

APhA-ASP INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING AWARD

Transgender Resource, Education, and Enrichment Services: Q&A with the Founder

Butler University

Meghan Buell, Founder of TREES (Transgender Resource, Education, and Enrichment Services), spoke to students in a Q&A discussion about the importance of setting a trans-inclusive culture in healthcare agencies and communities.

Description

There is a concerning gap in education and lack of adequate training in the care of transgender patients. Many healthcare professionals receive limited education on the unique healthcare needs and concerns of transgender individuals, resulting in suboptimal care and potential harm.

Meghan Buell has played a pivotal role in establishing TREES as an organization that focuses on providing essential resources, education, and support to transgender individuals. Her commitment to creating a more inclusive and understanding world for the transgender community has made TREES a vital resource for those seeking guidance and assistance.

Meghan Buell

As the founder of TREES and a trans woman herself, Meghan offered her perspective on the complexity of navigating the healthcare systems that do not make transgender inclusion a priority. She fielded questions students had on both her personal experiences and the experiences of her peers.

Planning

Partner with DEI Course

Provide supplemental discussions and the opportunity to engage in DEI discussion outside of classroom setting.

Meeting Format

- Allowed for virtual and in-person options
- Offered meal for in-person attendees
- Q&A format was used to engage students and allow Meghan to share her personal experiences



Impact

Short Term Goals Met

- Raise awareness of the gap in transgender care education.
- Discuss the real-world implications for our transgender patients and how to advocate for them.

The deficit in education and training in the care of transgender patients can lead to misgendering, insensitive questioning, and a lack of understanding regarding the specific healthcare issues, such as hormone therapy and gender-affirming surgeries, that transgender patients may require.

Closing this gap in education is essential to ensuring that healthcare is inclusive, respectful, and competent, allowing transgender patients to receive the care and support they deserve.

Future Ideas

Long Term Goals

- Coordinate with other organizations to host events that can be a small part of closing the education gap for underrepresented patient populations.
- Foster the growth of a more accepting and inclusive healthcare system.

Going forward, we want to host more speakers and additional events surrounding care for transgender patients and other patient populations who are underrepresented in the traditional healthcare curriculum. Students were appreciative of the opportunity to broaden their knowledge about providers' impact on the lives of transgender patients outside of the classroom.