

Diversity Innovation Grant Final Report

Due no later than December 31 (Note: Photos are encouraged!)

Project Name: LGBTQ+ Narratives in Academia

Team Members:

Jon Suen

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Project Overview:

- **Current project status:**

LGBTQ+ Narratives in Academia is a media project that records and tells the stories of LGBTQ+ members of the JHU community. Throughout this grassroots, volunteer-driven project we have been fortunate to receive contributions from over 40 members of the JHU community. Volunteers contributed to the project design, interviewed storytellers, and annotated recordings and transcripts. Sixteen storytellers shared their experiences with us, leading to over 10 hours of interview footage. The project culminated in a series of three videos that are now publicly [available on YouTube](#).

- **Project highlights:**

A highlight of the project was hosting a launch party on July 14 where we celebrated the videos' premiere with volunteers and supporters. This event was conducted as a hybrid event to maximize outreach. Recruiting volunteers from multiple JHU divisions all working towards the same goal also remains a highlight given the rarity of such a feature in JHU-sponsored programs. Our whole volunteer force is comprised of students (undergraduate and graduate), faculty, staff, and alumni from 6 academic and 4 administrative divisions across 3 JHU campuses.

- **Long-term impact:**

Volunteers felt affirmed through the interviews, having their stories shared publicly, and through knowing they contributed towards a bigger goal of promoting queer empowerment, allyship, and inclusion in academia. As of this writing (August 1), the videos have been viewed 307 times, signaling a potential for reaching a wider audience. Involving staff members who are often excluded from such initiatives may also encourage more participation in future programming.

- **What was learned:**

We are grateful to learn more about the various experiences of LGBTQ+ people in higher education. We observed broad enthusiasm in the JHU community to

share queer stories that prioritized storytelling through an assets/strengths-based model. We also learned about the power and effectiveness of coordinating volunteers to divide up work for streamlining and strengthening the project (i.e., providing space for *collective* action). We also learned about the Digital Media Center (DMC) as a resource and the essential contributions of a skilled video editor and audio mixer to bring the interviews together into a polished final product.

- **Plans for the future:**

Videos are available for use in educational and outreach events. Additionally, the raw footage from the interviews can be used for future projects if people are interested in remixing additional videos centering around *ad hoc* themes-of-interest. The project will be stewarded by Abbey Nawrocki (Gender & Sexuality Resources) moving forward. The project will also receive more visibility from JHU communications platforms.

- **If your grant only covered part of your budget, specify which aspect the grant covered:**

The grant covered the full amount of our budget, which is summarized below:

Item	Amount
Honoraria for storytellers (\$75 each, 16 storytellers)	825.00
Honorarium for video editor	1,170.00
Refreshments for launch party	420.00
Total	\$2,415.00

Photos





