

# LGBTQ+ Affirmation and Education



# Who We Are

Brekke Pattison (any)



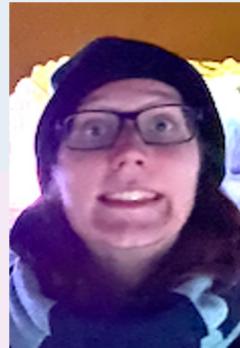
Summer Wells (she/they)



Shreya Reddy (she/her)



David Clark (he/him)



London Ruff (she/her)



# Motivations

- The project started with the intention of spreading general affirmational messages and education about LGBTQ+ identities
- Wanted to combat recent passing of legislation like SB0283 (anti-DEI bill) and HB0257(bathroom ban)
- Expanded to countering anti-trans rhetoric on campus
  - In part, spread by YAF (Young Americans for Freedom)

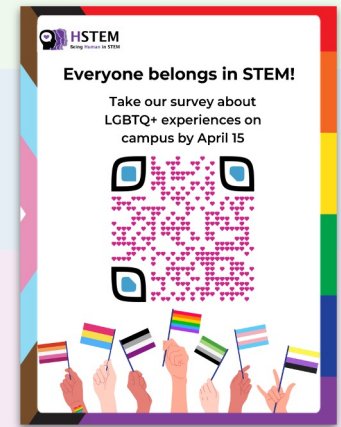
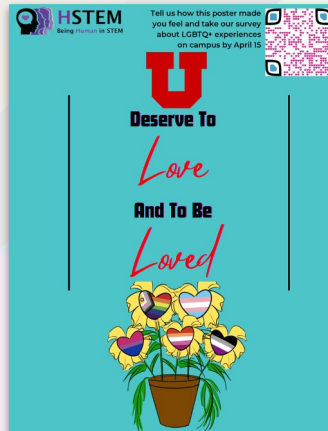
The Salt Lake Tribune

**A student group hosted a speaker who wants to ‘eradicate ... transgenderism.’ Others at the University of Utah weren’t warned.**

Michael Knowles, a political commentator for Daily Wire, has said “transgenderism must be eradicated from public life entirely — the whole preposterous ideology.”

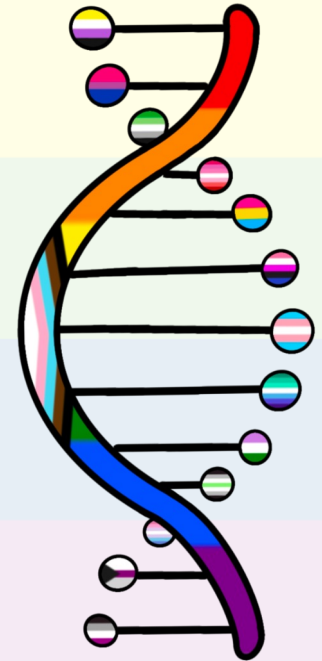
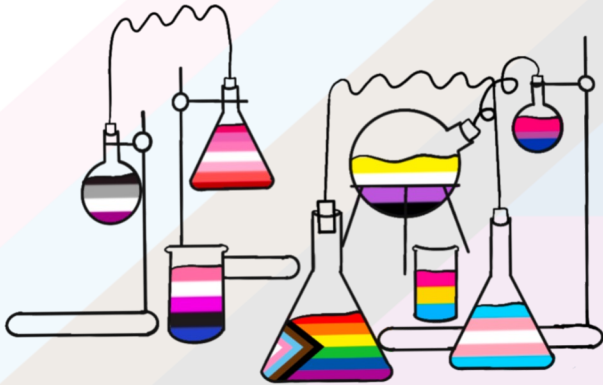
# Our Project

