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Title of Proposal Current Trends in Researching Sexual Minority Youth in Education

This presentation will consider historic and current findings of the research as it pertains to the educational needs of sexual minority youth. The past thirty years has seen the accumulation of a considerable body of academic writing regarding gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning youth. However, the lives of transgendered adolescents remain essentially a mystery, and the research which does exist fails to consider the unique needs of this population as they relate to the secondary school environment. The presentation provides an overview of existing research, points out successes and limitations of the research, and suggests a way forward for current researchers.

This presentation complements the theme and goals of the conference by providing insight into the educational needs of a poorly understood, but critically important, category of students who present each and every day, in each and every school. Understanding these students and learning how to support their specific needs, particularly in the social-emotional realm, will make us better educators, promote a more positive school climate, and produce better outcomes for students.

Session Outcomes: Please provide the 3 desired learning objectives or attendee outcomes of your proposal.

As a result of participation in this session, attendees will learn/come away with:

A good understanding of the findings of extant research into GLBT youth in general, an understanding of the specific issues faced IN SCHOOL SETTINGS by these youth and ideas for directions in future research into the educational needs of this population