

Shaila Ramos Garcia Transcript (Monday June 24th 2024):

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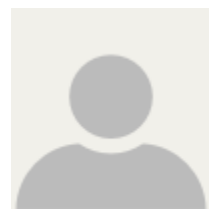
Shaila Ramos-García's Personal Meeting Room- Shared screen with speaker view

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Audio Transcript

Chat Messages

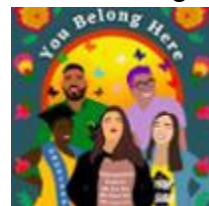


Matt Piasecki

00:03

Hey? My name is Matthew Paisaki, and I am an intern with the California History center. It is June 24, th 12 0. 5, and I'm here

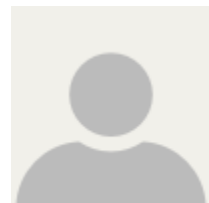
- to interview about the interviewing among the history of the Pride Center. Would you go ahead and give us your name and your preferred pronouns.



Shaila Ramos-García

00:21

Tyler, Ramos Garcia, she her a yeah.



Matt Piasecki

00:26

And then what are your, what roles do you have, or have you had? At Deanza.



Shaila Ramos-García

00:31

At the answer. Well, I may. I'm an alumni. So I was a student 1st for most from the years of 2,009 to 2013 at that time. We co-founded half us. So I was the student administrator for 2 years. For half us. I was also a president of a student club called Imax

- After that, after I graduated 2014. I was
- a administrative assistant for the Intercultural Intercultural Intercultural International Studies Division.
- just for a summer. And then in 2018, I was the program coordinator for the Jmrr. Which was stood for the Jane Miller resource room
- which led the work regarding Lgbtq and women. Sexuality as well.
- so that's I did that for one year.
- And then I came back more recently in 2021. in this role that I have now, which is the undocumented student support coordinator and undocument coordinator.



Matt Piasecki

02:01

Okay? Great.

- So what do you? What Lgbtqia plus eventual organizing efforts? Have you been a part of at Deenza?
- I know you mentioned the gmail, or resource.



Shaila Ramos-García

02:11

Yeah, yes. So when I was involved in genuine resource room

- we did the the query now, which is awesome. So I took the approach of

- working with a class and having student leaders organize the conference. So that was pretty awesome. So that's 1 of the things that we worked on. We had had, of course, other programming and projects during that year as well.
- But that's cus. That's
- that's part of what you know, what's part of my role. Is doing programming. And and that was part of the office of equity.
- which, of course, is no longer part of the office of equity. Not separate.
- So that's kind of a little bit of
- of what I did. Just leading conversations. The center itself was
- the woman's Gender and sexualities center. And so it was not necessarily solely focused on Lgbtq.
- What we did, some programming around that some conversations and events.
- Which is lavender grad, of course, and that's kind of like where the Lgbtq space lived in as far as programming. Of course there were student clubs as well. But we also, like, you know, did particular programming. I want around women, and around like general, like gender sexualities. We did trainings things like that.
- See? Ya.



Matt Piasecki

03:49

Are there any other roles that you've undertaken in the Lgbtqi plus organizing efforts in on the Dnsa campus.



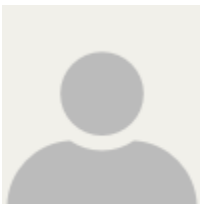
Shaila Ramos-García

03:56

Yes.

- I have been involved for the last 3 years. In as far as committees. Currently, I am the lead for the campus equity. Lgbtq Equity Committee.
- So that's composed of staff and faculty, and we work on different projects.
- Let me bring up the notes now, and I could tell you the projects that we have been working on. One of them is all gender restrooms. Which is in the process of getting done. Some of the restrooms are going to be under construction or are under construction. We're also, you know, trying to get the handsome Campus Center restrooms to be

