



UNC CHARLOTTE

The Multicultural Resource Center

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend Jessica Pettitt as a speaker and facilitator. Jessica Pettitt came to UNC Charlotte in North Carolina to offer two days of training for a program entitled "Transgender Inclusion in Charlotte Institutions of Higher Education." Over the course of two days she offered nine different workshops and discussions on transgender inclusion in higher education including discussions about facilities, recreational services, housing, and classroom management. Pettitt presented to faculty, staff, students, and community members. In addition she offered a training entitled "Social Justice, When Diversity Isn't Enough" to a smaller group of undergraduate students.

Jessica Pettitt is a phenomenal speaker! She was able to discuss a very difficult and sensitive topic with many layers of complexity in a way that made it interesting, easy to understand and impactful. She was able to meet the needs of a very diverse audience that included everyone from full tenured faculty, to first-year college students, to Assistant Vice Chancellors, and community partners. She offered information that was extremely well researched, provided materials to continue the conversation, and incorporated in personal stories of change and social justice.

There are no words to express the impact that Pettitt has made on our campus. Discussions about including gender neutral locker rooms in a proposed Rec Center, offering gender neutral housing, recreating forms and documents to offer more than the gender binary options, and addressing the needs of transgender students are now being discussed in multiple offices. One undergraduate transman student noted, "I felt that finally someone was noticing I existed instead of pretending I was a figment of their imagination." Pettitt made real, lasting change at UNC Charlotte.

In my opinion, that lasting change is a sign of a great speaker. Through Pettitt's discussions, research, and presentations we were able to better understand our campus, our students, and how we can make change. She inspired people to examine their own biases and the bias that exists in our policies and procedures; which is no easy task! Pettitt approached all of this from a perspective of love and understanding, which made her likeable, fun, and approachable. It is a combination of all these aspects that make Jessica Pettitt a truly extraordinary speaker and I would highly recommend her as a speaker.

Sincerely,

Ted Lewis

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210 Student Union

