2016 Awards Dinner

April 9, 2016 | 7:00 p.m.
James Union Building | Middle Tennessee State University
April 9, 2016

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the LGBT+ College Conference 2016 Awards Dinner. MTSU is proud to be a partner for this exciting evening of achievement. Like the awardees, our university has long been committed to diversity, fairness, and inclusion. The awardees being honored tonight have demonstrated their commitment to inclusion in the community, their workplaces, and schools. They have taken bold steps and been courageous often in the face of adversity to assure participation for all. The recipients’ individual contributions are significant and have shaped our modern culture and the discourse about access, fairness, and breaking down barriers for the larger good.

Congratulations to the awardees, we have much to celebrate!

Sincerely,

Sidney A. McPhee
President
April 9, 2016

Dear Friends,

On behalf of MT Lambda, I am proud to welcome you to the LGBT+ College Conference 2016 Awards Dinner. This is the third year we’ve had the privilege of working with the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences and a growing list of sponsors and supporters. We feel proud to bring positive attention to the work of those who make a difference for all identities.

Those being honored this evening are committed to influencing policy and practice while working to influence the kind of actions that ensure access, opportunity, and justice for all. I can’t thank and applaud them enough for their commitment to the LGBT+ community and beyond.

Again, to all of you, and on behalf the entire True Blue family, thank you for being here on this special night!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Villasana
President
MT Lambda
Greg Cason is a Senior Buyer at Nissan North America. He is also the President of their Business Synergy Team “GSAN,” which stands for Gay Straight Alliance at Nissan, and Treasurer of Nissan's Multicultural Business Synergy Team. Greg does outreach within Nashville and the LGBT+ community including Second Harvest, Habitat for Humanity, Nashville Pride, Nashville Black Pride, Atlanta Pride, Nashville CARES, Just Us, Gay Softball World Series, and more. Greg received his Masters of Business Administration degree at Middle Tennessee State University and enjoys spending time with his two daughters, two grandsons and his fiancé, Landry Boyle. When asked why he volunteers so much of his time, he states, “I give because I know what it feels like to be without.”

Wendy Bledsoe-Payne is a Nashville native and 1992 graduate of McGavock High School. Wendy is also a graduate of MTSU with degrees in Vocal Performance and Music Education. At MTSU, she was a member of the Chamber Chorus, Schola Cantorum, and the Nashville Opera Chorus for the performances of Die Fledermaus, La Traviata, and The Magic Flute, all under the direction of Dr. Raphael Bundage. Wendy has been the Assistant Choir Director and General Music teacher at Siegel High School in Murfreesboro, Tennessee for the past four years and is an active member of NAfMe, MTVA, TMEA, and ACDA.
LGBT+ College Conference 2016 Awards Dinner Music

William Patrick Coleman ’97

William Patrick Coleman has over fifteen years of professional experience as an artist, performer, educator, and public servant. Currently, William serves as the Director of Education for VSA Florida, the state’s organization on arts and disability, at the University of South Florida in Tampa. William provides oversight and administration of VSA Florida’s artist-in-residence programs that put teaching artists in the classroom to provide access, instruction, and experience in the arts. He also supports, collaborates, and partners with VSA’s incredible teaching artists, schools, classroom teachers, and administrators by providing training and professional development resources. He currently resides in the Tampa Bay area with his husband and pooches.

LGBT+ College Conference 2016 Awards Dinner Keynote Speaker

Dr. Renee McLaughlin

Dr. Renee McLaughlin is a senior medical executive with Cigna Healthcare and is responsible for building collaborative partnerships with health care delivery systems to improve health outcomes. She has extensive experience in the development, implementation, and operation of successful population health management partnerships and speaks regularly in both regional and national forums on value-based health care delivery. Dr. McLaughlin has a strong interest in LGBT health and workforce issues, and specifically those affecting gender-diverse people. Prior to joining Cigna in 2005, Dr. McLaughlin was a practicing general and vascular surgeon in a single-specialty practice. She earned a BS at Adrian College, MS at Wayne State University, and completed her graduate and post-graduate medical and surgical training at the University of Pittsburgh. She served in the United States Army during the first Gulf war. She currently lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee where she spends her free time enjoying Southern culture as well as the waters of the Tennessee River.
2016 Awards Dinner

Program
Hosted by Greg Cason

Welcome and Introductions

Music Prelude

The Occasion

Greetings
Ms. Beverly Watts
*Executive Director, Tennessee Human Rights Campaign*

Ms. Elizabeth Villasana
*President, MT Lambda*

Mr. Jonathan Breeding ‘87
*Advocate and Supporter*

Invocation
Ms. Wendy Bledsoe-Payne and Mr. William Coleman
“True Colors,” words and music by Billy Steinberg and Tom Kelly

Dinner

Welcome Back

Introduction of Speaker
Ms. Cathy Lively
*Senior Analyst, Diversity and Inclusion, Nissan*

Keynote Address
Dr. Renee McLaughlin
*Senior Medical Director, Delivery System Clinical Integration at Cigna HealthCare*
“At the end of the day it doesn’t matter which group is most oppressed or whether they are identically oppressed, what matters is that no group be oppressed.”

