

# Creating Safe & Welcoming Spaces for Sexual and Gender Diverse Students, Families & Staff

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# About me ...



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# Why consider our own values?



*When we are unaware of values & assumptions, they can affect our work in ways we are not even aware of.*

# Terms to Know

## Sex & Gender



# Terms to Know

## Sex

- The legal identifier assigned at birth depending on what genitals the child is born with

## Gender

- Social and cultural expectations of roles and presentation

# Terms to Know

## Sexual Orientation

- Describes an individual's enduring physical, romantic and/or emotional attraction to another person.
- **Gender identity and sexual orientation are not the same.** Transgender people may be straight, lesbian, gay, or bisexual. For example, a person who transitions from male to female and is attracted solely to men would identify as a straight woman.

# Terms to Know

## Transgender

- An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from what is typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth.
- People under the transgender umbrella may describe themselves using one or more of a wide variety of terms – including *transgender*.

# Terms to Know

## Gender Identity

- One's internal, deeply held sense of one's gender.
- For transgender people, their own internal gender identity does not match the sex they were assigned at birth.
- Most people have a gender identity of man or woman (or boy or girl). For some people, their gender identity does not fit neatly into one of those two choices.
- Unlike gender expression gender identity is not visible to others.

# Terms to Know

## Gender Expression

- External manifestations of gender, expressed through one's name, pronouns, clothing, haircut, behavior, voice, or body characteristics. Society identifies these cues as masculine and feminine, although what is considered masculine and feminine changes over time and varies by culture.
- Typically, transgender people seek to make their gender expression align with their gender identity, rather than the sex they were assigned at birth.

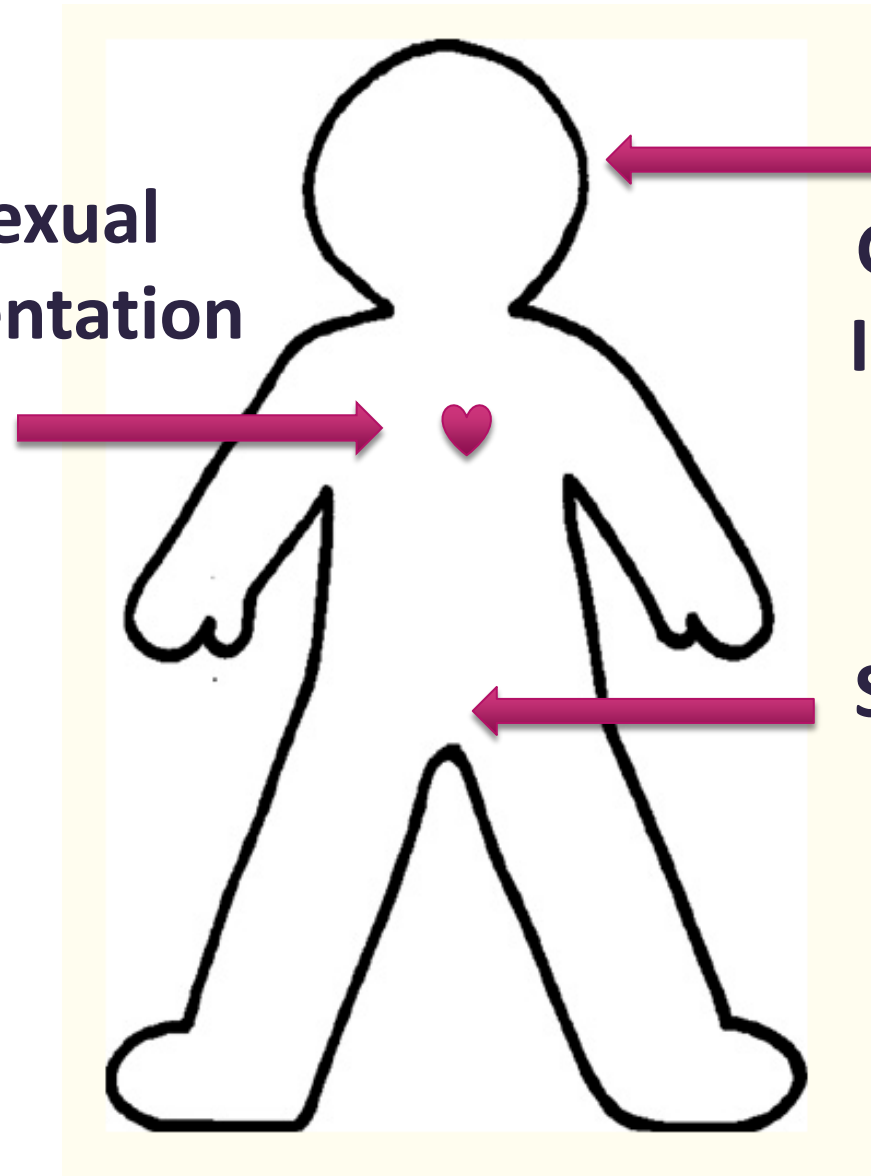
# Terms to Know

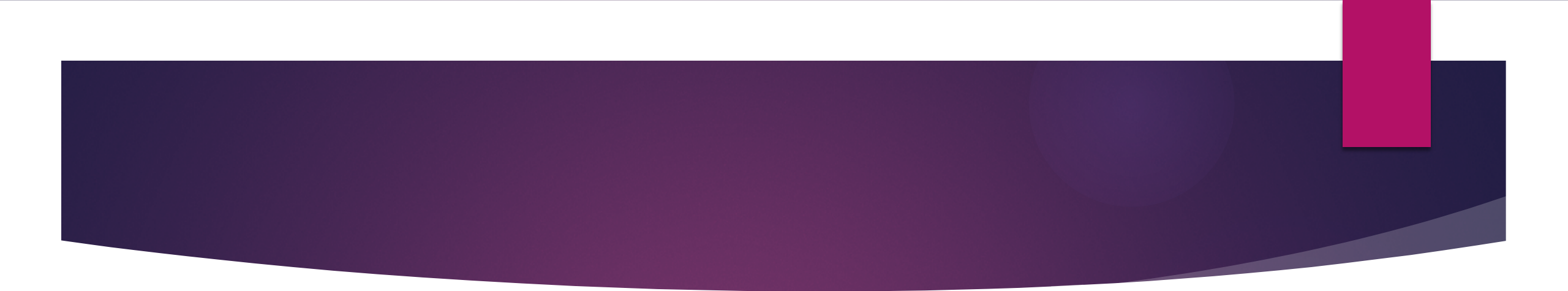
The Awesome  
Gender-Neutral  
Gingerbread  
Person!

**Sexual  
Orientation**

**Gender  
Identity**

**Sex**





“To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.”

- *Ralph Waldo Emerson*