Marshall Community Trans Clothing Closet
Psychology of Women Capstone Seminar

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Study: WV has nation’s highest percent of teens who identify as transgender

REPORT: Trans Americans Four Times More Likely to Live in Poverty

Risk of poverty and suicide far higher among transgender people, survey finds

The landmark survey of more than 27,000 individuals found that respondents face persistent challenges, from mental health to workplace discrimination.
Trans teens, students, and barriers

Many Transgender teens are financially cut off by their families (Lambda Legal, 2017)

Transgender Americans are four times more likely to report a household income of less than $10,000

The National Center for Transgender Equality found that 60% of Transgender Americans reported avoiding public restrooms for fear of experiencing harassment or assault

40% of Transgender Americans have attempted suicide in their lifetime
Trans teens, students, and barriers

87% of Transgender individuals report having completed at least some college, and 47% have earned a college degree (Center for American Progress, 2015)

On college campuses, 41% of Transgender students are estimated to be harassed

Transgender students report educational barriers on college campuses, including inadequate support in terms of health care and counseling
In West Virginia

West Virginia is the leading state in the country with the largest number of teens (13-17) who identify as transgender.

An estimated 1.04 percent of teens (13-17) in West Virginia identify as Transgender compared to the national percentage which is .73 percent. Hawaii is second with 1.01 percent and then New Mexico at .88 percent.
Mission Statement

Increase the acceptance and visibility of Transgender students on campus by placing collection bins on Marshall University's campus for clothing for Transgender students.

Meet the needs of Transgender students by providing gender affirming clothing readily available in a safe space.
Community Partner

The LGBTQ+ office is a designated safe space for students on campus who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer.

Located in the basement (Bw31) of the Marshall Memorial Student Center and is part of the Multicultural Affairs branch at Marshall.

Shaunte Polk is the director of the LGBTQ+ office.

The office is worked by student volunteers and work studies.
In West Virginia, LGBTQ advocates see a shift toward support

BY CORINNE SEGAL  March 26, 2017 at 4:01 PM EDT
Marshall University Trans Community

Clothing Drive

February 6 – February 24

OUR TRANS COMMUNITY NEEDS NEW OR GENTLY USED CLOTHING including: casual clothing, formal clothing, swimwear, chest binders, jewelry, and transgender accessories.

BINS WILL BE LOCATED IN:
- The LGBTQ+ Office
- The Women’s Studies Department
- The lobbies of Commons, Buskirk, Towers East & West, Holderby, and Freshmen North & South Dormitories

ALL DONATED CLOTHES WILL GO TOWARD THE LGBTQ+ OFFICE TRANS CLOSET.

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After
After

An event took place this week that invited transgender students to come and shop at the LGBTQ+ office.

At least one group member was present from 1pm to 5pm Monday through today.

Clothes had to be washed and folded, as well as sorted by size, gender expression, and function.
What happens next

The LGBTQ+ office is moving to a new location with hopes for better accommodating the closet, including...

A changing station with partitions and dividers

More space

Organized clothing racks
References


