Ujamaa Preassignment 2015
#BlackTransLivesMatter: Black transgender incarceration & activism

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Gender: Woman
Hall Preference: Lower A
Quarter Preference: No preference
Previous Residences: Cedro, Chi Theta Chi, Synergy

Brief Summary
My proposal for an Ujamaa theme presentation focuses on black transgender experiences in the United States, with a spotlight on policing and the prison industrial complex. I hope to explore some key challenges faced by black transgender people, provide examples of black transgender activism in the Bay Area and across the states, and have a discussion of ways that black trans organizing principles could be beneficial to other activist movements. I intend for this presentation to be accessible to those with limited previous knowledge of transgender issues.

Desired learning outcomes
I hope participants, at the end of the program:
- Can define "transgender" and "gender non-conforming"
- Can articulate the challenges trans (and specifically black trans) people face in regards to policing and the prison industrial complex
- Know the story of CeCe McDonald
- Know some of the organizations in the United States whose work centers on the experience of black trans people.
- Understand how centering the experience of black trans people, and other trans people of color, can contribute to activist movements for collective liberation.
- Have identified strategies for trans inclusion in spaces at Stanford and at home.

Motivations
This week, as part of Transgender Awareness Week, Stanford Students for Queer Liberation and the NAACP Criminal Justice Committee brought for the third year in a row the Transgender Gender-variant Intersex Justice Project (TGIJP), an activist organization based in San Francisco which provides re-entry services to trans people leaving the prison system. Working with them, and gaining more insight into the specific experiences of black transgender people, has made me eager to share some of the insights I have learned over the past three years at the intersection of racial justice activism, trans issues, and the prison industrial complex. I believe this presentation would offer a unique angle on the #BlackLivesMatter movement. Further, I do not see this as a one-way dissemination of knowledge; I know that I would learn a lot by doing this presentation with Ujamaa scholars and others in the Ujamaa community, and that together we could come to a deeper understanding of how this intersection of identities and oppression has implications for everyone in our country and society.
**Detailed agenda**

- (5 minutes) An introduction of myself, my background and interests. Audience introduction: turn to a partner and say your name, preferred gender pronouns, and what you know or do not about trans issues.

- (8 minutes) Power-point slide showing a diagram of the prison industrial complex (policing, intake, sentencing, prison life (gangs, solitary confinement), post-prison re-entry, etc.). Draw on audience answers and responses to fill in information about how black people are particularly disadvantaged within the prison industrial complex. Audience response and participation.

- (8 minutes) Go through the prison industrial complex diagram from the perspective of a trans person.
  - Turn to your partner and discuss which steps might be further complicated for a black trans person. What additional challenges would be faced?
  - Share back, filling in diagram with new information audience members come up with from the trans perspective.

- (8 minutes) Show the video trailer for the "CeCe McDonald Story," a documentary about CeCe, a black trans woman who was incarcerated in a men's prison after defending herself from a transphobic attack. After, showing the trailer, turn to a partner and discuss:
  - What emotions came up for you watching CeCe's story?
  - How did CeCe's racial identity play into this situation?
  - How did CeCe's gender identity play into this situation?

- (10 minutes) Black Trans activism: powerpoint presentation on two activist organizations which center transgender women of color: the Transgender Gender-variant Intersex Justice Project (TGIJP) in San Francisco, and the Audre Lorde Project (ALP) in New York City. Powerpoint will focus on:
  - How the organizations were born out of a response to white supremacy within the mainstream LGBT movement
  - Activities and initiatives of the two organizations
  - The mission statements and organizing principles of the organizations
  - How the organizations center intersectionality in their practices and use intersectionality to inform their priorities.

- (10 minutes) Reflection activity in groups of four:
  - What are some challenges faced by transgender people that are similar to challenges in your own community, or communities you are familiar with?
  - How is racial justice a central component of ALP and TGIJP? What would these organizations look like if they were not centered around racial justice?
  - Think about a community of yours at Stanford, or at home. What would it look like to make that community more racially inclusive? More gender inclusive? What are specific actions you can take to make those changes happen?

- (10 minutes) Questions for the presenter, group share-out
Publicity Plan
I would publicize my theme program through emails and a Facebook event. I would ask the following organizations to email along information about the theme program:

- Student Organizations: Stanford Students for Queer Liberation; the Queer Straight Alliance; Black and Queer at Stanford; NAACP; Black Student Union; the Women's Coalition
- Academic Programs: Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity; African & African American Studies; Feminist, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Sample Flyer: