

Weekly LGBTQ+ sex-ed discussion to start at Pride Center

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Contributor

Public school sex education tells middle schoolers where babies come from in a few awkward 45 minute sessions. But for some UT students, the answers to more complex issues on gender and sexuality may lie just a few feet from their dorms.

Hosted by the Pride Center in Melrose Hall, inQUEERies is a three month series designed to facilitate peer-led discussion groups with topics chosen by students. Although the series focuses on LGBTQ+ issues, the Pride Center faculty said any and all respectful participants can join the discussion.

The weekly series will cover a range of topics including asexuality, HIV/AIDS, non-binary genders and other relevant topics. Session leaders are students who have been trained to teach on these topics, allowing for an open environment to discuss various topics on sex and relationships.

More than 25 people showed up for each of the first two sessions earlier this year, and Pride Center organizers hope to see that number grow as interested students contribute to the dialogue.

Thomas Tran, junior in anthropology,

attended last week's session and said he was happy to connect with the participants by sharing his knowledge on relevant LGBTQ+ issues.

"I've been involved with volOUT for three years, so I was able to share my experience on the importance of being involved on campus and help guide other students to different avenues where they can look into getting involved," Tran said.

This week's series is entitled "SexEd Queered," a weekly program that will begin its regular meetings as of Monday, Sept. 14, and will continue every Monday from 6-7 p.m. in HSS 103B.

For Director of the Pride Center Donna Braquet, the events will serve as an excellent opportunity for new students to become acquainted with the Pride Center and those who call it home.

"Our main goal is to provide a welcoming space for LGBTQ+ and ally students," Braquet said. "The Pride Center works to provide a safe and welcoming environment for UT's diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual communities."

For a list of scheduled events and more information, visit <http://pridecenter.utk.edu/>.

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