**Strategies for Creating More Trans(\*)-Affirming Educational Spaces from Dr. Z Nicolazzo**

1. Don’t call roll. Instead, invite students to share their names. If there are discrepancies between your official roster and what they share, defer to the student without fanfare or hesitation.

2. Demand to teach your course in a building with all gender restrooms. If there aren’t any, ask why, and remind folks in your area you’ll ask the same thing be done next term, which gives them a few months to put pressure on administrators in your college/unit.

3. Put statements on your syllabi about name and pronoun policies at your school and in your classroom.

E.g. “Class rosters and institutional data systems are provided to instructors with students’ legal names and gender identifications. However, knowing that many students do not use their legal names or sex/gender assigned at birth, I am happy to use the name and/or pronouns you use. We will take time during our first class together to do introductions, at which point you can share with all members of our learning community what name and pronouns you use. Additionally, if these change at any point during the semester, please let me know and we can develop a way to share this information with others in a way that is comfortable and safe for you.”

If your school doesn’t have these policies, begin to inquire why.

4. Highlight trans(\*) knowledge production by using readings by trans(\*) people in your course. Do this not just for a “special topics” week but throughout your course.

5. If you don’t know much about trans(\*) folks, the trans(\*) community, or the wealth of knowledge continually being generated by trans(\*) folks, take it upon yourself to do your own education. There are a large quantity of trans(\*)-initiated/led/curated resources for you to do this.

6. Remember to center trans(\*) students’ safety and privacy. Not everyone is or cares to be out. Also, not everyone has the ability *not* to be out.

7. If you hear transphobic stuff in your classroom—even if it’s before or after class has started/ended—interrupt it, correct it, and set the tone that your classroom is not a space where that sort of violence is tolerated.

8. Remember that gender *an* aspect, not *the* aspect of a trans(\*) person’s life. There is so much more to trans(\*) people than just our gender. Act accordingly.

9. If you mess up on anything, own it and move on. No need to dwell and definitely don’t grovel for or seek absolution. Humility and a commitment to not continually muck it up is the key here.

10. Remember gender awareness is a process, so it takes time to un/re/learn all this stuff. That said, it’s up to you to remain committed to un/re/learning it. Don’t give up. Find an accountabili-buddy. Take it upon yourself to learn so you don’t put the burden on trans(\*) folks.