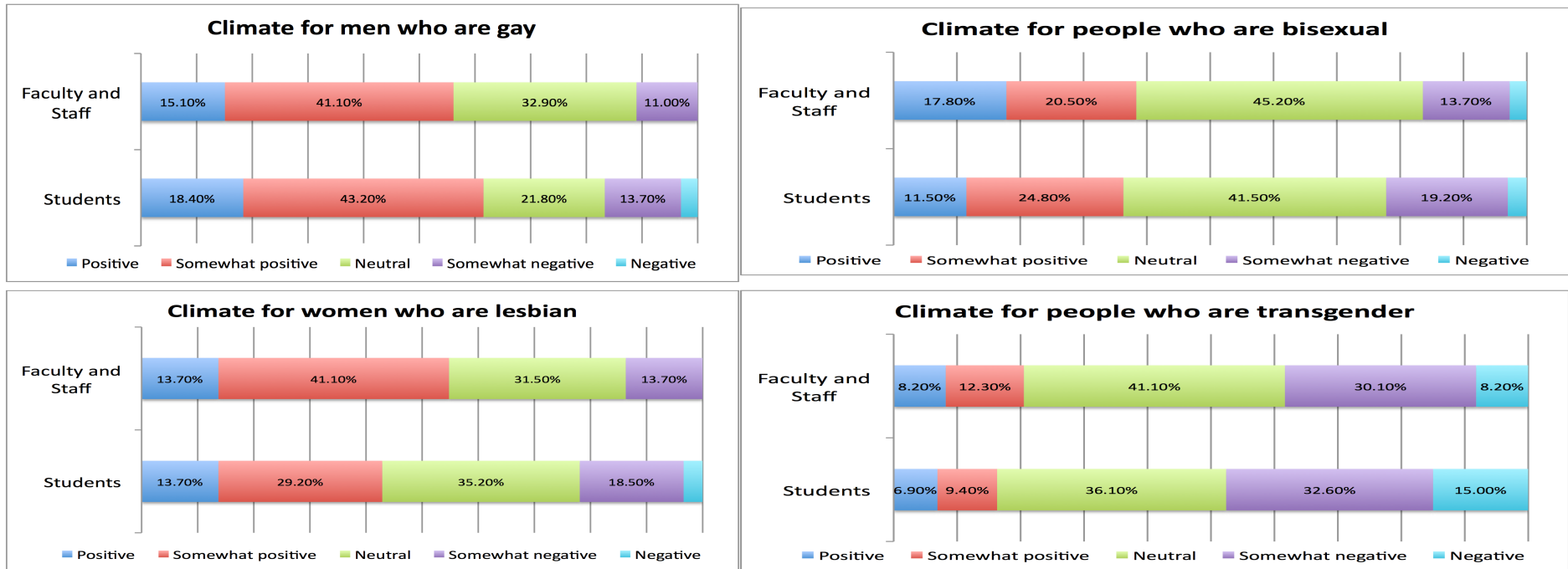


# Illinois Wesleyan University 2013 LGBT Campus Climate Survey Overview

Matthew Damschroder, Assistant Dean of Students for Campus Life  
and

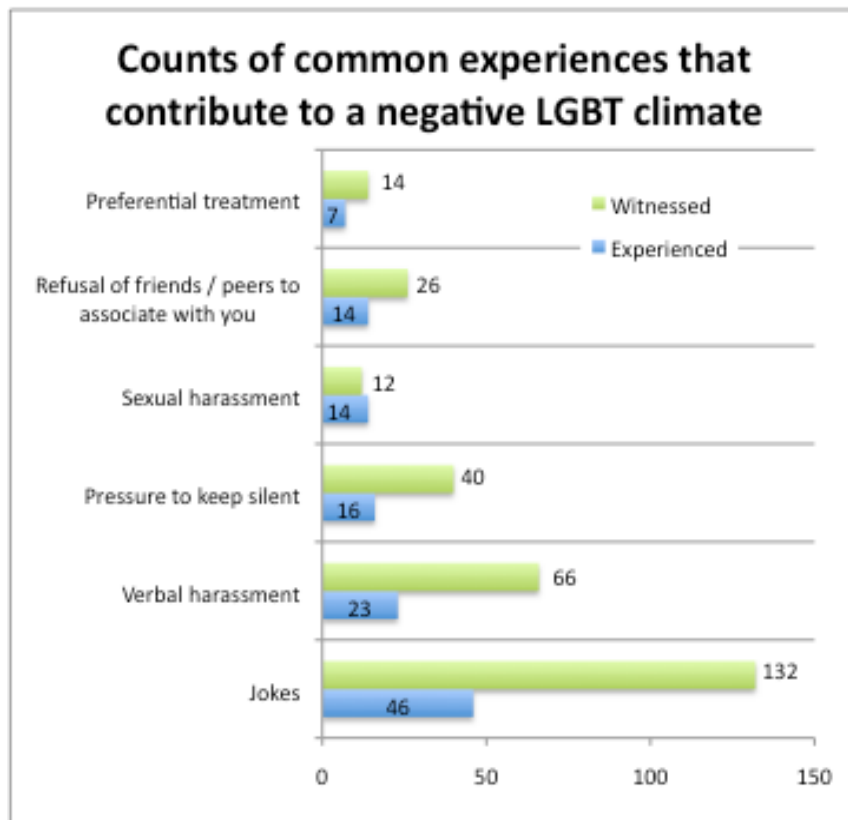
Tim Reardanz, Class of 2015

# General Campus Environment for LGBT Persons



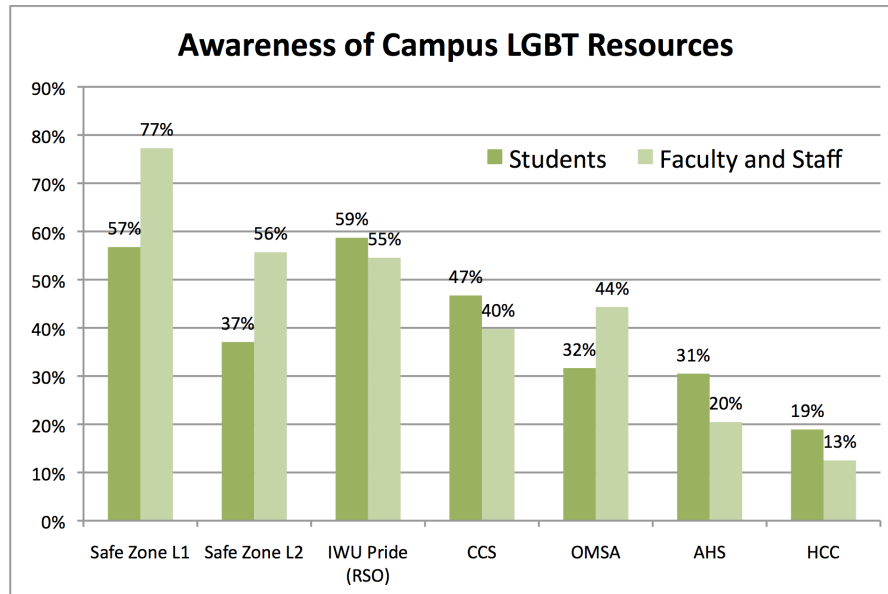
- LGBTs rate the campus climate less accepting than heterosexual peers.
- Among LGBT student participants, first-year LGBTs find the campus climate to be least accepting, compared to upper-division LGBTs.
- Among LGBT student participants, those who identify as white find the campus climate for LGBT people more accepting than MALANA peers.

# Experiences that contribute to a negative climate



- “I’m straight, but friends openly use phrases like ‘faggot’ in daily conversation,”
- “I think overall gays, lesbians, and bisexuals are better understood here than any other community I know of that’s integrated with LGBT and straight individuals. However, I think transgender individuals have to live in hiding in fear of ridicule, persecution, and embarrassment.”
- “People are way too sensitive on this campus. IWU is extremely accepting of LGBT individuals.”
- “I walk through the halls and campus holding hands with my girlfriend. We, as two females together, are stared at, laughed at, and hear jokes or offhanded comments about it.”

