



Dear review committee members,

The mission of the Q Center is to create a welcoming, accessible, and affirming space for LGBTQ+ members of our learning community. We are a resource center offering space for students to feel safe, connect, learn, advocate, and navigate the systems around them. Our center also offers training, technical assistance, and individual support for students across the university. Through our work, we support students and UW community members to create communities of care, healing, radical love, and liberation. We ground our work in reproductive, gender, and racial justice, building programs from these frameworks and care models.

The Q Center's EnGender Program meets a community need for life-affirming and accessible gender care items. This program not only provides low barrier, no cost products to people exploring their gender expression, but it also facilitates reproductive justice education and fosters community building through peer-led support services. Our community has a deep desire to connect and feel seen in the experiences of their bodies. EnGender acts as a pathway to wellbeing resources while validating community members' self-awareness and bodily autonomy. Thus, the model of our program inspires compassion and understanding while simultaneously building the resiliency and agency of the students who benefit from it. Our hope for this program is that trans and gender diverse people at the University of Washington will have enhanced access to gender affirming care in their everyday lives—beyond solely medical and/or legal systems of care.

As such, working with sexual justice educator Joie Waxler and curating a knowledgeable trans/non-binary program team, allows us to create wrap-around support structures centering reproductive justice and other models of care at the Q Center. This work continues to be integral to the social, emotional, and physical wellbeing of the trans and gender diverse members of the campus community we serve. We are excited for the opportunity to continue strengthening community connections, continuing to improve our service delivery, and fostering low barrier access to essential gender affirming care through this funding. The Q Center looks forward to sustaining this program with the support of the Resilience & Compassion SEED grant.

Sincerely,

Brennon Ham | they/any
Director, Q Center

Val Schweigert | they/she
Associate Director, Q Center