

Title: A New SIG Splashes Into PCACAC Waters

“When we reach our lowest point, we are open to the greatest change.” It goes without saying that this has been a trying year and we find ourselves entering into a unique fall season, but in light of all the hardships and struggles, there are some positives that peak out of the shadows. One of those being the newborn LGBTQ+ and Ally SIG!

Although in its very early stages, the LGBTQ+ and Ally SIG aims to provide a comforting and validating space for identifying professionals across the region - both to discuss pride and successes as well as adversities and challenges. This SIG can assist in connecting fellow LGBTQ+ individuals and Allies for groupthink conversations about spearheading progressive change and education at their institution. It can facilitate learning opportunities about inclusive practices and language, brainstorm programming ideas for LGBTQ+ students and families or fellow professionals, and in this new virtual world we can coordinate webinars and trainings for the wonderful PCACAC membership.

Much like the LGBTQ+ community itself, this SIG will be fluid and without limitations in what it can deliver and accomplish for its PCACAC family.

We know you must be on the edge of your seats with excitement for the endless potential of our new SIG and we will work on scheduling our first meeting soon. In the meantime, please take a moment to consider the importance of pronouns.

Do you and your colleagues display preferred pronouns within email signatures? What about website bios, business cards, or nametags? As individuals, we each live our true, authentic selves in whatever form or fashion that may be. Similarly to a name, pronouns are a way in which we identify ourselves. Those who don't know us may misspell or mispronounce our first or last name and in turn, may misidentify our gender by using incorrect pronouns. It becomes tiresome and emotionally taxing to consistently need to provide validation behind a part of our identity. As we think about the importance of pronouns, we should equally consider the parallels pronouns have to the various and ever-expanding list of traits that make up our identities which make us one whole human. Chat with your colleagues and see what perspectives come to light!

LGBTQ+ and Ally SIG Cho-Chairs

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