- officially and permanently all gender restrooms. As of now. They only have allowed us to do it when we have particular events.
- But we want to keep that, you know, permanent. We do fundraising as well for scholarships
- for fellowships, and and and for the Lab Undergrad
- as well as supporting Jamie and during training. So I have a lot of experience with undocumented Allied trainings which I started back in 2018. And so I'm using some of the
- I'm helping Jamie with using some of you know.
- the process that we've used in our docky ally to support her in getting that started
- as well. But that's largely her and her curriculum. So we're just supporting that
- we're also wanting to create more inclusivity regarding human sexuality and culture anthropology courses, and how they teach. Regarding Lgbtq history or our our current. You know news as well. We have heard from students that it's sometimes outdated, or they don't use the right
- you know words to identify certain folks, etc. And so we're wanting to kind of look into that and see like
- you know who and what certification, or what training folks get that teach homosexuality courses?
- So you know, as far as some of the projects that we're currently working on and of anything we're having to do with Lgbtq plus
- communities and equity, we would take on in this particular subcommittee, which is partner, part of the larger committee of kind of an Affinity group
- for Lgbtq. Staff and Faculty.



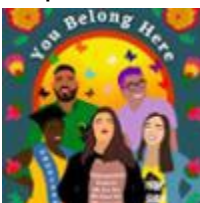
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Matt Piasecki

06:55

Okay, that's excellent.

- that's a lot of that's a lot of different programs that's really awesome.
- let me ask, focus more specifically on the Pride center. What kind of work did you do to help in this sort of in the formation and the creation of that.



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Shaila Ramos-García

07:10

I mean, I, personally, didn't do much honestly. Other than like the work that I had done before in the Jmrr. As far as programming, and how that you know that account support. Set the stage. That as far as like making that happen. That was all. I think Alicia Cortez other administrators.

- At that time when that was happening, I was not working on on this campus necessarily. When when you know when that was getting started. So
- yeah, I kind of missed out those years when I was in Jmrr. Then I left.
- Then I came back, and then the price center, you know, kind of got started at that time, and they found funding for it. So any work that I did, you know was not intentionally for that cause. I didn't know that was gonna happen when I came back. That was, to my, you know, surprise. And I was really happy and
- and excited that, that that we're gonna have a pride center. And then we had funding for it. And so some of the stuff that I had worked on before, or like programming. That was part of the Jmr. That whole program kind of, you know.
- does not exist anymore. And so all of that kind of moved
- into the Pride Center programming.



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Matt Piasecki

08:35

Sounds foundational, I would say the word. It sounds like the work you did was very foundational, too.

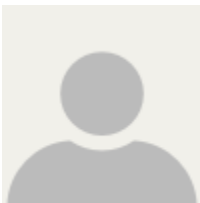


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Shaila Ramos-García

08:38

Yeah, yeah.



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Matt Piasecki

08:39

Or the call center. Yeah.

- If you feel comfortable, would you be willing to speak on any pushback from outside influences
- to either? You know the the work you were doing at the time, or the work you've seen since.



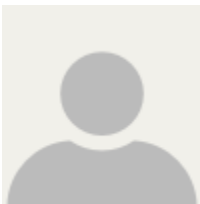
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Shaila Ramos-García

08:54

I mean, I know it took a really long time to get funding for the Pride Center, and so I would say, that's been an overall struggle with this campus

- that we've seen, not only with, like.
- you know, women studies and Lgbtq like Pride Center, but even also with my work regarding undocumented students.
- Getting funding from the the college.
- It's always a struggle. And I wish it wasn't. I wish it was easier, and I wish that they would see
- the real need. And now they have right. I feel like there's a huge
- and and continuing continuous growing community of students
- that really see the price center as home as a safe space
- as a space where they can really be themselves. And I think that's becoming very apparent, like the the need.
- Well, the need that was missing that space that was missing for such a long time.
- I think we're seeing it cleanly, that how much it is needed? And to have these kinds of programs you really do need sustainable funding. Which I know is always difficult for institutions. But I you know I I wish that we were more seen in that need by the district and by the institution as a whole.



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Matt Piasecki

10:28

Absolutely, you know, I wanna ask. And

- obviously, you want to be careful to attribute too much
- agency to people who don't know. But I want to ask, do you think that

- the the sort of the dragging with funding
- do you think that was maliciously driven? Do you think there was there. Do you think there was ill intent there, or do you think that's just like the the wheels of of you know the wheels of things moving slowly.



