



Queer is Love Community College Student Conference Breakout Session Descriptions



The Gender Sexuality Alliance Club at El Camino College provides an unbiased environment for students within the LGBTQIA+ community and their allies to collaborate and work together to help increase, improve, and promote acceptance and understanding of sexual diversity in our society

By Us, For Us: LGBTQIA+ Student Experiences *By El Camino College GSA Students*

An open forum on being LGBTQIA+, led by El Camino GSA student leaders. During this workshop, students will have an opportunity to share their stories and reflect on their experiences within the LGBTQIA+ community. The El Camino GSA will facilitate this forum by offering discussion questions and statements for reflection. All are welcome to join, but note: this discussion is by us, for us.



The SMC Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) club is a non-profit club of open-minded queer and questioning LGBTQIA+ students, teachers and allies. We provide a safe space on campus once a week for people to unwind, participate in productive discussions surrounding issues affecting our communities and to learn how to engage in everyday activism. Ultimately, the SMC GSA is a place where we are allowed to commemorate our chosen families and remember our origins. We gather to celebrate in ways that we are not normally given the space to do so freely.

Check Yourself: Assessing Allyship Towards LGBTQIA+ Students in the Classroom *By Dr. Steph Anderson and Santa Monica College GSA Students*

This workshop will help faculty and students know what direct steps to take in order to create a more inclusive environment for queer students, especially in the classroom. The idea and concept of allyship will be discussed through activities and scenarios, which will lead to an open dialogue on strategies and best practices for creating inclusive spaces on campus for queer students.





Dr. Has Arakelyan (She/Her) is a professor of Psychology at Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC) and professor of Psychology and Law at Cal State LA. She is an LGBTQIA+ activist, LGBTQIA+ student advocate and human rights activist. She conducts safe zone training for faculty and staff at LAVC, created the very first LGBTQIA+ resource page for LAVC, as well as started "The Rainbow Pride Scholarship" for LGBTQIA+ students. She's received various teaching and advocacy awards and last year became LGBTQIA+ Hero of the Year, nominated by CBS radio-station's KNX Radio for her LGBTQIA+ advocacy. Her motto is "Education is the Best Form of Evolution."

**LGBTQIA+ Foundational Cultural Competency:
Supporting and Understanding LGBTQIA+ Youth and Overcoming Internalized Homophobia
by Dr. Hasmik Arakelyan**

This workshop will familiarize ourselves with the concept of diverse LGBTQIA+ identities existing on spectrums, explore the idea that coming out is not a discrete and linear revelation but rather a daily and lifelong process.



*Dr. Robyn Brammer speaks to influence social conceptions of gender. She regards herself as a gender minority (which some people refer to as transgender), and she strives to help society understand gender from a functionalist standpoint. Her textbook, *Diversity in Counseling* (2012, Brooks/Cole), addresses ethnic, gender, and religious diversity within mental health professions. She has taught psychology for 20 years and is currently the Dean of Counseling at Golden West College. Dr. Brammer is the mother of two girls, a foster parent, certified yoga instructor, and loves to travel the world with her husband.*

**Trans* Affirming Steps to Build a Better California
By Dr. Robyn Brammer**

Attendees of this workshop will understand how stereotype threats create hostile environments that limit the social and academic growth of LGBTQQI children, the unique challenges to young adults and the impact of hormones on a second puberty. The challenges to older adults who transition, their families, their colleagues, and their friends will also be discussed. By the conclusion of the workshop, attendees will be able to articulate the ethical issues related to marginalization and stereotype threats. Attendees will be able to demonstrate basic competencies in regard to gender-appropriate intakes, assessments, and counseling interventions for individuals and families.





Philip Lantz is a counselor at Pasadena City College. Born and raised in Harbor City, California, he began his academic and professional journey as a proud community college student at El Camino College. He participated in the Honors Transfer Program and transferred to UCLA as an English Literature major. After completing his Master's in Educational Counseling at USC Philip served as an adjunct faculty member at El Camino College and Santa Monica College. He is now a full-time counselor at Pasadena City College. Philip has worked extensively in Student Equity programs and has contributed to bringing LGBTQIA+ programming to community college campuses. He has worked on teams to design and implement community college Safe Zone trainings and has partnered with student leaders to create

resources that connect faculty and staff to the unique strengths and needs the LGBTQIA+ community brings to college campuses. He is passionate about advocacy and creating support for LGBTQIA+ students, current and former foster youth, and students affected by homelessness and food insecurity. Outside of work he loves spending his time watching live music, eating at new restaurants, and visiting his favorite coffee shop!

Healthy Relationships in the LGBTQIA+ Community

by Philip Lantz & Samuel Sassoon, Academic Coach Pasadena City College

This workshop will take students through the spectrum of various relationships in order to empower them to distinguish the difference between healthy, unhealthy, and abusive relationships. We will break down various forms of abuse including emotional, physical, and digital. There will be discussion on how to create healthy boundaries, which can be challenging, particularly in the queer community. Attendees will leave with tools to help them build their own boundaries, guidance on respecting others' boundaries, and resources they can continue to explore after the workshop.

