**Lesson:**  **“Uncommonly Good Community Contributions”**

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Suggested Grades: K through 12

*(Free and for educational purposes only)*

*All lessons must be age and developmentally appropriate and open communication is encouraged with both parents/guardians and your site administrator. Include appropriate modifications for the group of students you currently serve to meet their needs and developmental level***.**

**Rationale:**

The Fair Education Act (SB 48) requires the teaching of LGBT history with a special emphasis on contemporary society. Our communities are rich with the contributions of LGBTQ individuals who work and contribute to a strong and vibrant community and society. When discussing the history of LGBT with students, remember to include the contributions of present day, local members of the LGBTQ community who work to make the world a better place. They might even be persuaded to visit your classrooms to share their knowledge in their areas of expertise.

\*This lesson is especially powerful for students who think they’ve never met a member of the LGBTQ community.

**Objective:**

Students will notice and discern that LGBTQ people are not only found in history, but will discover that LGBTQ people contribute to our society in myriad ways in roles that include professions such as: artists, teachers, principals, doctors, lawyers, computer engineers, business owners, firefighters, mental health professionals, writers, police officers, clergy, nurses, moms, dads, grandparents, mentors, volunteers, news reporters, yoga instructors, athletes, entertainers and many other professions and roles within our community.

**Ideas:**

1. This lesson can be approached via research & inquiry with the use of Internet resources and/or printed out materials supplied by the teacher, parent/guardian volunteer or students.

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1. Since these people live locally, they may be available to speak to classes about their profession and work and give demonstrations of their craft, such as writing. Students would have an opportunity to meet and speak with these professionals, but also discover that members of the LGBTQ community are making positive impacts for the larger community everyday.

**\*The following list is comprised of some local Sacramento area LGBTQ community members making a difference daily. Their names and professions appear with their permission.**

**Jennie Reiken,** Youth Outreach Worker for the Children’s Receiving Home of Sacramento, works with LGBT & homeless youth ages 12-25, Suicide Prevention

**Patricia M. Ianni**, Database Administrator, Engineering Company

**Nicola Simmersbach,** PsyD, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (fighting for all marriages!)

**Jovi Radtke,** Writer, Activist

**Lieutenant Jennifer Ikemoto**, California Department of Fish & Game

**Kim Zeltvay,** Vice Principal, San Juan Unified School District

**Ben Hudson**, Executive Director, Gender Health Center, Community Activist

**Rachel Pearman**, Grants and Contracts Specialist for WEAVE, Inc.

**Ken Pierce**, Activist, Public Relations Consultant, President EqualityActionNOW

**Melissa E. Bryden**, Mathematics Teacher, MA Education, Gender Studies

**Lori Vine**, Special Education Teacher, MA Special Education

**Joe Wood**, Instructional Technology Integration Specialist

**Melissa Murphy**, Police Officer

**Tina Reynolds**, Owner of Uptown Studios and Founder of EqualityActionNOW

**Paul Curtis**, Director of Development for Food Bank of Yolo County, Co-Founder of Capital City AIDS Fund

**Stevie Long**, Fire Captain, CAL FIRE-Amador, El Dorado Unit

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**Diana Luiz,** Portugese American activist for equality

**Ms. Vihil H. Vigil,** MBA Business Womyn Extraordinaire, Photographer, Equal Rights Activist, Native American Two Spirit

**Chris Packey,** HIV Education & Prevention, Activist, H.E.R.O. (Human & Equal Rights Orgranizer)

**Ted Lindstrom**, local attorney

**Toni Curtis,** CA State employee, aspiring author and entrepeneur

**Robin Gunning,** SDC/ED Teacher, QSA Advisor, activist for the Vagina Monologues & Women Take Back the Night

**Carrie Jett,** Asst. Deputy Secretary of State, Voter Outreach and Education

**Nichole DeVore,** Educator SCUSD, female co-chair NEA/GLBT Caucus, Activist

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