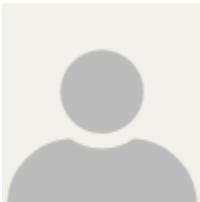
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Shaila Ramos-García

10:54

No, I don't think there was malintent there at all. I think that's just how things

- part of it is. You know how the institutions work. It's the bureaucracies of it.
- The other part which I was
- alluding to was.
- we need people in power to speak for our needs
- right. And and that's, I think, slow.
- And that's why things take forever. But if people that had the power would push
- our needs, you know, more consistently. More intentionally. Maybe we would have
- had funding.
- you know.
- a long time ago.
- Yeah.



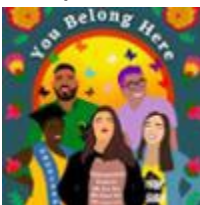
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Matt Piasecki

11:47

Fully

- Let me ask, because part of what we want to do is is sort of create a timeline of of this can you speak at all to what you feel like? Is the timeline of the organization, the organizing on campus as far as the Lgbtqi community.



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Shaila Ramos-García

12:05

I know there was a group like 30 years ago. And I believe

- I
- have may have that history somewhere.
- Let me see if I could look it up.
- I see it
- looks like not perhaps, but
- cause. I give an interview about this, and I have, you know, my notes regarding the whole.
- What I've been doing, Research Shawn.
- But if I find it I'll send it to you for sure, Matt.



Matt Piasecki

12:39

Yeah, absolutely. Actually, I sort of. I sort of related to that we'd love if you have any. You know, artifacts, images, historical photos, anything like that you'd be willing to share, we would, we would absolutely appreciate it.



Shaila Ramos-García

12:50

Great.

- I think I have.
- But as far as that there was something like a few years ago I mean, a few years ago, 30 years ago. That's kind of started this work that was composed of faculty and staff. Of course, it's always been student work.
- Being done.
- Yeah, let me see if I can find it. Oh, I think here it is.
- Okay. If I I'll share my screen. So it appears on your your recording
- but this is kind of like I did some digging around.
- and that's some folks.
- So the late eighties and 2,000, the team that the
- team, composed of faculty and staff was gay. Leave
- gay lesbian employees and friends.
- They worked on benefits, advocacy for domestic partners. That's that was one of the big things that they, you know, got started

- and then, as far as I know, I know when I wasn't, you know, involved ish
- around 2015, 2016. That's when the Jamie resource room for women and gender sexualities got started, and that was pushed by students that I went to school with Anita and Rachel they advocated for women Gender Sexuality Center.
- other Professor Julie Lewis
- will, writes the 1st Lgbtq class with the support object side and Sydney Kaufman. Around this time as well, and 2019 to 2020
- was the Women Gender Sexuality Center Advisory Council.
- And then at this point the Jmr. Is renamed Women and Gender Sexuality Center.
- In 2022 we have the LGBT Community Affinity group that I was talking about.
- Our mission is to ensure that de Anza College is addressing the needs of our diverse Lgbtq plus community through increased recognition, support, and resources in order to create a safer campus environment for our community.
- and then in fall 2022 is when the price center starts and so we kind of restarted the Lgbtq Lgbtq affinity group under the Pride center or under the leadership of
- Jamie but Lucy, of course, with like the price center being at the center of it as well.
- So.



Matt Piasecki

15:22

Like you so much for this. This is totally awesome.



Shaila Ramos-García

15:24

Yeah, right? Yeah. So I'll send this to you for sure. So that's kind of like.



Matt Piasecki

15:29

Anything, recently.

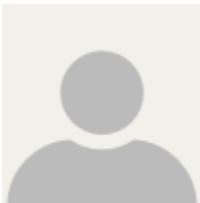


Shaila Ramos-García

15:30

This was a.