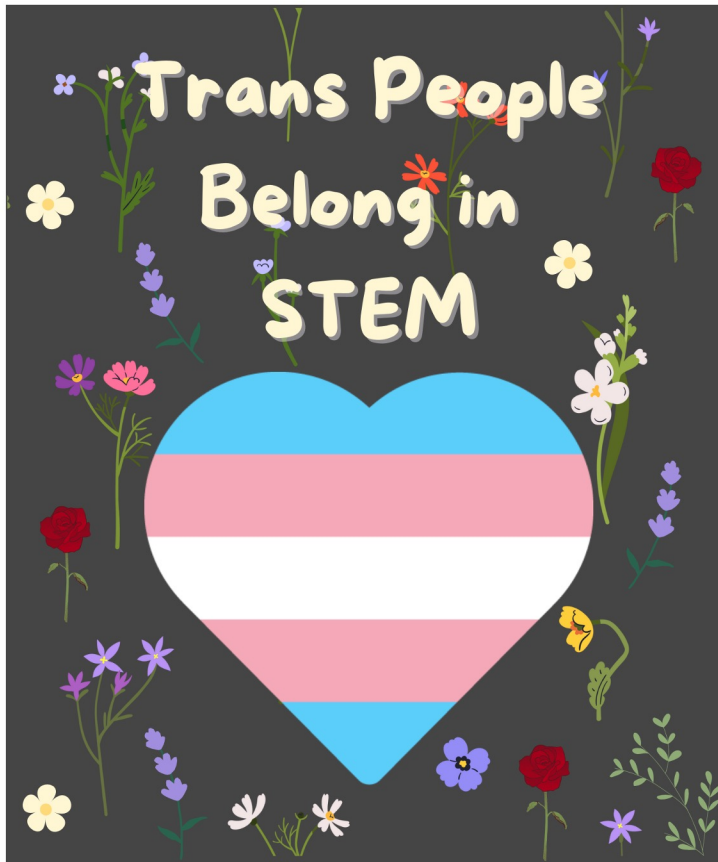
- Created 4 posters
- Conducted a survey about how successful our project was at promoting inclusion and acceptance
- Sought out information about LGBTQ+ experiences on campus
- Wanted to improve the campus environment for all LGBTQ+ identities



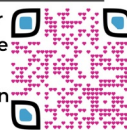
# Posters

- Created three posters
  - Centered on spreading affirmations and promoting inclusion.





Tell us how this poster  
made you feel and take  
our survey about  
LGBTQ+ experiences on  
campus by April 15





Tell us how this poster made you feel and take our survey about LGBTQ+ experiences on campus by April 15



**Deserve To**

*Love*

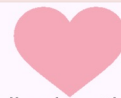
**And To Be**

*Loved*

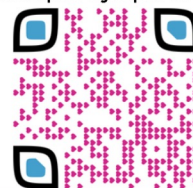




Love  
Yourself



Tell us how this poster made you feel and take our survey about LGBTQ+ experiences on campus by April 15



## Affirmations!

Take one or pass one along

I am enough

I am beautiful

I am loved

I love who I am

I am worthy of  
love and respect

I am strong

I can do  
great things

I believe in  
myself

I can do  
great things



# Survey

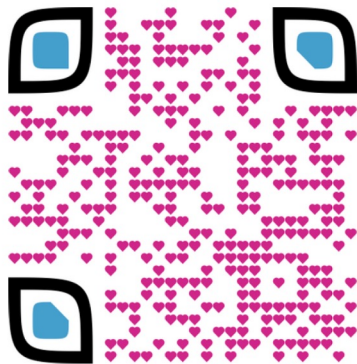
- Created a survey to learn more about the experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals on campus
  - Asked...
    - How our posters made them feel
    - How they felt about campus awareness of LGBTQ+ topics
    - How they felt the campus climate is for LGBTQ+ individuals
- Displayed posters around campus and monitored them over time





## Everyone belongs in STEM!

Take our survey about  
LGBTQ+ experiences on  
campus by April 15



# Resources

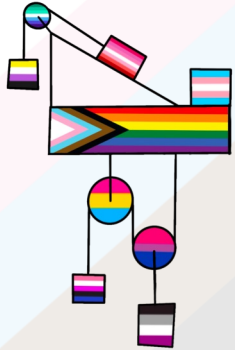
- Created an excel sheet containing links to educational / informational resources about LGBTQ+ related topics in STEM and on campus
  - People who took our survey were given an option to access these resources

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
Each tab in of this spreadsheet contains a different category of information about LGBTQ+ identities and how to support LGBTQ+ individuals both on campus and in general.										
<b>Table of Contents</b>										
<a href="#">General LGBTQ+ Education</a>										
<a href="#">Pronouns</a>										
<a href="#">How to Support LGBTQ+ Students</a>										
<a href="#">How Do I Say...?</a>										
<a href="#">LGBTQ+ STEM Figures</a>										
<a href="#">On Campus Resources</a>										
<a href="#">State Policies</a>										
<a href="#">Local Resources</a>										



