

# SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK PRESENTS:

## LGBTQ+ Advocacy and Support Within the Community

### AT A GLANCE

The purpose of this presentation is to offer a deeper understanding about the importance of diversity, inclusion, equality, equity, and justice for the LGBTQ community and how inequality impacts us all. The course will also provide you with knowledge and insight about gender, sexual orientation, the "coming out process", how to become an ally and the stigma that significantly impacts the LGBTQ community and culture. You will walk away with deeper empathy, best practices, and tools to bring to your communities and organizations to make our world more inclusive for all.

#### Date

Friday, May 19, 2023  
9:00am - 12:00pm

#### Location

GVSU - Bicycle Factory  
Room: BIK 230  
201 Front SW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

#### REGISTER

Visit [www.gvsu.edu/swce](http://www.gvsu.edu/swce)

**CE  
Credit**

3.0

**Cost**

\$49



## SPEAKERS

**Alexa Sorensen**, LMSW, BCN, has over a decade of experience in the field of social work within the for-profit and non-profit sectors. She has a true passion for both the micro and macro blend within the field. Alexa has a wealth of experience which includes work in philanthropy, volunteer coordinating, professional mentorship and leadership, clinical therapy, advocacy and policy work, and neuro and bio feedback. Alexa is currently an adjunct professor at GVSU, teaching field seminar and community work with LGBTQ+ classes for both MSW and BSW students. She also recently founded the new telehealth company, Reflective Psychological Services, LLC. She serves on her alma mater alumni board for Finlandia University and plays ice hockey in her free time.

**Jeffrey Sorensen** is a leader in the west Michigan non-profit and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) fields. Currently, he is an assistant branch manager for Lake Michigan Credit Union, but most recently was the first executive director for Out On The Lakeshore, a Holland-based LGBTQ+ Center. In this role Jeffrey was instrumental in the City passing a comprehensive non-discrimination ordinance, earning him the City of Holland's 2020 Social Justice Award. He is a Grand Valley State University graduate with a degree in advertising and public relations and also earned a certificate in DEI in the Workplace through the University of Southern Florida. Jeffrey's work has been recognized in several local, regional, and national publications. He currently volunteers his time as a consultant for several non-profit organizations focused on DEI and LGBTQ+ advocacy.

## OBJECTIVES

- Become more familiar with LGBTQ+ culture and understand the importance of inclusion
- Become an effective ally within your organization and community
- Analyze and learn how to create policies within your organization to foster better inclusion

*Grand Valley State University School of Social Work, an accredited social work education program, is authorized by Administrative Rule 338.2965 to award Michigan social work continuing education contact hours.*