Navigating Academia while Queer

Presenters:
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Jessica Delgado
Valarie Zapata
Objectives

- To share our personal experiences as community college faculty and students
- To share struggles faced in the education system, specifically college and graduate school
- Discuss the role of mentors
- To share classroom activities and curricula: on how to build an inclusive classroom and college
- To offer suggestions on fostering LGBTQ+ student voices and success
Personal Experiences

- Introductions
- What brought us to Moreno Valley College?
- “Coming out” on campus
Student & Faculty Struggles

- Assigned “authority” figures
- Negotiating visibility
- Addressing ignorance
- Lack of support
- Access to resources
- Mentorship
Inside the Classroom
Our Classroom: I consider this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect, and I welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, national origins, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, ability – and other visible and nonvisible differences. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every other member of the class. (Zapata’s syllabus)
How do we address pronouns in class?

Before semester
- Email

First day of the semester
- Index Cards
- Ice Breakers
Activities & Curriculum

- Seven Word Autobiography
- Creative Outlet
- Memoir “Muraling”
“Muraling” The Mayor of Castro Street
Activities and Curriculum

Cherrie Moraga *Heroes and Saints* Drama Unit

LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness via *Paris is Burning* and *Pose*: Home and Identity Unit

See PowerPoint
“Dear Educators, this is how you can support LGBTQ+ students”

- “Just be open, but don't act as if you know everything. Listen.”
- “Be a visible ally.”
- “Be clear with your students that homophobic and heterosexist comments and actions are not acceptable and will be addressed in an educational, informative, and non-threatening manner.”
- “Don’t assume someone's gender.”
- “Include information about LGBTQ+ people who made significant contributions in the past...Use examples of LGBTQ people in lectures and discussions so they are not marginalized.”
Beyond the Classroom
Fostering Student Voices & Success

- Creating Validation
- Student groups/organizations
- Campus Leadership
- Zapata Sabbatical Project
- Oral History Project
Creating Space through Performance
Drag Show

Wednesday, November 14th 4:00-6:30 PM
The Art of Drag: Breaking Binaries
Location: Moreno Valley College in SAS 121
Featuring:
Jean Decay, Tony Bonnow, Baby, & Charles Galin
Local drag artists: Kimiko, Elissa, Nicole Eva
Hosted by: Jean Decay
Activity Disclaimer: Riverside Community College District is committed to providing college and reasonable accommodation to all District programs and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the program/event/organizer Valerie Zapata (909)437-6650 by October 20th. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.
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