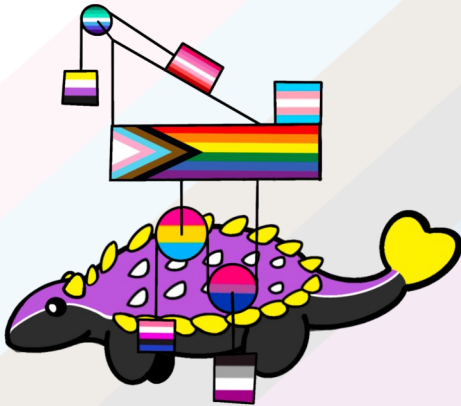
# Tabling

- Held four successful tabling events where we advertised our project and gave out affirmations, stickers, and candy
  - We gave out over 100 stickers (and 20 mousepads)
  - Tabled at the **Queer Wellness Event**, April 3rd from 11am - 2pm
    - Got about 3 survey responses from this event
  - **Countertabled an event held by YAF**, April 3rd from 2pm - 5pm
    - Got about 4 responses from this event
  - Tabled in the library **to protest a speaker invited by YAF**, April 8th from 4pm - 7pm
    - Also tabled at the **Silence is Violence Speak-in** at the same time
    - Got about 13 responses from these events



# Our Most Popular Stickers

- Two types of Stickers
  - Pride-in-STEM
    - Directs flag the individual with the field after STEM majors

