JMRR LGBTQ+ Student Survey

Presentation by Chesa Capatas for College Council
Thursday April 22, 2021

Overview of the Survey

Purpose and Process

- To see where student need was greatest
- To determine interest in a learning community
- Roll-out dates
  - Late Fall quarter 2020 to beginning of Winter 2021
- Responses
  - 53 respondents
  - Mix of multiple choice and short answer

Types of questions

Quantitative

- What has affected your ability to be successful?
- What kinds of resources/events are you most interested in?
- Do you see yourself reflected in programs, events, curriculum, etc?
- Are you interested in a Learning Community?

Qualitative

- What has made you feel supported?
- What are the greatest challenges you face?
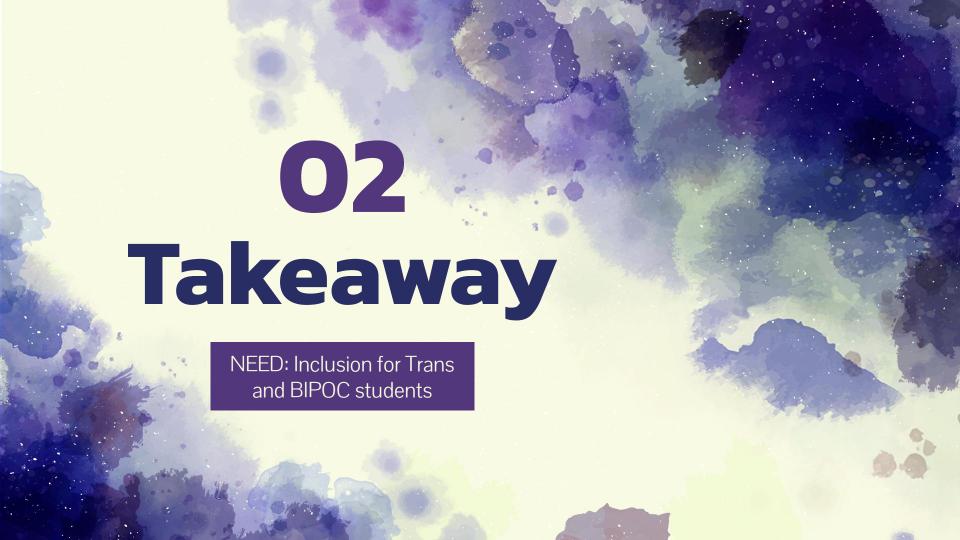- How can De Anza support you?

General Climate

- **Do you feel welcome in the majority of your classes?**
  - 83% said most or all of the time
- **Do you feel welcome at De Anza College?**
  - 85% said most or all of the time
- **Do you feel a sense of connectedness to De Anza as a community that supports LGBTQ+ students and individuals?**
  - 55% said most or all of the time

01
Takeaway

Need for community building
and mental health support

Important Data Points

- **When asked what has had an impact on their ability to be successful:**
  - Largest number of respondents (64%) said lack of access to mental health services had some or a great effect
  - 63% said lack of family/home life that supports their identity
- **When asked what kinds of events we should offer**
  - 83% chose events focusing on mental/emotional health and well-being
  - Next were community networking (79%) and community building (75%)
- **When asked what kinds of services we should expand**
  - 88% chose psychological and mental health services
  - Next were social/community building (73%) and community networking (71%)
- **Other relevant data**
  - Note: 64% also said they'd be interested in being part of a learning community
  - 73% said rarely or never felt reflected in the curriculum

02
Takeaway

NEED: Inclusion for Trans
and BIPOC students

Needs for trans students

- **When asked what are the greatest challenges they face:**
  - Only 1 out of 31 respondents mentioned basic needs
  - "Getting people to use my pronouns has been very difficult and emotionally draining"
  - "I don't face that many challenges although I feel the need to advocate for other people's pronouns and gender identities when there should be more education"
  - "I'm lucky enough to not need support, but when there's an issue with the school and the community, I've noticed it's usually with trans students…"

Needs for BIPOC students

- **When asked what are the greatest challenges they face as LGBTQ+ students**:
    - "Discrimination and racism…"
    - "Racism is the biggest concern…"
    - "White LGBTQ faculty that act they understand…"
- **Respondents expressed a need for more intersectional awareness and inclusion**
    - Leaving a major due to transphobia and racism
    - "BIPOC LGBTQ are having a hard time"

How JMRR is responding

Multi-pronged approach

Institutional

- JMRR Advisory Council
- Community building
  - LGBTQ+ Support Groups
  - "Queer Storytelling" Workshops
  - Queer and Now Conference
  - Lavender Graduation
- Professional Development
  - Trans-inclusion workshop
- True Name Committee
  - Universal Design model

Individual

- Taking time to connect with individuals who have been impacted by these issues
- True change requires building better relationships

What can College Council do?

What would it mean to have a college that truly supports gender and sexuality equity?

Many are doing equity work on campus and and have been doing equity work for a long time.
Many are feeling burned out by it.
We are all working with limited resources and under stressful pandemic conditions.

How do we create a culture within our college where everyone feels a sense of responsibility to do this work and everyone feels supported in doing this work?

It shouldn't just fall on "affinity groups" or "equity positions." How do we ensure cultural competency in *all groups*, embed equity into *all positions* on campus?

We all have a stake in creating an equitable college.

Thank You

Many thanks to De Anza's Office of Institutional Research, the Office of Professional Development, the Equity and Engagement Division, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Division