Peer-Led Team Learning International Society
Eleventh Annual Conference
University of Houston Downtown, Houston, Texas
Wednesday – Saturday
May 31-June 3, 2023



Keynote Presentation: Thursday, June 1, 2023 Safety for Diverse Students in Educational Environments: How Can PLTL Bridge Gaps and Promote Equity?

Social determinants of learning have a profound effect on one's ability to meet personal and academic goals. Moreover, the theory of intersectionality posits that our identities and social positions intertwine and overlap to influence the power or oppression we experience in society. Learning to create safe and brave spaces to nourish the aptitude of peers and reduce barriers to individual and group learning and growth is no small feat. Join our valued alum, as we discuss strategies to promote, maintain, and evaluate safety and equity for a diverse student populace.

Athena D.F. Sherman, PhD PHN, RN, CNE, (xe/they/she;

First Gen) is an Assistant Professor at Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Throughout their educational journey, Dr. Sherman spent many years as a PLTL leader at San Jose City College and later brought the PLTL model to San Jose State University where they ran the Tutoring Center through the Educational Opportunity Program. Dr. Sherman's research focuses on examining how complex systems of racism, cisgenderism, and heterosexism influence health and health equity for racial, ethnic, sexual, and gender minoritized populations. Dr. Sherman seeks to lift the voices of LGBTQ+ violence survivors and co-create a foundation of research to improve LGBTQ+ healthcare delivery, with a focused lens on the impacts of stigma on psychological distress among transgender and gender diverse people violence survivors. Additionally, their educational research focuses on improving the inclusion of LGBTQ+ health content in nursing curricula locally and nationally. This work is all made possible through Dr. Sherman's community driven, interdisciplinary, and multi-institutional research team, which brings together community stakeholders, community-based partners, clinical partners, academic partners, and researchers across the nation.



