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**ANSWER'S INNOVATIVE ONLINE TRAINING PREPARES EDUCATORS
TO CREATE SAFE SCHOOLS**

Online Training Addresses LGBTQ Issues in Schools

PISCATAWAY, NJ – Answer, an award-winning national sexuality education organization, launches *LGBTQ Issues in Schools*, a groundbreaking professional development workshop that prepares educators to work effectively with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) young people and create safe and welcoming learning environments for all students.

“Schools are supposed to be places where our children feel safe to learn,” says Elizabeth Schroeder, Ed.D., M.S.W., executive director of Answer. “Yet the incidence of young people being bullied because they are—or are perceived to be—LGBTQ is far too high. Research shows that having just one supportive adult in school can make all the difference. This workshop will train those supportive adults whose actions will literally save lives.”

For three years, Answer has been offering original online professional development workshops that use the latest technology to engage educators in an active, online learning community. Third in the series of Answer’s online professional development workshops, *LGBTQ Issues in Schools* increases educators’ comfort and competence on LGBTQ issues, ensuring that educators can handle homophobia in schools at a time when schools are being charged with reducing homophobia and creating academic environments where all students can thrive.

Schroeder says that many school and community professionals say they want to be able to address issues relating to sexual orientation, but that they need help knowing just how to do so. “This interactive, self-paced workshop provides accessible information and cutting-edge resources for professionals working with middle-and high school-age youth,” she adds. The online technology uses state-of-the-art, engaging techniques that include lesson plans, interactive games, threaded discussions and the powerful video *A Day in the Life*.

For more information about *LGBTQ Issues in Schools* and to see *A Day in the Life*, please visit <http://answer.rutgers.edu/page/lgbtqiissues>.

Answer is an award-winning national organization based at Rutgers University that is dedicated to providing and promoting comprehensive sexuality education to young people and the adults who teach them. Its ongoing programs include the national Teen-to-Teen Sexuality Education Project, which reaches hundreds of thousands of teens with teen-written sexual health information through the Sex, Etc. magazine and Web site, Sexetc.org; and the Sexuality Education Training Initiative, which provides training, resources and technical assistance to more than 5,000 educational professionals per year. To learn more about Answer, log on to <http://answer.rutgers.edu>.

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