Using Correct Pronouns

Using a student's correct pronouns and names--the pronouns and names they ask you to use--not only creates an affirming environment, it may save a life.

Stats

Using correct pronouns/names...

32% of LGBTQ young people have been bullied in a school space. (1)

Says to students, "You matter to me."

80% of trans students feel unsafe at school because of their gender expression. (2)

Says to students, "I trust that you know yourself."

25% of students identify as outside of the gender binary (i.e. "male" or "female"). (3)

Says to students, "I see you."

49% of LGBTQ youth in rural areas say their communities are either somewhat or very unaccepting. (4)

71% fewer symptoms of severe depression. (5)

LGBTQ youth + mental health: 64% experience symptoms of depression, 43% consider suicide, 16% attempt suicide. (4)

34% drop in suicidal thoughts. (5)

You may think you don't have any trans students in your classes, but you do. They may just not be out to you.

65% decrease in suicide attempts. (5)

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you make the difference

model affirming behavior

use "folks" * "friends" * "y'all" * "everyone" * "my people" (instead of "boys and girls")

have resources available

find allies to support YOU

be a safe person

Local Resources

Rainbow Cafe LGBTQ Center
rainbowcafe.org
info@rainbowcafe.org

Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship
carbondaleuf.org
carbondaleuu@gmail.com

SIU LGBTQ Resource Center
smrc.siu.edu/lgbtq/
smrc@siu.edu

References

(1) The Trevor Project. (2021). 2021 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health. West Hollywood, California: The Trevor Project https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2021

(2) transstudent.org/graphics/transvisibility/

(3) thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/diversity-of-youth-gender-identity/

(4) thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/lgbtq-youth-in-small-towns-and-rural-areas/

(5) ama-assn.org/delivering-care/population-care/transgender-kids-gender-affirming-names-can-be-lifesaving