

Summer Institute - July 12, 2011

When Words Become Weapons: Educational Perspectives and Legal Parameters

Pace University School of Education and Pace Law School

invite you to a

day of presentations and discussion designed for teachers, parents, school administrators, student support professionals, staff of community based organizations, attorneys, and others concerned about emotional safety in our schools and communities.

➤ **Session C: Reduction of Stigma in Schools (RSIS): A professional development curriculum for educators, Elizabeth Payne, Ph.D.**

RSIS is an innovative research-based program that brings training and professional resources into schools to help teachers, counselors, administrators and all other school employees meet the challenges of creating supportive environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth and the children of LGBTQ parents. Founded by Dr. Elizabeth Payne in 2006, RSIS seeks to actively create opportunities for dialogue and change around the issues facing LGBTQ youth in K-12 schools and to bridge the gap between research and practice. This presentation will include several core components of the professional development model, which provides educators with tools and knowledge to make LGBTQ identities visible in the school environment, challenge structures that marginalize students who do not conform to the heterosexual norm, and create strategies for school-wide efforts to end physical and verbal harassment. The presentation will also address school administrators' role in establishing a culture where all members of the community can feel secure in the school's commitment to provide a safe and affirming learning environment for every student.

May be of special interest to school and district leaders and teachers.

About the presenter: Elizabeth C. Payne, Ph.D. is an assistant professor in The Cultural Foundations of Education Department at Syracuse University and an affiliate of the LGBT Studies Program. She is also Director of QuERI – The Queering Education Research Institute (www.queeringeducation.org) at Syracuse University School of Education. As a sociologist of education, she specializes in qualitative research methodology, critical theory, youth culture, and LGBTQ youth. Her research interests include the life histories of adolescent lesbians, experiences of LGBTQ youth in schools, adolescent discourses of sexuality, and educators' responses to LGBTQ professional development.

**Tuesday, July 12, 2011, 9:00 – 3:00 Pace University Graduate Center,
One Martine Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606**

Institute fee: \$75 (Register by June 15th - \$65) Students free
Two CLE credits available for attorneys, at no extra charge

Register online at www.pace.edu/SummerInstitute

For program details visit: www.pace.edu/school-of-education, or contact: sdunn@pace.edu
(914-773-3872).