

Adrien Macias, Outreach Program Coordinator AS Gender and Sexuality Equity Center (530) 898-5724 asgsec.outreach@csuchico.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 02-15-2017

"What's the T?": Conversations on Trans Identities

CHICO, Calif.—<u>The Associated Students Gender and Sexuality Equity Center (GSEC)</u> is excited to announce another semester of the newly implemented series of conversation hours on trans identities entitled "What's the T?" These conversations, facilitated by GSEC interns and staff, will explore the intersections between transgender and gender diverse folks and their various identities. The GSEC hopes to collaborate with community groups and organizations to help initiate dialogue necessary for *trans acceptance and empowerment. **Our first conversation hour will take place Tuesday, February 21st in BMU 314 from 3-4pm. The theme for the first What's The T? will be Trans Allyship 101.**

The GSEC aims to provide a safe and comfortable space to discuss issues and movements effecting trans and gender diverse communities for everyone regardless of identity. Chico State students, faculty, staff, community members, allies, and anyone who is interested in learning about the trans community are invited to attend. **"What's the T?"** events will take place on February 21, March 21, and April 18. The locations, times, and themes for the March and April dates are to be determined.

These events aim to educate and engage Chico State students and community members about trans and gender diverse experiences, to highlight intersectional cultural identities that trans-identified people may have, and to inform about the social and political issues that trans folk may face.

*Transgender (or trans) can describe anyone who doesn't exclusively identify with the sex they were assigned at birth. Similarly, cisgender (or cis) describes anyone who only identifies with the sex they were assigned at birth. This year, many anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been proposed across our country; a large proportion of these bills specifically target trans folk. Members of the trans community are statistically at higher risk for various acts of discrimination and violence. We are holding "What's the T?" in order to adequately advocate for trans liberation.

For more information, or if you are a member of an organization who is interested in partnering with GSEC for future conversation hours, visit the GSEC office in BMU 004, call (530) 898-5724, or email our Trans Program Coordinator at <u>asgsec.trans@csuchico.edu</u>.

-###-

The **Associated Students Gender and Sexuality Equity Center (GSEC)** is a student-run activist organization that strives to empower all students through its four programs: the Women's, Queer, Trans, and Outreach Programs. The GSEC challenges societal norms that have been used to oppress and marginalize by providing opportunities for leadership, personal development, and referral services. The center offers a safe and inclusive space where the campus and community can effectively support the academic mission of the university.

The **Trans Program** aims to foster accessibility, community building, and empowerment for all trans and gender diverse people by challenging institutional and interpersonal oppression perpetuated by cissexism and transphobia. This program uses intersectional theory when providing support for people of all gender and sex identities.