



## TRANSCRIPT: *Demystifying the LGBTQIA+ Spectrum*, Welcome

Welcome to Demystifying the LGBTQIA+ Spectrum, a course by Kaleidoscope Youth Center. In today's session, you'll reflect on gender messages and expectations, learn the basics of gender and sexuality, understand terminology related to the LGBTQIA+ acronym, take note of language to avoid, and explore personal gender pronouns.

If you're interested in other workshops provided by Kaleidoscope Youth Center, please find us at [kycoho.org](http://kycoho.org).

We'll start today with a crash course on what we do at Kaleidoscope Youth Center! We're located in downtown Columbus, Ohio, and we're the largest and longest serving organization in Ohio that's solely dedicated to serving and supporting LGBTQIA+ youth.

KYC is informed by the practices of restorative and transformational justice, intersectionality, anti-oppression, racial justice, and trauma informed, healing engaged care. We are committed to providing supportive and collaborative services that acknowledge that all people are the experts in their own lives.

Our drop-in center programming is for ages 12-20. In this confidential space, youth can participate in discussion-based activities, leadership development, social connection, and affinity groups for trans & non-binary youth and Queer People of Color. This programming is 100% free and 100% confidential, and is supervised by vetted, trained, and caring staff and volunteers. Parents can meet staff and see the space during our office hours by scheduling a tour. Call us for more information!

Our Education & Training Program aims to take that safe space we've cultivated within the drop-in center at KYC and extend it into the larger community through community education and professional development for schools, youth-serving organizations and others, as well as through advocacy for LGBTQ youth within the school system. By educating teachers, parents, therapists, librarians, administrators, and counselors, and providing a foundation for understanding gender and sexuality and best practices for working with queer and trans youth, we can move toward a world where young people can find a sense of belonging in multiple areas of their lives.

As a member organization of the National Association of GSAs, Kaleidoscope Youth Center coordinates the Ohio GSA Network, supporting Gender & Sexuality Alliances throughout the state. Gender & Sexuality Alliances, Gay Straight Alliances, or GSAs, are extracurricular clubs where students can find support with each other, engage in advocacy and change within their school environment, or just hang out with other students with similar experiences and backgrounds.

Kaleidoscope's Community Based Wellness program provides coordinated case management services and resources to support transition aged young people, ages 16-24, in obtaining and maintaining self-sufficiency.

Opportunities available through Community Based Wellness include Case Management, physical and mental health and wellness support, substance use support, survivor advocacy and support,

employment support, financial literacy and capacity building, legal services and support, and housing programs.

My name is Amanda Erickson, my pronouns are she, her, and hers, and I'm the Director of Education & Outreach at Kaleidoscope Youth Center.

I've been with KYC since November of 2017, beginning as the Ohio GSA Network Coordinator, and building our Education & Training Program over the past several years. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Education from Bowling Green State University, and post-college I served two years with the Peace Corps training primary school teachers in Vanuatu, in the South Pacific. Prior to Kaleidoscope I taught sex education and life skills in the juvenile justice system, managed program partnerships for a regional youth-serving organization, and directed summer camp in Michigan. I'm excited to be coming along with you on your journey to better understanding gender and sexuality!

Kaleidoscope Youth Center is located in what is now called Columbus, Ohio, land that was traditionally cared for by the Kaskaskia, Shawnee, Myaamia, and Hopewell people. We recognize the Indigenous people who have been displaced from their homeland through exclusion and violence. This acknowledgement demonstrates a commitment to beginning the process of working to dismantle the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism. GSA Network has published an Honoring The Land Resource which is linked within this course. You can also find more information about the land you are on at [native-land.ca](http://native-land.ca).

On this course page you'll find links for the programs I've talked about so far along with information for how to get in touch with us. You'll also find further links, images, and PDFs on each lecture page as you move through the course. A transcript for each video has also been provided in PDF form for those who need it. Please reach out with questions or concerns! We are so glad you're here!