



The Two Spirit Journey Among Our People

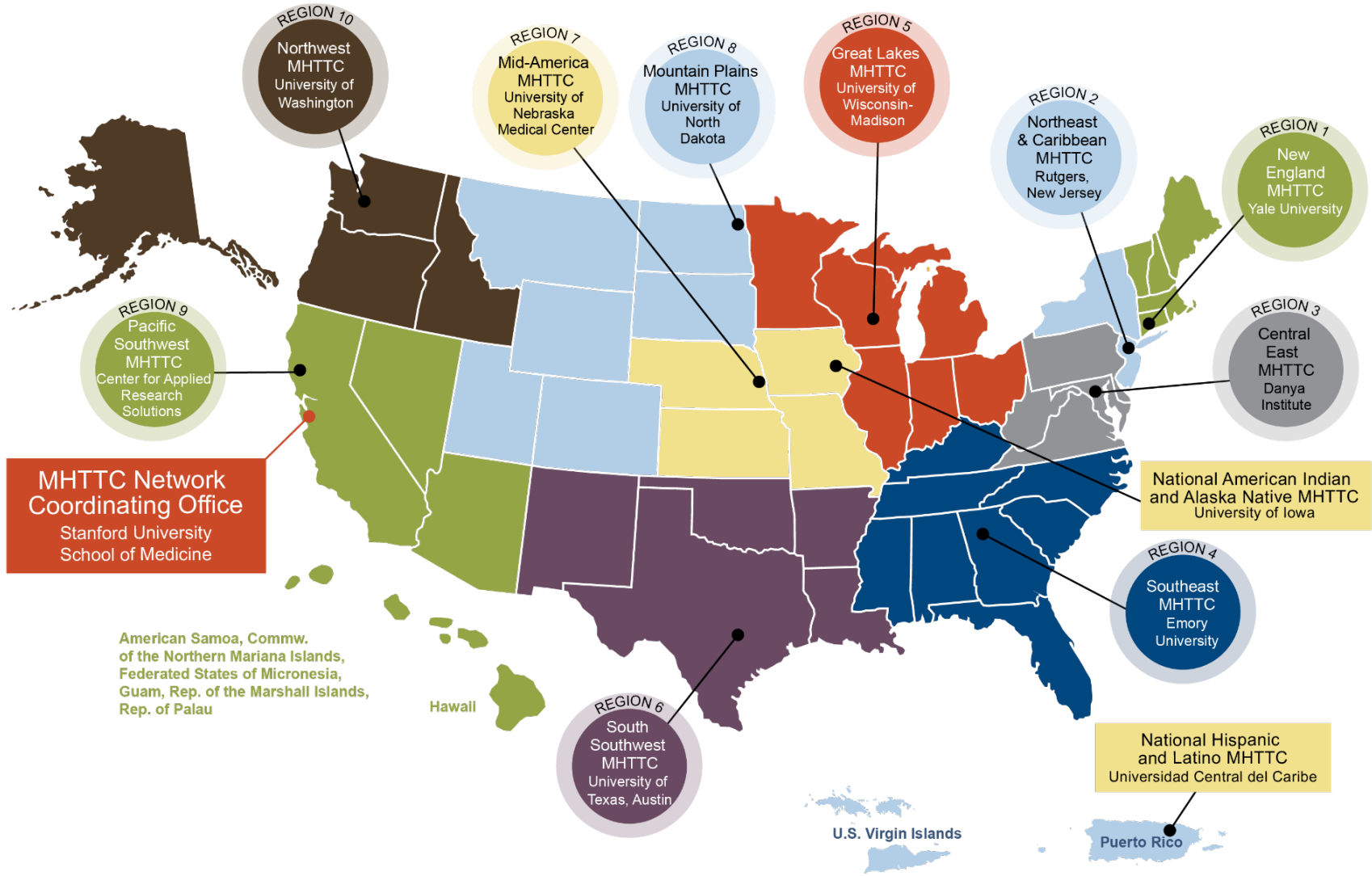


MHTTC

Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

MHTTC Network

**American Indian
& Alaska Native
Mental Health
Technology
Transfer Center
K-12 School Mental Health
Supplement Project**



SAMHSA

Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

The National American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Technology Transfer Center is supported by a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The content of this event is the creation of the presenter(s), and the opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of SAMHSA, HHS, or the American Indian & Alaska Native MHTTC.