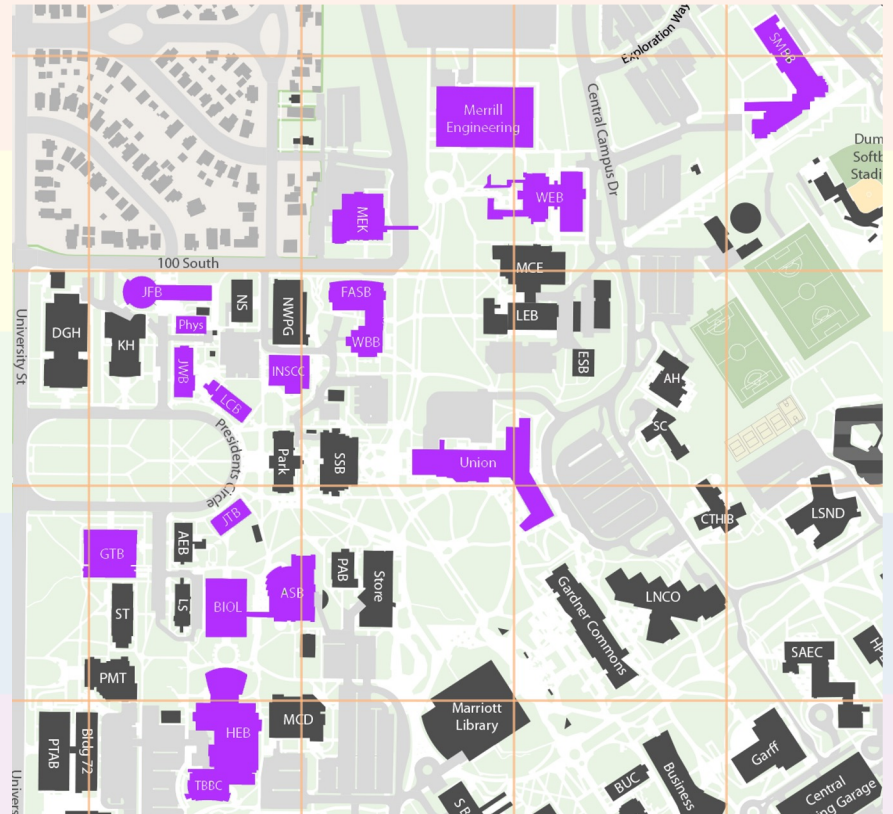


# Tabling at the Queer Wellness Event



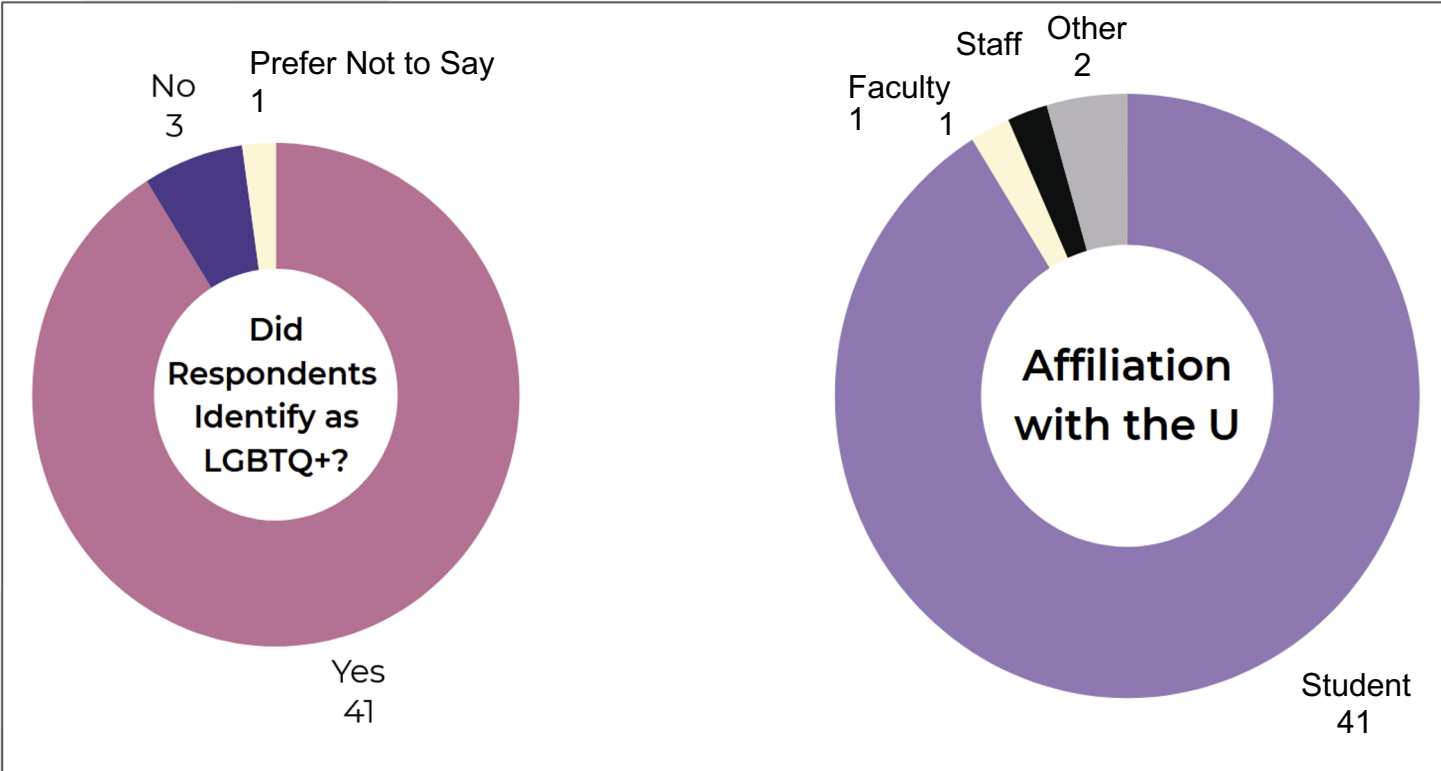
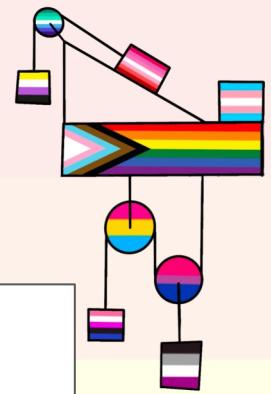
# Where our Affirmations Were Placed

- Over 120 flyers distributed
- Displayed in 14 primarily STEM buildings
- Some departments printed and posted even more than we gave them
- At least one department had it on their digital displays
- QR Code on posters allowed access to our survey



