



South Puget Sound Community College Student Senate

Resolution on Adding LGBT Patient Care to the Nursing Curriculum

Written by: Jay Wainman, Student Senator for Diversity and Equity Affairs

- WHEREAS, SPSCC's statement of values contains the following commitment: "We honor diversity and encourage compassion for individual expression. We promote inclusiveness and equity on our campus and in the community",
- WHEREAS, SPSCC's college-wide abilities include multicultural awareness, defined as "knowledge of the diverse cultural values, beliefs, and practices of self and others in order to interact successfully in the world",
- WHEREAS, In accordance with its values and college-wide abilities, the college currently requires all students to complete an approved diversity course in order to receive an AA, and requires nursing students in particular to complete NURS 255 (Cultural Diversity in Healthcare: Diversity),
- WHEREAS, Issues pertaining to the care of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender patients are not covered in NURS 255 or elsewhere in the nursing curriculum,
- WHEREAS, SPSCC's 2010 – 2013 Strategic Plan contains workforce education as a core theme, stating the college's desire to "work in partnership with business and industry to provide educational programs and services that prepare for employment",
- WHEREAS, The ability to provide culturally-competent care is a valuable skill in the workforce, particularly in light of recent legislation and changes in private sector policies regarding LGBT patients,
- WHEREAS, LGBT patients experience significantly higher rates of discrimination, including denial of care, physical and verbal abuse, as documented by Lambda Legal's 2010 report "When Health Care Isn't Caring: Lambda Legal's Survey on Discrimination Against LGBT People and People Living with HIV",
- WHEREAS, For the wellbeing of LGBT patients, it is essential that future medical professionals receive education about LGBT patient care etiquette prior to entering the workforce,
- LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Student Senate of 2010-2011 supports the addition of LGBT patient care issues to the nursing curriculum,
- AND ALSO RESOLVED THAT, the Student Senate of 2010 – 2011 requests a written response from the Dean of Natural Sciences.

The Student Senate of 2010-2011 passed this resolution on December 8, 2010.