Other resources

http://www.nlgja.org/


Representing Members of the LGBT Community in the Media

The LGBT Center began as a small haven for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students a few decades ago. Today, we’re a valued resource on an increasingly diverse campus. We’ve gone through plenty – from the early and often lonely strides of activist Jim Chalgren to the celebrations of being listed in The Advocate’s top 100 LGBT-friendly universities.

We remain committed to maintaining a peaceful and comfortable environment for students to achieve their goals. To that end, we organize a number of community events, education panels, and more.
“Sexual preference” is also offensive. “Sexual orientation” is the preferred term when describing gay or lesbian relationships.

It is important to remember that the LGBT community is varied and there is no one way to be LGBT. Because of this, try to avoid language that assumes that there is just one set of values or practices within the LGBT community. This is especially important when writing about LGBT people of color.

Transgender Identity and Terminology

When writing about those identify as transgender, always honor their chosen pronoun and name. The person may not be able to afford a name change or are not at a place in their transition to legally go by a different name. Because of this, it is important to ask what name they would like to be called.

This is also relevant to their preferred pronoun usage. Transgender individuals may prefer to identify with a gender neutral pronoun such as Ze instead of he or she. The best thing that you can do is ask what pronoun they would prefer to use. If you cannot ask, use the pronoun that is consistent with their gender expression and gender presentation.

GLAAD has more information in their media usage guide located on their website. The address for this guide is listed in the resource section of this pamphlet.

The above picture is the transgender umbrella. Transgender is an umbrella term used to describe someone who sees their gender identity outside of the traditional male and female binary prevalent in society. People who identify as transgender may live as the opposite gender by changing their sex through sexual reassignment surgery or they may just transgress traditional gender norms. It is up to the person. The important thing to remember is that each transgender person is different and that being transgender doesn’t mean that they may be lesbian, bisexual, or gay also. One’s gender identity is separate from their sexual orientation.