- This presentation was a presentation, I believe. For this affinity group, right? So we wanted to give some background of like what has been done. We were calling it the Employee Advocacy group at that time.
- Let's see what else is here. The here are the goals of the Advisory group.
- and like the expectations, here are the subcommittees. So I'm part of this one. The campus equity efforts. We also have Lgbtq employee support
- which they work on. Hr. Processes like name, change gender markers, etc. They do community building HD, box spaces.
- Transgmc spaces.
- and then the Price Center Event support group because.
- we wanted Jamie to have support from faculty and staff
- and other students as well to support the programming of the Price Center, including the Lavender graduation, including queer now. And any Q. 2 events.
- That's kind of the 3 subcommittees that exist under this bigger Lgbtq affinity group.
- And and that was part of
- getting, you know.
- Helping Jamie
- organize how we were going to approach this myself and Marita and Jamie were part of that original
- group more recently, to kind of get this. This started. So last year was actually our 1st year of this new attempt of the Affinity group, because previously we just had low capacity.
- But now it's been a whole year with these subcommittees, and I think it's been really successful.



Matt Piasecki

17:29

That is really. And I again, I really appreciate the

- the the the resources. It's very cool.

- Are you still in? And and speaking of, are you still in contact with any of these student organizers from the path for currently.



-

Shaila Ramos-García

17:43

I can get in contact with them. I think I think I might have them on my social medias, but I don't. Necessarily.

- I haven't talked to them in a really long time.



-

Matt Piasecki

17:53

Related question. If you know anyone who who would be willing to talk to us, that would you know that we could, as we as we sort of grow this project.



-

Shaila Ramos-García

18:01

Okay? Sure, yeah, yeah, I will. I will definitely see if I can get in contact with them and give them your email.

- See if they would be available for an interview.



-

Matt Piasecki

18:12

Let me ask in your mind who are the key figures involved with the Lgbtia plus activism on the danza campus during your time there.



-

Shaila Ramos-García

18:21

People that stand out to me.

- I mean Jackie Lissa would be one of them that she's old school, Tesla caparas Francesca ak chesa horse, Jamie, Roseanne. As well.
- Those are one of the top folks that I can think of as of now, Julie Lewis for Veronica.
- Louis? I think so. Nothing, too. They're married.
- yeah, that's the folks I can think of as of now.



Matt Piasecki

19:07

And my last question is, are there any left or known stories that you'd that you said stand out to you on as far as this, you know, organizing on campus, the creation, the price center, the general resource room. Any of that.



Shaila Ramos-García

19:20

Well, I know one thing that was a concern as the price Center took off that the piece regarding the woman

- the woman part kinda got let go right like, because I think there the
- the organizing from the students, to advocate for the women and gender sexuality center
- they were really
- the. They kind of started it right, because I think the Pride center came out of that organizing as well. Right? So
- that was the intention to include Lgbtq within that right? That's why the gender and sexuality piece specifically.
- But I think, as
- time went on, now, it's more, of course, focus on
- Lgbtq, plus which, of course, includes women, obviously. But the particular programming regarding women had kinda got lost. I know there was some intention. I I think there's a center, but I don't know if there's still it, you know, like there's been rumors or things that I've heard regarding that there's low capacity for a
- a pro coordinator, you know, or a faculty director or whatnot to kind of leave that work. I'm not clear whether it's still existing or not. I've heard that it's at the Mc. At the Mcc.

- Potentially. The. They were gonna use an office of a professor who does not using their office anymore. But I don't know that's happening or it's happened. I don't think so. I haven't heard anything. So that's the only piece that I I think, is missing in the history right like that. It was started by these students with that intentionality. And then, now it's like Pride Center. But like this piece around the woman
- center kind of got lost, and not that organizing.



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Matt Piasecki

21:25

That's that's really unfortunate. And I think that that is absolutely important to to call out.



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Shaila Ramos-García

21:30

Yeah.



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Matt Piasecki

Well, awesome. I think. I think that is that that's everything. I have. Thank you again, Sheila, for taking the time to speak to us.

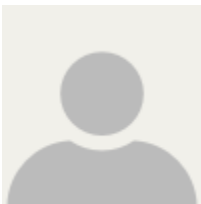


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Shaila Ramos-García

21:38

Of course you're welcome.



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Matt Piasecki

21:43

And then if you can cut the recording, and then I guess it's you have to say.