

2015 LGBT+ College Conference



CONFERENCE PLENARY SESSIONS

Friday, April 10 – 9:30 am – 10:00 am

Ingram MT Training Center (ING)

Saturday, April 11 – 10:00 am – 10:30 am

College of Education Building (COE) Room 160

Presenting Sponsors

Deloitte. **NISSAN**

CONFERENCE PLENARY SESSION

Diversify Your World – Open And Honest Dialogue

Friday, April 10
9:30 – 10:00 am
Ingram MT Training Center (ING)

The dimensions of “diversity” broadly defined, speak to people, policies, and practice that respect such personal characteristics as race/ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion and disability as well as our individual qualities, talents, perspectives, backgrounds and experiences. By “inclusion” we recognize the importance and value of bringing together individuals and their different perspectives into our academic, business, and civic enterprises.

This opening plenary session will set the stage for discussions throughout the conference that examine how we leverage diversity to build a more inclusive workplace and worldplace where individual differences can make a difference in the communities where we all live, work, and play.

MODERATOR:

Dennis Stull is the Director of Human Resources for Ghertner and Company, a property management firm established in 1968, and named a Top Place to Work Company by The Tennessean in 2013 and 2014. Dennis has over twenty years of human resource management and business operations experience. Dennis is Chair of the 2015 LGBT+ College Conference Advisory Board.

PANELISTS:

Greg Cason is a Senior Buyer and President of the Gay Straight Alliance at Nissan (GSAN) Business Synergy Team. He is a board member of the Nashville GLBT Chamber of Commerce, a member of the 2015 LGBT+ College Conference Advisory Board and a volunteer for numerous non-profit organizations within the Nashville community.

Novonda Lilly is the Assistant Director of Vanderbilt Medical Center Talent Acquisition and leads the clinical recruiting team. She has 18 years progressive cross-functional recruiting and human resources experience in healthcare, corporate and clinical settings. Novonda is a member of the 2015 LGBT+ College Conference Advisory Board.

Matt Lively is a Project Manager in Product Development at Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores. He is a member of Cracker Barrel’s LGBT Alliance ERG and holds the position of Committee Lead for External Events and Community Relations. Matt is a member of the 2015 LGBT+ College Conference Advisory Board.



Dennis Stull



Greg Cason



Novonda Lilly



Matt Lively

CONFERENCE PLENARY SESSION

The Work Of The Association For Family And Community Integrity (AFCI)

Houston, Texas

Thomas Chappell, Founder

Saturday, April 11

10:00 – 10:30 am

College of Education Building (COE) Room 160

AFCI founder will discuss how a critical need launched this impactful Houston, Texas based organization. Attendees will hear about effective strategies that contribute to meeting community needs while staying true to the mission—to be the best community organization dedicated to helping lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth and their families prevent homelessness and family separation through comprehensive education, advocacy and support.

Tom, a native of Nashville, received a Bachelor of Education Degree with majors in Mathematics and Physical Sciences from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and a Master of Arts Degree in 1976 from MTSU. He is married to Dr. Cynthia L Chappell, who earned BS (English) and MS (Biology) degrees from MTSU and a PhD from Baylor College of Medicine. They have two grown sons.

Tom spent his early career teaching mathematics, chemistry and physics in high school, then took a position with State Farm Insurance Companies in Murfreesboro and Bloomington, Illinois, where he was trained in information technology—a brand new and burgeoning area at the time. He returned to Murfreesboro after four years and worked in IT at National Life and Accident Insurance Company in Nashville, TN. He and his family moved to Houston in 1978, where he applied his skills in international information technology by directing the national/international corporate IT acquisition team for the Coastal Corporation. In 1989 he became Chief Information Officer for a publicly-traded home health-care company, and then established his own company, INFOSYS Development Group, an Information Technology Consultancy with offices in Houston and Austin, TX. INFOSYS provided consulting support to many large national and international companies.

His interest in public service began during his years in Tennessee. He was a member of the Exchange Club in Murfreesboro and later in Houston, where he was instrumental in starting the Family Escape Center. He also served as a Director of Exchange Clubs of Texas. In 1983 he was elected to the Alief Independent School District Board of Trustees and served two of his six years as President.

In 1998, his older son came out as gay. This courageous disclosure changed the life and understandings of the whole family. Since then, he and his wife have been long-time members of PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbian and Gays); and Tom is the founder of the Association for Family and Community Integrity, Inc. (AFCI), a non-profit group focused on the problem of homeless gay youths.



Thomas Chappell

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