Land Acknowledgement

We would like to take this time to acknowledge the land and pay respect to the Indigenous Nations whose homelands were forcibly taken over and inhabited.

Past and present, we want to honor the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.

This calls us to commit to forever learn how to be better stewards of these lands through action, advocacy, support, and education.

We acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced occupation of Native American territories, and we respect the many diverse indigenous people connected to this land on which we gather from time immemorial.

While injustices are still being committed against Indigenous people on Turtle Island, today we say thank you to those that stand with Indigenous peoples and acknowledge that land reparations must be made to allow healing for our Indigenous peoples and to mother earth, herself.

Dekibaota, Elleh Driscoll, Meskwaki and Winnebago Nations
Ttakimaweakwe, Keely Driscoll, Meskwaki and Winnebago Nations
Keokuk, Sean A. Bear, 1st. Meskwaki Nation



Before getting started...

- House keeping
- K thru 12 Program: Guide and TA Request
- - [K-12 Program guide \(006\).pdf](#)
 - https://uiowa.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9XOxrEwk4RwamTX
- Blessing



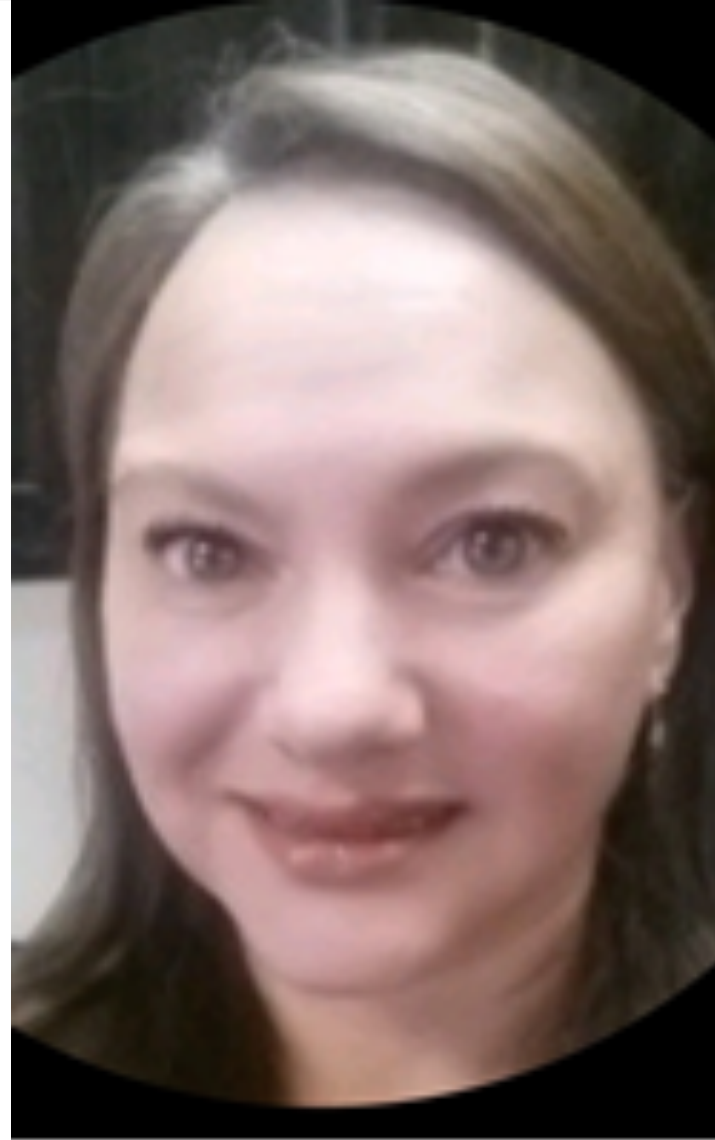
TODAYS SPEAKERS

Dr. Allison Baez

Allison's tribal affiliation is Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan Nation-Aguateca Paguame Clan. Educational specialist serving Native communities. Dr. Baez has led research projects, helped create programs and worked with students and their families towards academic success for over 25 years. She has shared her expertise in education in K-12 and Higher Educational environments. Much of her research is among Native populations to find along with the communities, best practices from a Native perspective. Allison's passion is to continue to work with the Indigenous populations to share, collaborate and educate on culturally responsive approaches and methodologies in and out of a classroom setting. Today's Speaker