Keith Boykin, President of The National Black Justice Coalition

2016 Conference Awards Presentation Ceremony

Terry Whiteside Ally in Diversity Award
Civic Advocacy Award
Community Excellence Award
Diane Easter Corporate Engagement Award
Academic Advancement Award

MT Lambda Award Presentation
Wayne C. Rosing LGBT+ Advocacy Award

Joshua Rigsby’14
MT Lambda Past President

2016 Honoree John Weaver ’89
(Awarded Posthumously)

John Weaver attended MTSU from 1985 to 1989 and majored in International Relations & Foreign Languages. In 1988, John, alongside Daniel R. Webster and Richie Smith, founded the Middle Tennessee State University Lambda Association—the first LGBT+ student organization in Tennessee. During a time when the campus climate was difficult for LGBT+ students, John and the other Founders pushed back against anti LGBT+ propaganda being published in the university paper and gave LGBT+ students a safe platform upon which to advocate for their equal rights as True Blue members of the student body. In late 2015 John described MT Lambda as the one thing in his life that he would forever remain most proud of, as he marveled at the positive influence and impact of the organization on MTSU in the present.

Remarks
Dr. Harold “Terry” Whiteside
Dean, College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, MTSU

Acknowledgements and Conference Closing
Nominees

Terry Whiteside Ally in Diversity Award
This award serves to recognize allies of the LGBT+ community for their work in advancing, supporting, and advocating in the community where they live, work, and play. The award was named for Dr. Terry Whiteside, Dean of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences at Middle Tennessee State University, in 2014. His support was crucial to the launch of the Inaugural LGBT+ College Conference.

Claudia Huskey
Special Advisor to the Mayor, Nashville

Dr. Marion Wilson
Middle Tennessee State University

Pastor Stan Mitchell
GracePointe Church

Civic Advocacy Award
This award serves to recognize individuals for their outstanding civic works in support of the LGBT+ Community through civic related advocacy efforts. Examples include an individual whose personal or professional efforts focus on legislation, building grassroots coalitions, or providing leadership to overall strategic advocacy.

Dr. Jessica Kratzer
Middle Tennessee State University

Dr. Mary Beth Asbury
Middle Tennessee State University

Timothy Hampton
Motivational Speaker

Community Excellence Award
This award serves to recognize individuals for their work in advancing LGBT+ rights and the efforts of the LGBT+ community. Efforts include advocating for community programs, and initiatives that speak to the unique challenges of the LGBT+ community.

Diane Hatley
Nissan

Kathy Halbrooks
PFLAG Nashville

Ron Snitker
Waller
2016 Awards Dinner

Nominees

Diane Easter Corporate Engagement Award

This award serves to recognize individuals for their professional efforts in advancing and advocating for LGBT+ inclusive workplace and community initiatives. The individual recognized will have successfully led high-impact collaborative programs with higher education and/or other organizations to advance social progress while contributing to the strategic goals of their company. The award was named for Diane Easter in 2014. Her support was crucial to the launch of the Inaugural LGBT+ College Conference.

Kim Sharp  
Nissan

Michael Burcham  
Narus Health

Steve Smotherman  
Cracker Barrel

Academic Advancement Award

This award serves to recognize individuals who have made a tremendous impact on diversity and inclusion through study, research, or thought at an academic institution. This individual’s efforts will have contributed to increased knowledge and understanding that supports and advances inclusive policies and practices.

