resources
Trans Student Educational Resources is a youth-led organization dedicated to transforming the educational environment for trans and gender nonconforming students through advocacy and empowerment. In addition to our focus on creating a more trans-friendly education system, our mission is to educate the public and teach trans activists how to be effective organizers. We believe that justice for trans and gender nonconforming youth is contingent on an intersectional framework of activism. Ending oppression is a long-term process that can only be achieved through collaborative action. www.transstudent.org
Goals of Presentation

- Discuss intersecting experiences of being trans in higher education.
- Knowing trans rights in colleges and universities.
- Learning how to support trans students - including policy implementation and interpersonal advocacy.
Definitions

**Transgender/Trans:** encompassing term of many gender identities of those who do not identify or exclusively identify with their sex assigned at birth. The term transgender is not indicative of gender expression, sexual orientation, hormonal makeup, physical anatomy, or how one is perceived in daily life.

**Cisgender/Cis:** term for someone who exclusively identifies as their sex assigned at birth. The term cisgender is not indicative of gender expression, sexual orientation, hormonal makeup, physical anatomy, or how one is perceived in daily life.

**Gender Identity:** One’s internal sense of being male, female, neither of these, both, or other gender(s). Everyone has a gender identity, including you. For transgender people, their sex assigned at birth and their gender identity are not necessarily the same.
**Gender Expression/Presentation:** The physical manifestation of one’s gender identity through clothing, hairstyle, voice, body shape, etc. (typically referred to as masculine or feminine). Many transgender people seek to make their gender expression (how they look) match their gender identity (who they are), rather than their sex assigned at birth. Someone with a gender nonconforming gender expression may or may not be transgender.

**Sex Assigned At Birth:** The assignment and classification of people as male, female, intersex, or another sex assigned at birth often based on physical anatomy at birth and/or karyotyping.

**Transition:** A person’s process of developing and assuming a gender expression to match their gender identity. Transition can include: coming out to one’s family, friends, and/or co-workers; changing one’s name and/or sex on legal documents; hormone therapy; and possibly (though not always) some form of surgery. It’s best not to assume how one transitions as it is different for everyone.

**Gender Pronouns:** How one refers to someone in the third person (e.g. he, she, or they).

For more, go to www.transstudent.org/definitions
"The most general statement of our politics at the present time would be that we are actively committed to struggling against racial, sexual, heterosexual, and class oppression, and see as our particular task the development of integrated analysis and practice based upon the fact that the major systems of oppression are interlocking. The synthesis of these oppressions creates the conditions of our lives. As Black women we see Black feminism as the logical political movement to combat the manifold and simultaneous oppressions that all women of color face."

-Combahee River Collective
Flaws With Available Statistics About Higher Ed.

- Difficult to measure the drop off between number of trans people who complete high school and those who go onto enter college
- Accurate stats are difficult to collect due to inaccessibility of major surveys, small sample sizes, etc.
- Schools often do not record information about gender identity or in some states may not legally be allowed to require that a student identify their gender identity
- Students may not be comfortable recording their trans identity on school documentation for fear of being outed
- Not all trans students identify as trans going into college
- Many trans students drop out of higher ed or take time off
- Stats cannot necessarily point to comprehensive policy suggestions nationally because needs are often specific to institutions
Limitations of Laws/Policies

- Inadequately enforced
- Relies on the most marginalized to report, which can sometimes place them at further risk
- Difficult to prove
- Very few people have access to legal services
- Discrimination is narrowly defined
- Costly for individuals to hire lawyers, go through court cases, etc.
- Don’t benefit the most marginalized trans people in implementation
Title IX

- Transgender students ARE covered under Title IX
MODEL ADMISSIONS POLICY ON TRANSGENDER STUDENTS AT WOMEN’S COLLEGES

Women’s Colleges - Admissions and Matriculation
Model Policy for Colleges and Universities

- Using a model policy can help make it easier to implement thorough protections for trans students
- Read the full policy at: transstudent.org/college
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Nondiscrimination Policies, Documentation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Housing, Facilities, and Athletics</strong></th>
<th><strong>Other</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Add “gender identity or expression” to existing nondiscrimination policies</td>
<td>1. Offer gender inclusive housing</td>
<td>1. Enable health care coverage for trans-related therapy, hormone replacement therapy, and gender-affirming surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Require that policy offenders complete educational training</td>
<td>2. Provide gender inclusive restrooms</td>
<td>2. Hire paid staff responsible for supporting transgender students</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Enable students to use their correct names and pronouns</td>
<td>3. Enable students to play for the athletic team they are most comfortable on for club and intramural athletics</td>
<td>3. Inform students, faculty, and staff on transgender issues</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4. Enable students to wear the uniform they are most comfortable in</td>
<td>4. Provide access to resources and information</td>
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Black TGNC Experiences: Importance of K-12

We can not begin to think about/discuss college access without addressing the barriers that Black TGNC youth may experience in K-12 schooling:

- 50% of black respondents who attended school expressing a transgender identity or gender non-conformity face harassment.
  - Physical assault (27%)
  - Sexual assault (15%)
- Harassment was so severe that it led 21% of the respondents to leave school.
- 6% of the respondents were expelled due to bias.
Black TGNC Experiences: Historical & Current Realities

There is a **DIFFERENCE** between college access and college experience:

Just because a student with intersecting marginalized identities matriculates does not mean the environment is conducive for academic success, professional development and personal growth.

If you are interested in more:

Watch **MAJOR!**
Black TGNC Experiences: Multiple Narratives

Black TGNC Experience at an HBCU

“The face of queer activism-on campus or the otherwise-is often white, affluent, and masculine. But queerness on HBCU campus, where diversity defies simple categorization, challenges assumptions about race, gender, and sexuality alike.”

“There is a complexity to struggle, and I’m just not really interested pathologizing More and how black men respond to sexual and gender deviance. But I’m interested in challenging and critically holding them accountable”

Black TGNC at a PWI

“I was a budding queer, black, feminist, trans woman, so it was powerful for me to embrace myself in an atmosphere that fostered and encouraged adherence to a white, cis-heteronormative ideal...They weren’t going to give me a portrait with my face on it; I was going to have to bogart my way into the frame”

“Being both black and queer, I had to make a choice on whether I’d delve into the “black” scene or for once, gain entry into a group of queer people in similar journey of figuring themselves out.”
Questions
Scenario 1

1. A professor uses transphobic slurs in class and refuses to call a trans student by the correct name or pronouns.
2. A university doesn’t have gender-inclusive housing or restrooms.
3. A student newspaper publishes a transphobic article outing several students. It is independently funded and the institution cannot prevent it from being circulated.
Questions
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