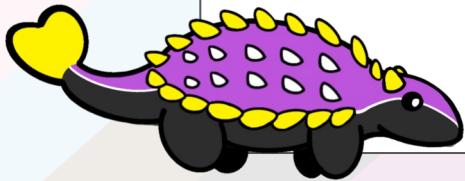
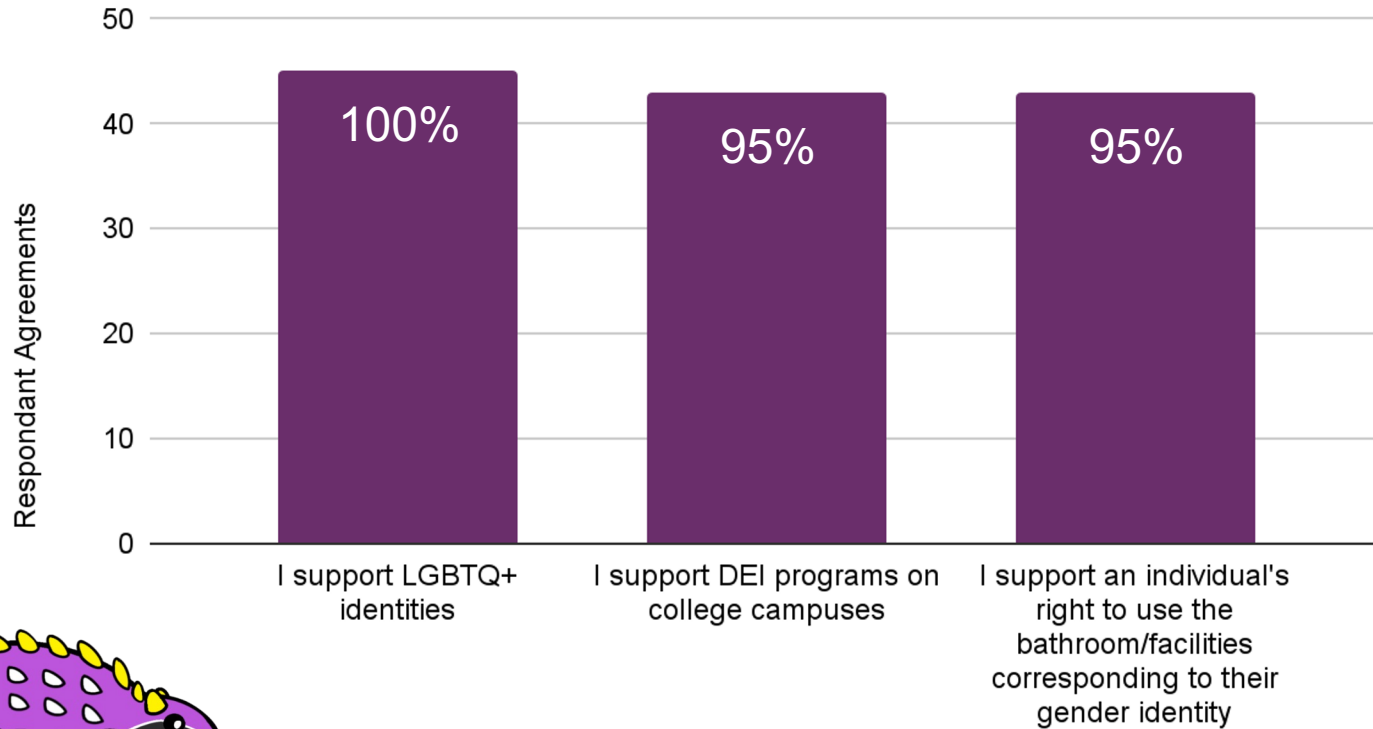
# Summary Survey Results