Dr. Mark Standing Eagle Baez

Mohawk/Pawnee/Coahuiltecan/Mexican/French descent. He is a certified educational psychologist, licensed substance abuse counselor, certified anger resolution therapist and a mental health consultant based in Texas. Mark has provided a variety of consulting services to Tribes across Indian country, non-profits, hospitals, treatment centers, and Higher Educational Institutions since 2003. His concepts are intended to strengthen and empower not only the individual skills but also work to improve mental health services provided by non-Native practitioners to Tribal communities and Native American clients. He has been published in several academic journals and presented at numerous national conferences. Clinically, Mark has worked with diverse clients in both inpatient/outpatient and academic settings. His areas of expertise include assessment, substance abuse, historical/intergenerational trauma/Native American wellness spirituality, self-care, bullying among Native American youth, and suicide among Native American populations. Mark's research interests include strength-based psychology and resiliency, culturally sensitive measurement development, psychological well-being, and the epidemiology and treatment of mental health and substance use in ethnic minorities



THE TWO SPIRIT JOURNEY AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Dr. C. Allison Baez

Dr. M. Standing Eagle Baez LSP, LCDC, CART

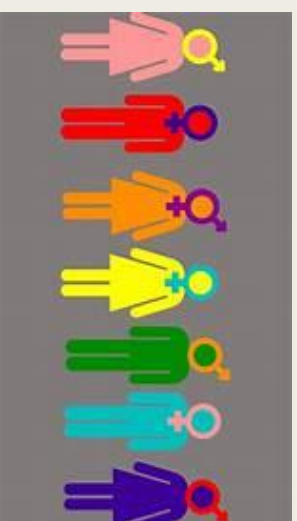


**PRAYER &
WELCOME**

Our goal is to explore the LGBTQ2S personhood in relation to Indigenous communities. Moreover, we want to recognize and honor their journey.

Let's talk about SEX, GENDER & SEXUALITY

- SEX- biological traits that society associates with being male or female
- GENDER-cultural meanings attached to being masculine or feminine which influence personal identities
- SEXUALITY-sexual attraction, practices and identity which may or may not align with sex and gender



