



Transcript: Cultivating Affirmation & Belonging for LGBTQIA+ Youth, Welcome

Welcome to Cultivating Affirmation & Belonging for LGBTQIA+ Youth, a course by Kaleidoscope Youth Center. In today's session, we'll examine statistics related to discrimination within schools and risks that LGBTQIA+ youth face on a day-to-day basis, then discuss ways that professionals can improve the general climate of schools, community centers, organizations, agencies, counseling offices, etc. through various strategies from simple word choice to school/district/organizational policy change.

This course is designed as a foundational lesson for audiences who have limited prior knowledge of best practices for working with LGBTQIA+ youth, or those who have a basic knowledge but may need updated. This session does not include "LGBTQ+ 101" or an explanation of specific identities and terminology. For that information, please check out our Demystifying the LGBTQIA+ Acronym course! If you have participated in our Cultivating Affirming Home Environments workshop, you may find some repetition here. Hopefully you also find new and valuable information.

By the end of this session you should be able to:

1. Identify two specific instances of anti-LGBTQIA+ discrimination relevant to your field
2. Identify two specific individual next steps for application and integration outside the training, in other words: what individual changes would you like to make moving forward to cultivate spaces of affirmation and belonging for LGBTQIA+ youth?
3. Identify two specific organizational next steps for application and integration outside the training. In other words: what organizational or policy changes would you like to see made to cultivate communities of affirmation and belonging for LGBTQIA+ youth?

We'll start today with a crash course intro 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 connections, 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.

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.

As a member organization of the National Association of GSAs, Kaleidoscope Youth Center coordinates the Ohio GSA Network, supporting Gender & Sexuality Alliances across 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 housing support and wraparound services to transition-aged young people, aged 18-24. These programs include rapid rehousing, supportive cohousing, and emergency housing, along with connections to other resources. KYC also provides behavioral health services to our entire age range.

My name is Amanda, my pronouns are she, her, and hers, and I will be guiding you through this course today.

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, and are committed to beginning the process of working to dismantle the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism. GSA Network has published a resource called Honoring The Land, which is linked within this course. You can also find more information about the land you are on at native-land.ca.

On this course page you'll find links for the programs I've talked about so far along with additional information 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!