45 Total Responses



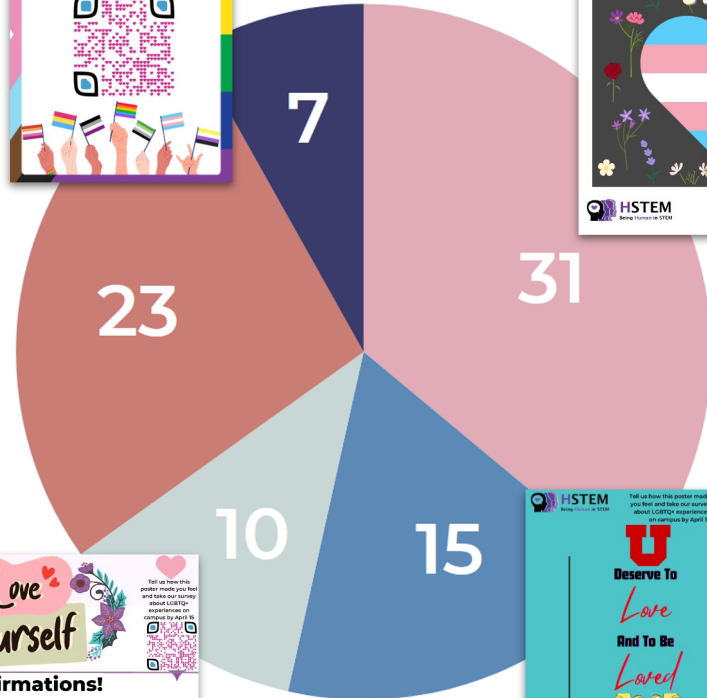
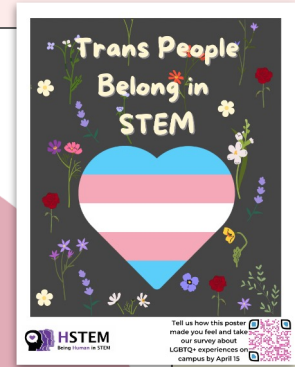


## Show Your Support! (Views on Current Issues)



# Which Posters Caught Respondent's Attention

- Trans People Belong in STEM
- U Deserve Love
- Love Yourself Affirmations
- Everyone Belongs in STEM
- Tabling Event



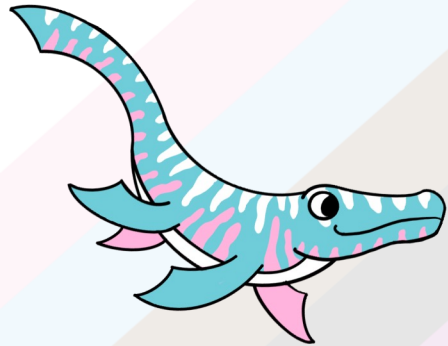
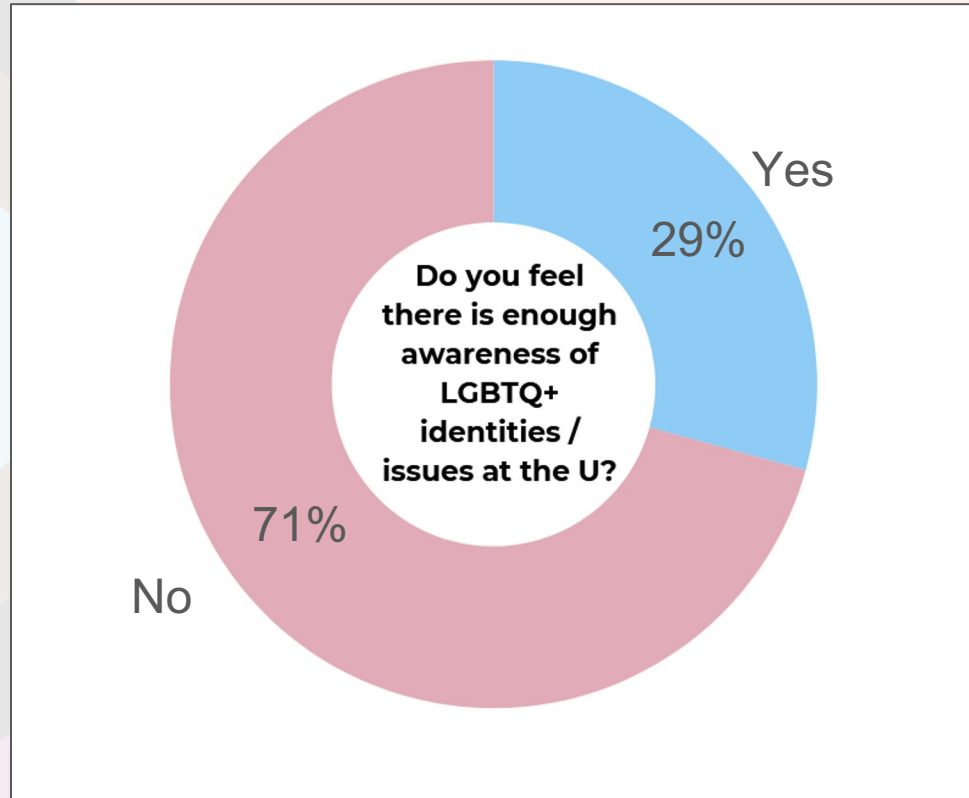
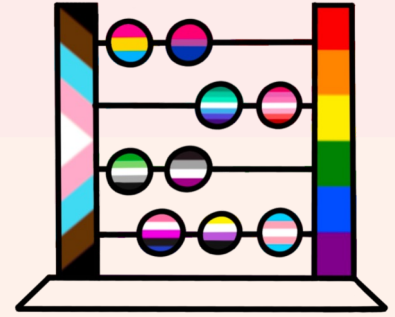
# Responses: How Our Posters Made People Feel

