Senior Talia Broekers is making an impact in healthcare and education by combining her passions for nursing and the LGBTQ community. “I am heavily involved with the LGBTQ Center,” Talia said. “I started to think about gaps in healthcare and about issues in education.”

From Westfield, Indiana, Talia is majoring in nursing and minoring in LGBT Studies. As a LGBTQ Center intern, she is fulfilling a requirement for her Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies class 492 by conducting research focused on the gaps in accessing healthcare for transgender people.

**Portfolium ePortfolio Network**

Portfolium is an ePortfolio network for students and alumni to visually showcase their work and projects directly to employers, faculty and fellow students/alumni - proving their skills and experiences beyond the limits of a traditional resume. The social networking features built into Portfolium make it fun, simple and powerful. For the first time, students can directly correlate their academic work to real job requirements - connecting their learning with opportunities.

Visit the Leadership and Professional Development website for more information here.

**Civic Engagement & Leadership Development Goes Virtual**

Civic Engagement & Leadership Development (CELD) at Purdue has gone virtual. CELD helps students develop their leadership and civic identities in order to prepare them to facilitate positive change in local, national and global communities. Active citizenship is more important now than ever. Stay connected to CELD on:

- Facebook: facebook.com/EngageCELD
- Twitter: @LeadEngagePU
- Instagram: @CELDPurdue

**UPCOMING EVENTS WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW?**

- **Lunch & Learns 12-1 p.m. via WebEx:**
  - May 18: Building Connections at a Distance
  - May 20: Theory of Distance Learning and Re-Thinking Learning Outcomes
  - May 27: Connecting Students to Alumni

- **Other Upcoming Topics in May Dates TBD:**
  - Virtual Learning & Programming Technology
  - Purdue’s Cultural Center’s Impact at a Distance

Stay up to date by visiting the Steps to Leaps Event page here.
“I studied accessing hormone replacement therapy, gender affirmative procedures or surgeries, and the huge lack of knowledge in providing care and access,” Talia said.

Talia had to educate herself about healthcare for the LGBTQ community. “I thought, ‘Wow, there are gaps in education even in the Purdue nursing program,’” Talia said.

Talia actually started her research without class credit in fall 2019. “If I wanted to make a true impact, I needed to talk to as many people as possible and determine where there could be areas of improvement,” said Talia. “I did that without course credit because it's something I'm passionate about. I wanted something that could be integrated across the Purdue nursing curriculum so people would have practice engaging in names and pronouns and learning concepts.”

Talia worked with faculty to create a simulated nursing experience for students that included a trans patient. “With simulated practice, students learn about transition related care,” Talia said. “They practice with proper names and pronoun usage and learn about the systemic barriers with healthcare records. Many records use all legal names without other options for a preferred name or preferred pronouns, as well as a binary understanding of sex and gender. Often records just say ‘male or female.’”

Talia discovered there is no “organ inventory” indicated on patient records. Once a person’s sex is legally changed, they may still have some organs from their previous sex not indicated on their records, and they miss receiving screenings, such as pap smears or mammograms.

“So, I was able to educate students about gaps in care, and they received needed practice,” Talia said. “It was the project that I am most proud of. We're going to continue it into the fall semester. There's a lot of positive feedback.”

Talia also speaks to groups about providing care to vulnerable populations, for instance, when a member of the LGBTQ community has the coronavirus. Regarding entering the nursing field in the midst of the pandemic, Talia said, “I am willing to throw myself on the line because I know I would be coming home to my partner who is also fairly young and healthy. I really feel for the nurses who work really hard and then come home and worry about whether or not they’re going to inflict this illness on their families.”

Impact of College Students’ Involvement in Leadership Activities

Using longitudinal data from 875 students at 10 institutions, descriptive and multivariate analyses were conducted to assess whether student participation in leadership education and training programs has an impact on educational and personal development.

Results indicate that leadership participants showed growth in civic responsibility, leadership skills, multicultural awareness, understanding of leadership theories, and personal and societal values.

Abstract from:

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