Northwestern University is the First Major University Campus In Chicago to Offer a Gender-neutral, Multi-stall Restroom

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS -- During Pride Month, the Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing (ISGMH) is thrilled to announce that Northwestern University is the first major university in Chicago to offer a gender-neutral, multi-stall restroom.

Francesca Gaiba, research associate professor of Medical Social Sciences and associate director of ISGMH, stated, “ISGMH is proud to be the first unit on the Northwestern campus to have a gender-neutral, multi-stall restroom, and to be a trailblazer in supporting civil and health equity.” She continued, “We hope to inspire other universities to do the same.”

Safe access to restrooms for transgender and gender nonconforming people has been cause of debate across the country. Lack of access can have negative effects on health and safety; it is important to take steps to remove barriers in order to reduce instances of harassment and threats of violence.

Northwestern University joins over 150 other universities and colleges in offering a safe space for individuals to use the restroom. Other universities have made strides in supporting the transgender and gender non-conforming community by offering single-stall, gender-neutral restrooms. ISGMH has taken this a step further by instating a multi-stall restroom that is open to people of all genders, however they may identify.

ISGMH and Northwestern University place the health and safety of their faculty, staff, and students as top priority and are thrilled to be a leader in the gender-neutral bathroom debate among universities in Chicago and the Midwest.
The Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing (ISGMH) was founded in 2015 as the first university-wide institute in the country focused exclusively on research to improve the health of the sexual and gender minority (SGM) community. ISGMH grew from director Dr. Brian Mustanski’s IMPACT LGBT Health and Development Program, which has been conducting state-of-the-art translational research with LGBT youth populations since 2008. Learn more at [http://isgmh.northwestern.edu](http://isgmh.northwestern.edu). Read the Truthout op-ed by Dr. Francesca Gaiba, “[Most People Have All-Gender Restrooms at Home. Why Not Have Them Everywhere?](http://isgmh.northwestern.edu)"