*“As a trans woman, it made me feel that **while the institution might not have my back, my colleagues do.**”*

*“**Very glad**, especially after the events with YAF and Mecha that made me and many other LGBTQIA+ individuals feel rather alienated on campus”*

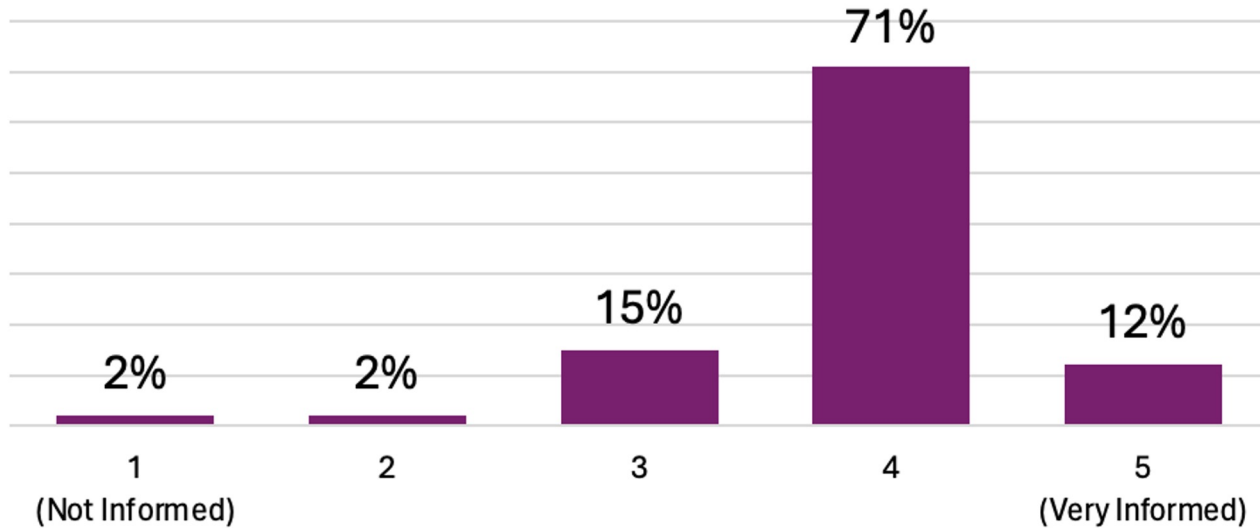
*“Very **emotional**. Seeing trans colors posted in community spaces is **very affirming** to me and my sense of belonging. The **explicit statement of ‘trans people belong in stem’** is much more powerful than some other, more generic statements like “everyone belongs here”*

