Speaker’s Bureau 2012-2013

Brief description of program / project:
The Speakers Bureau is a program that coordinates Panels on Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Concerns. It can be used in the classroom, staff training’s, residence hall programs, or any other forum where an educational program regarding sexual orientation or gender identity is desired.

Who was asked to complete survey:
Students, faculty, staff, and community members who attended.

Respondents: 614 respondents
Administration Type: Responses completed on paper and entered by office staff into Campus Labs

Summary of Key Findings:
Positivity was prominent in the evaluations of the Speaker’s Bureau. Most participants were very pleased with the openness of the panelist and the conflict free dialogue. The most common feedback topics for improvement were focused on improving the flow of the panel, and increasing anonymity for asking questions, and using a microphone.

Actions Taken:
To improve the flow of the panel discussions and maximize the relevancy and benefits to students, there will be increased communication between the Speakers Bureau coordinator and the requester of the panel discussion (i.e., the professor). This communication would involve:

- Requesting that the class be told about the panel in advance and come prepared with questions to ask
- Providing the professor with a list of basic terms and definitions to distribute to students
- Learning if there are any specific topics the professor would like discussed during the panel

In doing so, we hope to tailor each panel to meet the needs of the specific classes. For example, if the panel discussion is for a nursing class, more effort can be made to attempt to gather panelists who have had experience with the healthcare system, and any specific topics that the professor would like to have discussed can be brought up with ease. With this more customized approach for each class, audience members should benefit greatly.
In order to make the panels more successful and to help students be more comfortable we asked professors to have the students ask questions a head of time or at the beginning of class write questions on a piece of paper so students could also ask questions anonymously. This was a theme that appeared on the evaluations that students wanted a way to ask questions in a more anonymous way.

Based on the feedback received, it seems it could be highly beneficial to employ a microphone and speaker system during panels with larger audiences. This should alleviate any issues that audience members have with hearing the speakers.

**Which department and/or program goals does this program / project align with?**

1. Raise awareness regarding lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues.
2. Affirm lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender identities and lives by fostering a safe, inclusive, multicultural environment for the University's LGBT community.
3. Support the academic mission of the University of Utah by promoting the inclusion of LGBT topics in the curriculum and other academic programs.
4. Build linkages with other LGBT organizations and allied programs through outreach and community development efforts.

**Which Student Affairs goals does this program / project align with?**

1. Develop students as a whole through the cultivation and enrichment of the body, mind and spirit.
2. Provide education that ensures all staff is properly trained to provide professional and competent service.
3. Promote diversity on campus through effective programming and active recruitment of staff and students.