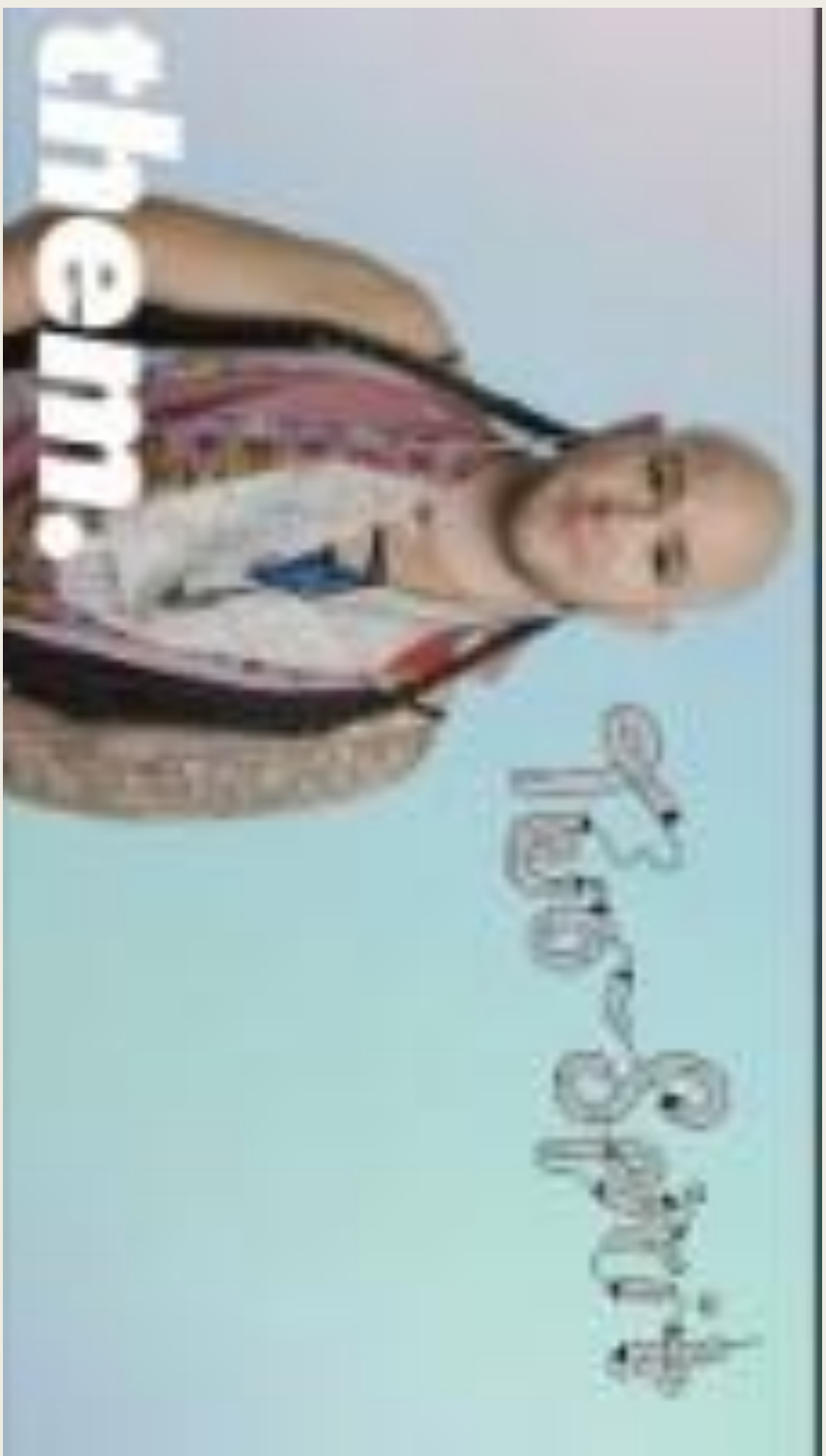
GENDER

- ...is/ was considered one of two sexes (either male or female).
- ... is more fluid – it may or may not depend upon biological traits.
- ... is a concept that describes how societies determine and manage sex categories; the cultural meanings attached to men and women's roles; and how individuals understand their identities including, but not limited to, being a man, woman, transgender, intersex, gender queer and other gender positions.

What does the 2S mean in LGBTQ2S?

- Someone who is of American Indian or Alaskan Native descent who possesses both a male and female spirit.
- It is used with many AI/AN communities to describe gender identity and sexuality regarding traditional tribal roles





Native History

- Two Spirit indicates an ability to see the world from both male and female perspectives and to bridge the world of male and female.
- Two Spirit expresses the concept of balance within a person.



BERDACHE

EUROPEAN TERM
USED TO DESCRIBE
NATIVE MEN AND
WOMEN WHO
ASSUME THE
DRESS, SOCIAL
STATUS, AND ROLE
OF THE OPPOSITE
SEX

“Two Spirit” people found amongst the Indigenous cultures, make up two additional genders: the feminine man (womanly man) and masculine woman (manly woman).

Traditionally considered to be sacred beings embodying both the feminine and masculine traits of all their ancestors and nature.

They are chosen by their community to represent this tradition, and once this happens, they live out their lives in the opposite gender, and can also get married (to someone of the opposite gender to their adopted gender).

Native History

- Throughout Native history, Two Spirits have been acknowledged and honored for who they are.
- For hundreds of years Native tribes have had transgender, transexual, or third-gender roles prior to Western contact.
- Over 150 tribes recognize Two Spirits.
- There are traditional and cultural terms for them in their language and roles for Two Spirit people.



Native History

- <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbtq-rights/news/2016/10/17/143403/two-spirit-native-american-lgbt-people/>

- 1988: First Inter-tribal Native American, First Nations, Gay and Lesbian American Conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 1990: Term two-spirited emerges at the third traditional gathering in Winnipeg, Manitoba
- 2000's: Two-spirit sweat lodge established in North Vancouver Squamish nation in response to gay bashing on reserve.
- 2008: Coquille Indian Tribe on the southern Oregon coast, in the U.S. West, adopts a law recognizing same-sex marriage
- 2009: Award-winning Two-spirits film released.
- 2010: National Film Board releases: Deb-we-win Ge-kend-am-aan, Our Place in the Circle by Lorne Olson.
- 2013: 8 indigenous tribes across the USA now recognize same-sex marriages among their members.

Native Youth Experiences Today as LGBTQ2S



- Learn from their tribal community
- Learn from their tribal elders
- Societal Rejection
- Family Discourse

“We have our own community, but we’re not a community, we are a community within a community that nobody talks about, nobody knows about and nobody cares about...I was brought up with a mom and dad and older brothers, and people that supported me, not everybody has that though.”

