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06. Professional Teacher Education

Northeastern State University

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Abstracts from the 2016 Oklahoma Research Day

Held at Northeastern State University

02. Education and Professional Studies

06. Professional Teacher Education

02.06.01 LGBTQ and You: Developing Retention Strategies for Students in the LGBTQ+ Community

Robinson, Cody *Northeastern State University*

Thurman, Hailey *Northeastern State University*

One vital role of the higher education administrator is to retain students at their home institutions. In order to enrich students' experiences in college, administrators must constantly adapt and refine vital knowledge and skills in retention strategies to improve the quality of their students' lives. However, it is clear and reinforced by contemporary research that LGBTQ students struggle to stay in higher education. This ongoing research in retention for LGBTQ students help frame, model and assess the skills and programs needed to retain students of this underserved population.

02.06.02 Standing Room Only: The Crematory Debate

Spomer, Jaclyn *University of Central Oklahoma*

Fritch, Dr John *University of Central Oklahoma*

This study explored the controversy over a proposal to construct a crematorium in Bethany, Oklahoma. Bethany is a small suburb in central Oklahoma located northwest of Oklahoma City. Mercer-Adams Funeral Service, a well-respected and established business in the community, submitted a proposal to the city council that centered on rezoning property that was already owned by the funeral home. Once approved, it was the intent of Mercer-Adams Funeral Home to construct an additional facility that included a crematory. A group of citizens, who opposed the construction of a crematory, had surfaced by the end of 2014. By June of 2015, the group had successfully mobilized resources and fiercely resisted the proposal. The antagonism launched by the community group eventually led Mercer Adams to withdraw their proposal. This research documents the growing controversy between competing interests within the theoretical framework of collective behavior. Data was drawn from the city's website, media accounts, and in-depth interviews. A timeline was developed to understand the manner in which the protesting group mobilized resources that would eventually frame the issue in the media as, among other things, a "health hazard."