# Campus Awareness

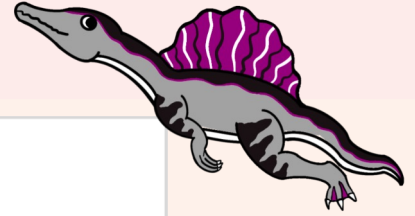


# Are You Informed?

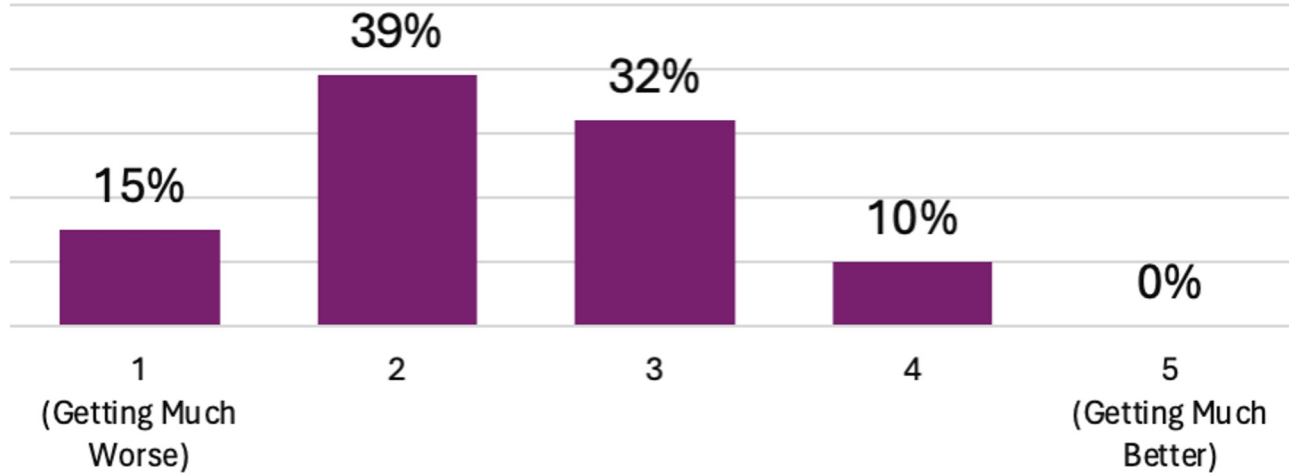
How informed are you about state policies being passed related to the LGBTQ+ community?



# Campus Climate



How do you feel the environment for LGBTQ+ individuals is on campus in the context of recent policies?



## Responses: Awareness on Campus

*“I think **increased awareness** about general **LGBTQ issues and policies**... sometimes **the amount of searching** it takes to find and get involved can be **discouraging.**”*

*“**Little awareness.** Only things I see are from lgbtq+ resource center and I feel like you wouldn't know of the things they do unless u follow them on Instagram”*

*“...I hear a lot of **ignorant comments about trans people** specifically with bathroom use and **I wish there was more general awareness on how these things hurt trans people.**”*

# Responses: Campus Environment for LGBTQ+ Students

*“I feel like diverse sexualities are supported, but there is **still much improvement needed** for awareness and wellbeing of trans people, nonbinary people, and other gender minorities.”*

*“... **LGBTQ policies can and should evolve over time because LGBTQ issues change over time too... Feeling like you have to hide your identity from professors or students is distracting and upsetting.** Faculty should be educated and held responsible for creating a safe campus for students...”*

*“**The U does not take enough of a stand against hateful rhetoric** that is spread on campus, and they **tacitly support the expression of hate speech** through their allowance of posters such as those put up by the YAF group.”*



# Students' Grievances

- Students feel the U does not provide enough education around certain identities / topics
  - Intersex
  - Asexual/Aromantic spectrum
  - Gender Spectrum (non-binary, gender-fluid, gender-queer, etc.)
  - Being queer in STEM
  - Transgender rights
- Students feel the U allows hate speech
  - This month, an anti-trans student group made waves by...
    - Distributing anti-trans posters during Pride Week
    - Hosting an extremist speaker
  - The U officially approved these activities

# Actions the U Can Take (ASAP)

- **Affirmation**
  - Visibly celebrating LGBTQ+ identities is effective
    - Targeted messaging is more effective
- **Support**
  - Continue offering support through the LGBT Resource Center
- **Awareness**
  - Expand and advertise educational resources
    - e.g., during New Student Orientation, or via a Canvas course
- **Protection**
  - Mitigate certain groups attempts to create a hostile environment
  - Revise the current event-notification system
    - College administrators should know what is happening in their buildings
    - ...especially if the police need to be involved





# Share the love! Use our posters!

Feel free to share any questions.