- Cultural Informant, NE Two Spirit Society Survey



Addressing Their Needs

- What they feel is real
- Creating a safe learning environment
- Improving healthy outcomes for youth



Bullying

- 84.6% of LGBT students reported being verbally harassed, 40.1% reported being physically harassed and 18.8% reported being physically assaulted at school in the past year because of their sexual orientation
- Nearly two-thirds (61.1%) of students reported that they felt unsafe in school because of their sexual orientation

HOMELESS LGBTQ YOUTH

An estimated **320,000 to 400,000** LGBTQ youth face homelessness in the United States each year.

LGBTQ youth experience many hardships, but perhaps one of the biggest is homelessness.

40% of homeless youth are LGBTQ.

42% of homeless agencies do not address LGBTQ issues despite these elevated rates of homelessness.

14.4 The average age that lesbian and gay youth in New York become homeless.

13.5 The average age that transgender youth in New York become homeless.

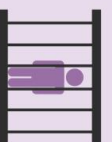
68% of homeless LGBTQ youth have experienced family rejection.

54% have experienced family abuse.

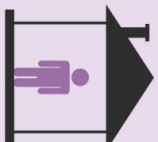


Nearly 1 in 3 transgender people have been turned away from shelters.

\$53,665 The estimated cost to incarcerate a youth for one year.



\$5,887 The estimated cost to permanently move a homeless youth off the streets and prevent them from becoming incarcerated.



15% of homeless shelters reported that helping homeless LGBTQ youth is "not central to their mission."

[Transstudent.tumblr.com](https://www.tumblr.com/transstudent)
[facebook.com/transstudent](https://www.facebook.com/transstudent)
twitter.com/transstudent

Take action at:
transstudent.org/homelessness

TSEER
Trans Student Educational Resources

Design by Landyn Pan

LGBTQ2S YOUTH SUICIDE

LGBTQ2S YOUTH ARE ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE
to mental health concerns, and face increased risk of physical & sexual exploitation, substance use & suicide.

SUICIDE - 2ND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (AGES 10 - 24)

TRANSPHOBIA IS DANGEROUS AND LEADS TO SUICIDE TRANSPHOBIA KILLS

The TransPULSE study (2010) investigated the health needs of trans people across Ontario, and they found:

77% SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED SUICIDE
45% ATTEMPTED SUICIDE



SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS ARE KEY TO MENTAL HEALTH



Youth who identify with and are connected to the LGBTQ2S community have significantly less internalized homophobia than youth who are not connected to their community. Family acceptance of LGBTQ2S adolescents is associated with good mental and physical health in LGBTQ2S youth.

LGBTQ2S YOUTH = 14X THE RISK OF SUICIDE THAN STRAIGHT CISGENDER YOUTH
WHY ARE LGBTQ2S PEOPLE AT HIGHER RISK?
STIGMA
DISCRIMINATION
REJECTION
VIOLENCE
TRAUMA
PREJUDICE



RISK OF SUICIDE DECREASES BY 93% WITH STRONG FAMILY SUPPORT

#ENDOUTRHOMELESSNESS

WRITTEN BY DR. ALAN ARMSTRONG (2018)
A member of the Ontario Trans Health Research Network, Dr. Armstrong is a professor of Health, Behavior, & Society at the University of Toronto and a senior advisor to the Ontario Health Services Research Institute. He is also a member of the Ontario Trans Health Research Network. He has published research on the health and well-being of trans people in Canada and the United States. He is currently leading a research project on the health and well-being of trans people in Ontario. He is also a member of the Ontario Trans Health Research Network. He has published research on the health and well-being of trans people in Canada and the United States. He is currently leading a research project on the health and well-being of trans people in Ontario.





I don't understand,
but I want to be respectful of you.


Where to begin?

- Respect the names and pronouns that people use to self-identify.
- Acknowledge that family love, support, and acceptance helps protect all people from suicide.
- Let the person know directly/indirectly, that you are open to listening to about their journey,
- Help connect youth to their tribal culture, history and language centered on gender and identity.
- Respect their desired level of privacy.
- Adopt a zero-tolerance policy for bullying and harassment.



As educators we need to support sex education that is
LGBTQ2S inclusive.