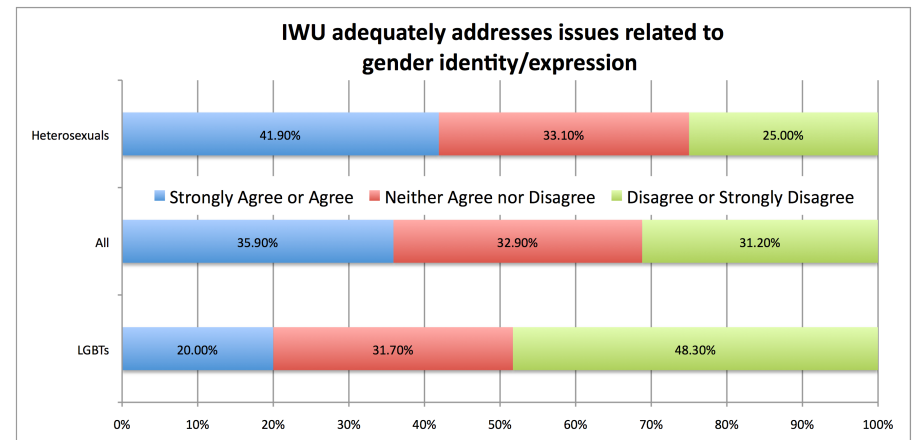
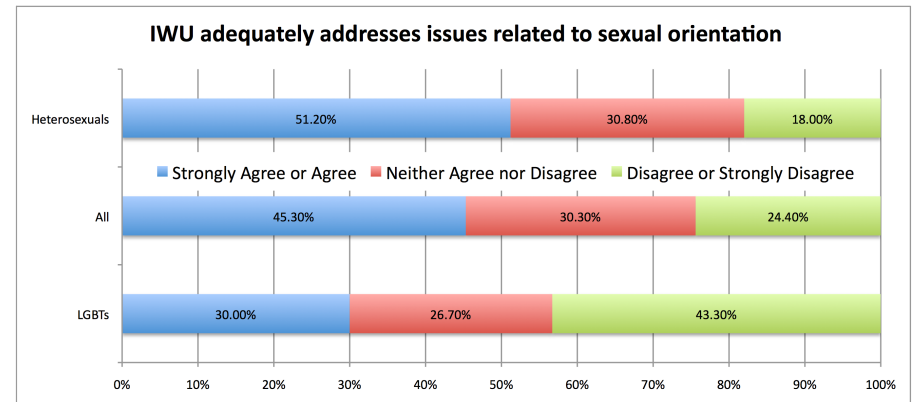
# LGBT Resources and Supports



- Of all respondents, 54% of student respondents (and 37% of faculty and staff respondents) agreed or strongly agreed that LGBT resources and organizations are adequately publicized at IWU, while 21% (23%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- LGBT student participants were less likely than heterosexual peers, by a statistically significant margin, to agree that resources are adequately publicized.

# Addressing sexual orientation and gender identity as an institution

- “Diversity on this campus means ethnicity. One rarely, if ever hears diversity as supporting, recognizing, or even addressing our LGBTQ+ needs.”
- “the people that do not attend awareness events are the ones that discriminate the most. It would be good to include some sort of seminar, similar to gateway class, for freshman to take to give more perspective and acceptance—not only to LGBTQ but for race and privilege as well.”
- “[I don’t] believe that such a course is necessary in higher education. This is an awareness and respect issue and having a course about such an issue would not add value to the students learning.”



# The role of men and masculinity

- “at the moment it’s very difficult to be LGBT in athletics and Greek Life. While certain sports (like Track) and certain fraternities (like Acacia) have done well at handling it, others are alarmingly lacking.”
- “as a pansexual woman, men who are aware of my sexual orientation often pressure me to make out with other girls for their own pleasure. They do not understand that my identity is not for their own exploitation or enjoyment, and this makes me feel highly discouraged to be myself”

To better understand how men and masculinity intersect with a campus climate welcoming to differences in gender and sexuality, more assessment needs to be done that explores attitudes and assumptions of these cultural actors, with a focus on highly masculinized spaces, such as those within fraternities and athletics.