Elevating Fluidity: Advising Bisexual or Fluid Students

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Theory (or lack thereof)
- No Bisexual Identity Theory
- Higher Ed tends to focus on the LGBTQA umbrella as a whole
- Kinsey Scale (see reverse)
- Identity Spectrum (see reverse)

Terminology
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation
- Bisexual/Bisexuality
- Gender
- Affectional Orientation
- Fluid/Fluidity
- Pansexual
- Omnisexual
- Queer

Myths
- No one is bisexual.
- Everyone is bisexual.
- Bisexuals are polygamous.
- Bisexuals are sex-hungry.
- Bisexuals just want to play.
- It’s just a phase (on the way to a gay identity).
- Bisexuals are really gay/lesbian but aren’t ready to admit it.
- Bisexuals are defined by their current partner.

Societal Norms, Phobias, and “isms”
- Biphobia vs. Homophobia
- Heterosexism
- Heteronormality
The Takeaway
- Be educated
- Listen
- Ask questions
- Meet students where they are
- Don’t be afraid that you have to have all the answers
- Dedicate yourself to the actions of an Ally
- Be a referral agent

Resources
- Commission for LGBTQ+ Advising and Advocacy Resources Page

THE IDENTITY SPECTRUM
This graph is a fun exercise to help one understand that Sex, Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sexual Orientation does not have to be black and white as both the Heteronormative/Disgender Society around us (AMA Straight People) and the LGBT Community ascribe to be – find your own identity with this exercise and sincerely explore who YOU are and challenge the stereotypes of Gender and Sexual Orientation. Simply draw a line that best identifies along these spectrums.

SEX

<-------------------------------------------------------->  
Female       Intersex       Male

GENDER IDENTITY

<-------------------------------------------------------->  
Woman      Genderqueer      Man

GENDER EXPRESSION

<-------------------------------------------------------->  
Feminine      Androgynous      Masculine

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

<-------------------------------------------------------->  
Attracted to Male Bisexual Pansexual Attracted to Female Asexual

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