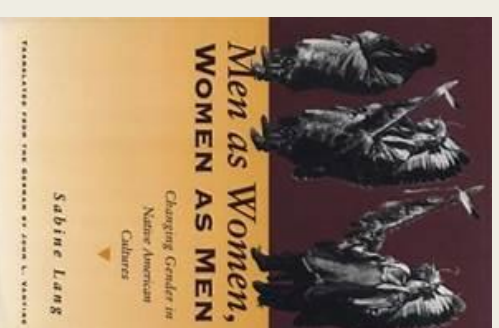
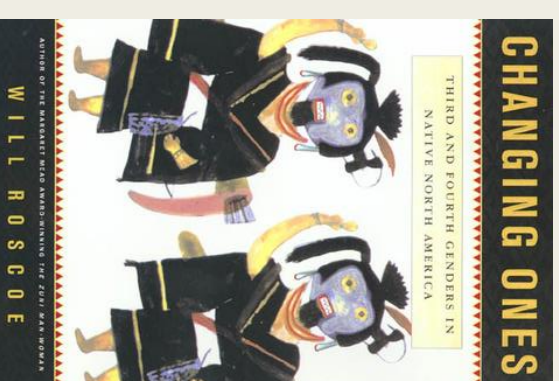
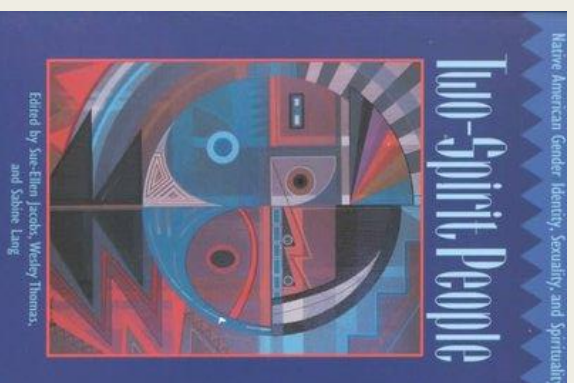
#equalsexed



ALL LIFE
IS
SACRED



Resources



SEXUAL HEALTH

LGBT – Two Spirit

People often use the words lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, two-spirit or queer (LGBTQ) to describe their sexual orientation. Some people know their sexual orientation early on in life, while others go through periods where they wonder: Do I like men? Do I like women? Do I like both?

share:



- Two-Spirit People: American Indian Lesbian Women and Gay Men. Lester B. Brown, PhD, Editor. Harrington Park Press An Imprint of The Haworth, Inc., New York, London 1997. ISBN: 1-56023-089-4
- The Zuni Man-Woman. Will Roscoe, University of New Mexico Press 1991. ISBN: 0-8263-1370-1
- Living the Spirit: A Gay American Indian Anthology. Will Roscoe, Editor. St. Martin's Press, New York 1988. ISBN: 0-312-30224-x
- The Spirit and The Flesh: Sexual Diversity in American Indian Culture. Walter L. Williams. Beacon Press 1991, ISBN-10: 0807046159. ISBN-13: 978-0807046159
- Becoming Two-Spirit: Gay Identity and Social Acceptance in Indian Country. Brian Joseph Gilley. University of Nebraska Press 2006. ISBN-10: 0803271263 ISBN-13: 978-0803271265
- Spaces Between Us: Queer Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Decolonization. Scott Lauria Morgensen. University of Minnesota Press 2011. ISBN: 978-0816656325

Source: <https://www.wernative.org/articles/two-spirit-reference-books>

- Baez, M. (August 2010). Indigenous Peoples: Promoting Psychological Healing and Wellbeing. Contextual understanding of two spirited people, p. xxxii.
- Medicine, B. (2002). Directions in gender research in American Indian societies: Two spirits and other categories. In W. J. Lonner, D. L. Dinnel, S. A. Hayes, & D. N. Sattler (Eds.), *Online Readings in Psychology and Culture* (Unit 3, Chapter 2), (<http://www.wvu.edu/~culture>), Center for Cross-Cultural Research, Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington USA.



Resources

- This document provides sample legal language for adapting tribal resolutions and codes to recognize the rights of all tribal citizens, including Two Spirit and LGBTQ Natives. This is the third edition of the toolkit published with the support of a growing coalition of national organizations including the National LGBTQ Task Force, the Western States Center and the Center for American Progress.

Source: <https://www.thetaskforce.org/tribal-equity-toolkit-3-0/>

Resources / Media

- DOCUMENTARIES

Honored by the Moon

Her Giveaway

Two Spirits

- FEATURE FILMS

Johnny Greyeyes

Firesong

The Business of Fancydancing

Q & A

