Cantú Queer Center Services

The center is there for you in many ways. Whether you are a veteran, part of a family, a transfer student or living off-campus, we offer specialized services to anyone. Just come in and ask!

Advising and Referrals: Students may drop-in to the Center to get support from staff for any academic, social, or psychological issues. The Center is a 'safe space' for queer and allied students and a first stop for referrals to other campus services.

Campus Collaborations: The Lionel Cantú GLBTI Center works in close collaboration with a range of groups including the Ethnic Resource Centers; Women's Center; Judicial Affairs Office; EOP; SOAR; student government; the Graduate Student Association; SHOP; Hillel; HIV Prevention; all ten Colleges; the Alumni Association, and many others. These active working relationships create a web of support for GLBTI students campuswide.

Community Collaborations: Center staff does outreach to the off-campus GLBT community and works particularly closely with GLBT community organizations such as Triangle Speakers, the Diversity Center, the Queer Youth Leadership Awards, and Family Services Rainbow Program.

Facility Use: The Center is available to campus and community groups for meetings and other gatherings. The space has a comfortable lounge area, a restroom, and campus certified kitchen.

Families: We are a child and family-friendly space and welcome student parents and children.

Free to Pee at UCSC Campaign: Educational program about all-gender bathrooms

GALA Gallery: The Lionel Cantú GLBTI Center welcomes student and community artists to exhibit their work in the Center's gallery. The center's student curator will work with artists to hang their show, and will help with publicity. The center sponsors a reception for all exhibits.

Information Hub: Qconnect is the center's weekly e-newsletter. Students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community members may self-subscribe here. The Facebook account is ‘Cantú Queer Center’.

Library: The Center's library has more than 1,000 GLBTI books and over 250 DVD's in its collection. Library holdings are now searchable from the Center's web site. Books may be checked out; DVD’s may be viewed on the Center’s big screen TV.

Residential Council @ Cantú: A cross –college collaboration that aims to empower student-residents in the production of quality LGBT programming and inclusive living learning spaces.

Study Center: The Center has a WiFi connection. So, bring your laptop, make yourself a cup of tea, and settle in to one of our comfy couches or work stations and start studying.

Training and Lectures: Center staff are available to give guest lectures and trainings on GLBT topics to classrooms, residential halls, other campus units, and as well as community groups. Please request three week in advance.

For more information contact us at queer@ucsc.edu, 831-459-2468

T.Welch Sept 2015
A Guide to using Gender Pronouns and Gender-Neutral Pronouns

Q: What is a gender pronoun?
Gender pronouns (GP) are common words we use, referring specifically to people without using their names (he, she, him, his, her).

Q: What is a gender-neutral pronoun (GNP)?
A gender-neutral pronoun (GNP) is a pronoun an individual chooses to use that isn't "he" or "she" which are often connected with maleness or femaleness. Some prefer to avoid these, as it may allow for unwanted stereotypes. People often choose a gender-neutral term such as they, them, theirs.

Q: Why should I ask someone's gender pronoun?
Sometimes when using he or she, we make assumptions about that person's gender that differs from their gender identity. You can't assume someone's gender by looking at them. But don't assume, instead just ask.

Other Gender Neutral Pronouns:
Ze/Zie/Xe (all pronounced like “Zee”), replaces she/he/they
Hir (pronounced like “here”), replaces her/hers/him/his/they/their
Steps like this let the person know you are an ally. Never refer to a person as “it”. Some people prefer to not use any pronouns, and would like their names to be used instead. Always ask, and give your pronouns in introductions.

The federal law known as Title IX explicitly protects transgender, gender nonconforming and queer students. It protect students from discrimination based on their gender identity or failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculine or feminie. Misgendering and assuming one's gender is a form of discrimination.

Q: How should I ask what someone's GP is?
You can simply ask “What is your gender pronoun?” to an individual in private.

This may feel uncomfortable at first, but you do not want to say the wrong pronoun based on assumptions, and the person will most likely appreciate your effort and consideration.

You can normalize asking about gender pronouns when introducing names at the beginning of a meeting or class. For some folks, you will need to explain what it is. You demonstrate an example and could say something like: “Everyone share your name and your gender pronoun. A gender pronoun is the pronoun you like to be referred with. For example, my GPs are she, her, and hers.”

When taking attendance, one method is to call roll by last name, and have students respond with their first name and gender pronouns.

If you make a mistake, that’s okay! If you use the wrong pronoun, apologize, correct it, and then move on. Avoid continually talking about how bad you feel for making the mistake, for it makes the person feel like they need to console you. If you forget someone’s GP, follow the same protocol: correct and move on.

If other students, staff or faculty are using the wrong pronoun for a person, try to correct it by saying something like “Actually, Robin's pronoun is she.” If students or faculty continue to use the wrong pronoun, do not ignore it. It might help to ask the individual who has been misgendered, what kind of support they want. The person who is learning to ask for pronouns might need to be reminded more than once.

Q: What should I do if I don’t know what gender someone identifies with?
Never assume someone's identity. You don't always need to know someone's gender but if you do you can always use their name instead of a gender pronoun or privately ask which their gender.

Q: Why is it important to respect GPs as faculty, staff member's, or allies?
You can’t always tell someone’s GP by looking at a person. Assuming promotes stereotypes.

Faculty and Staff are often in positions of power, so by respecting one's GP consistently, you set an example for peers and other students. When someone is referred to by the wrong name or pronoun, it can make the person feel disrespected alienated and unsafe.

Inquiring about GP is a simple way to show that you want to cultivate an environment of inclusivity and respect for all gender identities, and a positive campus climate.

T.Welch, 9/1/2015
Cantú Queer Center
Developed from: http://lbgtrc.msu.edu/