Beyond the Binary: Empowering Transgender Students and Communities

Presenter: Theodore Burnes Ph.D

Presentation Description

Recent literature has highlighted that work within gender diverse communities requires distinct professional competencies. This 4-hour workshop will equip clinicians and student affairs staff with the knowledge and skills to work more effectively with transgender and gender diverse clients. In answer to this need, the workshop will cover the following topics:

- Language and definitions related to gender.
- Cisgender privilege.
- Updates to ethical and legal practices with transgender individuals and communities.
- Clinical issues and evidence-based practices.
- Deepened clinical effectiveness through vignette discussion.

Theodore Burnes Ph.D

Theo is the Director of Training and Education Programs at LAGC. He received his Ph.D. in Counseling/Clinical/School Psychology (a combined applied psychology program) at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is a licensed psychologist (PSY25544) and a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC600) in the state of California.

As a therapist and as a clinical supervisor, Theo works with clients to explore how the many facets of their lives – including their multiple intersecting identities, families, communities, partners, friends, careers, schools, activities, and cultural values – should be explored and considered as they come to know who they are and make decisions about sharing their identities with other people. Further, Theo works with clients to explore their reasons for being in counseling and helping them to understand how counseling can be helpful to them. In their work together, Theo believes that his clients, supervisees, and he are partners in a journey to explore: environments of equality and safety; their authentic selves; the development of loving, fulfilling, nurturing relationships; and the development of supportive communities that value and advocate for them.

As the director of Training and Education Programs at LAGC, Theo is passionate about designing, implementing, and evaluating training modules that incorporate new information into learners’ existing belief systems. Theo has won awards from the American Psychological Association's Division 17 for his excellence in clinical supervision. He is also proud to help lead LAGC's Continuing Education program, which is an approved provider of CEUs for psychologists by the American Psychological Association (and thus for social workers, LPCCs,
and LMFTs by the Board of Behavioral Sciences of California). Theo is dedicated to infusing both LAGC's pre-licensed training and also LAGC's CEU programs and in-service trainings with a mission of social justice and advocacy for those who have traditionally not been heard or served in various fields of mental health.

Theo is a member of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as well as a Fellow (Divisions 17 and 44) of the American Psychological Association.