

**Consortium of Higher Education Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Resource Professionals**

**Welcome Exercise**

**Thursday, February 4, 2010: Sheraton Dallas Hotel**

***Led by Shaun Travers and Emily Rokosch***

**Sorts and Mingles (9:15am-10:15am - approximately 60 minutes)**

This exercise is designed to both split up the attendees and connect the attendees, helping folks see who is in the room, make connections with others and exchange names.

First, we will read a sort (see chart below). Depending on where you affiliate between the two options, you go to one side of the room or the other. This is a binary, not a continuum. A few folks may congregate in an ambiguous middle, but that is fine, as it makes the point that when given the option of a binary, what draws people together in a middle is not common things, but opposition to the two choices presented. Once the group is split, one person is asked why they are on one side, then the opposite side is asked why they are there. It is a quick process and takes about 2 minutes

Then we will do the mingles. We head back to the middle and find our folks to affiliate with based on a category that has multiple answers. Because we will most likely be in a room that has rounds, once the group has attained 8-10 (depending on table size) they sit down and introduce themselves. For example, in the first mingle below, we asked people to mingle based on their preferred toothpaste. There may be 26 people who use *Crest*. There would be three tables of *Cresters* 10, 10 and 6. Those three small groups would then do a go around to start to learn names. This process takes longer, usually 12-15 minutes, as folks need to first find each other, and then introduce themselves to each other.

Then we go back to a sort (the binary). Then a mingle (multiple options). Each mingle includes an exchange of names (again, no more than ten per table). The sorts and mingles below (exclusive of the first one which is designed as explanatory) are tailored to the Consortium and the desires to quickly find connections, and name the realities of our lives and how they may impact our work.

Folks catch on pretty quickly, and it tends to be helpful to start to make connections and recognize names and faces.

Sorts		Mingles	Approximate time
Salty	Sweet	Preferred toothpaste?	8-10
I work at/in an LGBT Center	I am doing LGBT work outside of a Center	What area/division/department do you report to and/or in work in? (i.e. Res Life, Student Activities, Diversity Affairs, etc.)	12-15
This is my first time at the Consortium Meetings	I have been to the Consortium Meetings before	Years involved in the Consortium?	12-15
I am the only person doing lgbt work on campus	There is more than one person doing LGBT work on campus	Sexual identity (today, in this moment, as you want to name it, in a way others might connect with you)?	12-15
Qualitative Assessment	Quantitative Assessment	Racial/ethnic identity (today, in this moment, as you want to name it, in a way others might connect with you)?	12-15

Below are other examples of possible sorts and mingles to do the activity that will not be used, but are for your reference.

Sorts		Mingles	
Tragic	Drama	Favorite style of music (show tunes, top 40, alternative)?	
Half full	Half empty	What is your favorite dessert?	
Inside	Outside	What is your favorite drink?	
Elevator	Escalator	Undergraduate major	
Salty	Sweet	Favorite sport	
Dress up	Casual	Favorite cuisine	
Tragic	Drama	Favorite Film Genre (horror, comedy, drama)	
Half full	Half empty	Favorite style of music (show tunes, top 40, alternative)	
Cruise control	Foot on the gas	Ideal type of vacation (stay at home relaxing, touring in another country, being at the beach, outdoor sporting)	
Mac	PC	Country you have always wanted to visit	
On the stage performing	In the audience watching	Most hated Fast Food restaurant	
Nature	City	Favorite Big City	