

Universities use educational forums to instruct and inform students, faculty, and staff members about the importance of creating an affirmative campus climate for the LGBT community. Unfortunately, there is minimal research conducted on the effectiveness of such programming. Green and Hill (2004) discuss the importance of education in a heterosexual society to elicit LGBT affirmative attitudes. As written by Githens (2012), coalition building and the use of testimonials have created activists for social change in various communities.

In recent years, campuses have begun to provide additional educational programs for transgender advocates. Transgender issues have become more apparent in recent years as they have become a large discussion in today's society (Hendricks and Testa, 2012). As opposed to sexual minorities, transgender individuals are members of a gender minority group who face different oppressions. Obtaining cultural competence and stretching the societal view of standard gender norms has been a focus of many of these programs as well as counselor-training programs (Hendricks and Testa, 2012).

In order to raise awareness regarding the LGBT, Ball State University has committed itself to providing the psychoeducational workshop SAFEZONE. Members of an on-campus LGBT organization first established SAFEZONE, at Ball State University. In 2012, an additional program, TRANS SAFEZONE, was established to provide supplemental information regarding transgender individuals on college campuses. The purpose of the current study is to assess attitudinal change among individuals participating in the TRANS SAFEZONE program at Ball State University. This program evaluation will assist in understanding the needs to change specific facets of the program to further educate individuals on Ball State's campus.

Contributors to this symposium include: Kyle Kittleson, staff psychologist at Ball State University Counseling Center, Kodee Walls and Emily Barnum, both doctoral students in Counseling Psychology at Ball State University. The program being evaluated in this study is a product of the work constructed by Dr. Kittleson, and two former students (Kelly Clougher and Elena Yakuni). The three presenters contributed to create and analyze the pre and posttests utilized to evaluate the TRANS SAFEZONE program as well as data analysis for the program.

Emily Barnum will present the History of SAFEZONE and the TRANS SAFEZONE programs at Ball State University. This piece of the symposium will initiate the conversation regarding the importance of the program to the University as well as the purpose of specific facets of the program. The second piece of the study will include the importance of program evaluation as well as the current evaluation utilized in the study. Kodee Walls will conduct this piece of the presentation. The final component of the symposium, presented by Dr. Kyle Kittleson, will discuss the results found, including the strengths and weaknesses of the current TRANS SAFEZONE program at Ball State University. Each member will be available for questioning.