

Mesa students push for transgender bathrooms on community college campus

BY: Kim Tobin (mailto:kim.tobin@abc15.com)

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There's push on the Mesa Community College campus to try and make the transgendered community feel more comfortable when it comes to a basic need: Using a restroom.

The LGBTQ Alliance and the Association Students of MCC (ASMCC) drew up a petition calling for bathroom signs to be changed, along with more single-stall, family-style restrooms and certain stalls in men's and women's restrooms to be "gender inclusive."

"For someone who is transgender, going to the bathroom can be uncomfortable," Chris O'Conner, who is the Executive President of ASMCC, said.

O'Conner said it can be difficult to decide between the sex a transgender person was born in, what they identify as, and what other people see them as.

Under the plan the group has, a woman could be using the restroom and see, what she identifies as a man, using the "gender neutral" stall.

"There is a possibility it would be uncomfortable for both parties," O'Conner said.

A mother who attends the school said she would not feel comfortable with the idea of transgender bathrooms.

"Having children, I wouldn't feel safe if there was a man in there when my daughter is in the restroom," she said.

But other students said they would be open to the idea.

"Everyone has the right to use the restroom," Able Torres said. "If they have to use it, they're going to have to use it."

The student government on campus supports many of the efforts, but they want to start with single stall restrooms before potentially adding gender neutral ones located inside men's and women's restrooms.

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that takes place,"

O'Conner said he believes it comes down to education and awareness.

"Recognizing those things, and seeing that a person is most likely transgender and just wants to use the restroom," O'Conner said.

Administration at the college said it was too early for officials to comment on the petition.

The students need more than 1,000 signatures before they are able to meet with administration officials.

The students advocating for the change will be rallying for support when classes begin on August 22nd.

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