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The Lonely Voice: A call for LGBTQIA+ identity integration, inclusivity and advocacy to diversify the workforce within the OT profession

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Maximum Attendance: 75

Objectives:

1. Participants will identify three issues the LGBTQIA+ community faces through learning about current experiences within OT education and the workforce.
2. Participants will define and apply knowledge to a presented educational scenario on the “Micro-aggressions” impacting LGBTQIA+ students and practitioner engagement.
3. Participants will identify two mechanisms to integrate LGBTQIA+ inclusivity into higher education setting and clinical environments
4. Participants will identify two benefits and two barriers to creating collaborative relationships with educators and practicing clinicians.

Description: This workshop is designed to address the challenges the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual/ Aromantic + community faces when advocating for their own community within the OT profession. We hear students or practitioners say they are “tired of being the only queer voice”, or needing to “come out” again and again. This workshop will identify areas in which LGBTQIA+ inclusivity can be naturally incorporated into OT education and professional settings. Our aim is to create or empower more allies to assume some of the burden of advocacy, which too often falls solely on the shoulders of LGBTQIA+ students and practitioners.

This workshop will facilitate the development of a sustainable model for addressing the issues of LGBTQIA+ invisibility and advocacy moving forward. Participants will engage in didactic learning about the LGBTQIA+ community, participate in some experiential activities to understanding diversity issues, and engage in small group discussions to collaborate with colleagues to identify how to make the most impact within the OT profession.