Dr. Patrick McCarthy  
Middle Tennessee State University

Barbara Patton  
Middle Tennessee State University

Morgan Hunlen  
Middle Tennessee State University
2016 Awards Dinner

Past Awardees

Civic Advocacy Award
2015
Dr. Marisa Richmond
Tennessee Transgender
Political Coalition

2014
Mr. Chris Sanders
Tennessee Equality Project

Ally in Diversity Award
2015
Dr. Kenny Yarbrough
Volunteer State Community
College

2014
Dr. Harold (Terry) Whiteside
Middle Tennessee State
University

Community Excellence Award
2015
Mr. Thomas Chappell
Association for Family and
Community Integrity

2014
Mr. Michael McDaniel
Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee

Academic Achievement Award (established 2015)
2015
Mr. Brock Swims
Christian Brothers University

Wayne C. Rosing LGBT+ Advocacy Award
2015
Mr. Christian Grantham
Half Hill Farm

2014
Dr. Jim Williams
Middle Tennessee State University

2013
Dr. Wayne C. Rosing
Middle Tennessee State University

Event Patrons

Platinum
Ron Balcarras
Nashville, TN

Gold
Vernice “FlyGirl” Amour
Atlanta, GA

Brandon Dykes
Nashville, TN

Diane Easter
Nashville, TN

Josh Rigsby
Nashville, TN

Preston Rowland
Murfreesboro, TN

Richard Meeks
Murfreesboro, TN

Ron Snitker
Nashville, TN

Terry Bird
Atlanta, GA

Thomas Chapel
Houston, TX

William Langston
Murfreesboro, TN

Jim Schmidt
Nashville, TN

John Weaver
Murfreesboro, TN

Silver
Barbara Turnage
Murfreesboro, TN

Bea Perdue
Murfreesboro, TN

Colby Jubenville
Murfreesboro, TN

Marian Wilson
Murfreesboro, TN

Newtona (Tina) Johnson
Murfreesboro, TN

Bronze
Hannah Todd
Clarksville, TN

Shaela Dennis
Clarksville, TN

Maria Marguerite Salas
Nashville, TN
# 2016 Conference Corporate Advisory Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization/Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Greg Cason</strong></td>
<td>Co-Chair Conference Corporate Advisory Board</td>
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<td><strong>Ron Snitker</strong></td>
<td>Co-Chair Conference Corporate Advisory Board</td>
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<td><strong>Joey Amato</strong></td>
<td>UNITE Magazine</td>
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<td><strong>Christin Baker</strong></td>
<td>Tello Films</td>
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<td><strong>Ron Balcarras</strong></td>
<td>Deloitte</td>
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<td><strong>Terry Bird</strong></td>
<td>Chief Counsel to the Director of Immigration for Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina, Retired</td>
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<td><strong>Neyder Brito</strong></td>
<td>UBS USA, LLC</td>
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<td><strong>Justin Bucchio</strong></td>
<td>Middle Tennessee State University Department of Social Work</td>
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<td><strong>Sue Cook</strong></td>
<td>Open Arms Care</td>
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<td><strong>Michael Dodd</strong></td>
<td>Cracker Barrel</td>
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<td><strong>Brandon Dykes</strong></td>
<td>Street Works</td>
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<td><strong>Diane Easter</strong></td>
<td>Deloitte</td>
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<td><strong>Diane Hatley</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tonika Jordan</strong></td>
<td>Middle Tennessee State University Career Center</td>
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<td><strong>Will Langston</strong></td>
<td>Middle Tennessee State University Department of Psychology</td>
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<td><strong>Novonda Lilly</strong></td>
<td>Vanderbilt</td>
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<td><strong>Cathy Lively</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Matt Lively</strong></td>
<td>Cracker Barrel</td>
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<td><strong>Justin Lofton</strong></td>
<td>My House</td>
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<td><strong>David Long</strong></td>
<td>Street Works</td>
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<td><strong>Jan Maddox</strong></td>
<td>Deloitte</td>
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<td><strong>Bea Perdue</strong></td>
<td>Middle Tennessee State University College of Behavioral and Health Sciences</td>
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<td><strong>Bobbie Porter</strong></td>
<td>Tennessee Board of Regents</td>
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<td><strong>Joshua Rigsby</strong></td>
<td>OutCentral</td>
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<td><strong>Steve Smotherman</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Elizabeth Villasana</strong></td>
<td>MT Lambda</td>
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<td><strong>John Weaver</strong></td>
<td>Delta Airlines, Retired; co-founder of MT Lambda</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nicholas Weaver</strong></td>
<td>Street Works</td>
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### Awards Dinner Committee

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<td>Greg Cason</td>
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<td>William Coleman</td>
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<td>Brandon Dykes</td>
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<td>Nikki Gibson</td>
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<td>Joshua Rigsby</td>
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<td>Barbara Scales</td>
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<td>Lesley Hanlin – MTSU Student</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debra Winans – MTSU Student</td>
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Thank You for Your Support

The members of MT Lambda thank all those who have supported us publicly and financially in the presentation of the 2016 LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner. A very special thanks to those honored this evening for their outstanding contributions toward making our communities welcoming to All Identities.

Conference graphics and artwork by Taylor Watson