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Out in the Open: Fostering 2SLGBTQIA+ Inclusion in Mathematics

We all teach 2SLGBTQIA+ students, whether we know it or not. Yet undergraduate mathematics classrooms often remain silent on issues of gender and sexual diversity. In this talk, I argue that visible, intentional acts of openness and support can meaningfully shift that dynamic. Whether it's being proudly visible as a 2SLGBTQIA+ ally or speaking openly about one's own identity, even small gestures can help create a classroom where students feel safer and more seen.

As a gay math professor, I'll share what it was like to come out to my students and the unexpected ways it transformed our learning environment. I'll offer practical strategies for instructors, regardless of their identity, to create more inclusive and affirming learning spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+ students. Together, we'll consider what it means to create a math classroom where all students feel safe to be themselves.