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Walking the Walk vs. Talking the Talk:

Joy S. Whitman

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PURDUE UNIVERSITY CALUMET

Holly J. Nichols, Chair
3rd Annual Symposium
Women's Studies Program
URI, Roosevelt Hall
Kingston, RI 02881

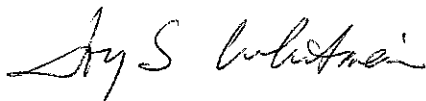
Dear Dr. Nichols:

October 22, 1996

I am writing in response to the call for papers/presentations for The 3rd Annual Symposium on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues. Enclosed please find my proposal for a presentation on the relationship between heterosexism and sexism. It is a presentation I believe would be relevant for this symposium and would provide an experiential opportunity for attendees to become more aware of their own heterosexism and sexism.

I look forward to hearing from you in regard to this proposal. You may reach me at (219) 989-2693 or by e-mail at whitman@nwi.calumet.purdue.edu. Thank-you for considering this presentation.

Sincerely,



Joy S. Whitman
Faculty-Department of Education
Purdue University Calumet



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Hammond, Indiana 46323-2094
(219) 989-2335

Proposal for The 3rd Annual Symposium on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues

Presenters: Joy S Whitman, Ed D , Cynthia J. Boyd, Ph D , and Rob Ferguson, Ph D

Title: "Walking the Walk vs. Talking the Talk: Confronting our Subtle Heterosexism and Sexism"

Nature/
Summary of
Presentation:

The primary task of this presentation is to explore the ways in which heterosexism and sexism intersect and pervade interpersonal interactions and assumptions about others. The content of the presentation is informed by the social psychology literature on prejudice and stereotypes. It has been found that even among low prejudice individuals, regardless of sexual orientation, there can exist a discrepancy between what we think we should do and what we actually do when interacting with gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender persons. This discrepancy is typically outside of our immediate awareness and therefore may affect interpersonal interactions in covert and insidious ways. This is particularly important for those in the helping professions, such as nursing, teaching, social work, counseling, and the like. The emphasis will be on the exploration and open discussion of one's own heterosexism and sexism, a subject appropriate for everyone, regardless of one's sexual orientation.

learning missing The format includes both didactic ^(practical) and experiential components. The goals are twofold: First to increase awareness of the ways in which heterosexism and sexism all of us, particularly those in the helping professions and gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender communities; and second to provide participants with an opportunity to experience the discrepancy that may exist between conscious and unconscious processes surrounding the issues of heterosexism and sexism. The first goal will be attained through a short presentation of the literature in this area. The second component will be attained by having all participants complete questionnaires designed to highlight the attitude/behavior discrepancy. Small group discussions will be facilitated by the presenters followed by an open discussion among all participants.

We expect to accomplish the above mentioned goals in approximately 1.5-2 hours. The only visual aids needed would be an overhead projector.