

Cover

2024 LGBT Plus College Conference Awards Dinner

April 6, 2024 | 7:00 p.m.

Student Union Building | Middle Tennessee State University

Page 2

Page 3

April 6, 2024

Dear Friends,

Thank you all so much for attending this year's LGBT Plus College Conference Awards Dinner. I hope you have enjoyed the conference. I know we had an amazing program and an incredible group of presenters and participants. On behalf of MTSU Lambda Association, I would like to especially thank our presenters for volunteering their time and effort to this important endeavor.

I'd also like to thank the MTSU College of Behavioral and Health Sciences for being with us since the beginning, and to thank our ever-growing list of sponsors and supporters on campus and in the community for joining us on our journey.

Those being honored this evening are already changing the world around them, making their communities a better place for all people. MTSU Lambda Association would like to thank them for their commitment to the LGBTQ+ community and beyond.

Again, thank you so much for your support, showing that—once again—All Diversity is True Blue!

Sincerely,

Beverly Mangan

President

MTSU Lambda Association

Page 4-5

Hosts

Kayla Gore (she/her)

Kayla works to help organize and conduct direct outreach and to advocate for the rights of women, especially transgender women. Kayla's most recent work is with the #tinyhouseprojectMSH with the goal of developing homes for Black and Brown Trans Women. Project details can be found on the MSH website, www.mshmemphis.org.

Justin Reed (he/him)

Justin Reed serves as the Director of Student Unions at Middle Tennessee State University and is this year's Conference Advisory Board Chair. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Wesley Foundation and works to create inclusive environments both on and off Campus.

Music

Heather Mae (she/her)

Heather Mae, the acclaimed social justice singer-songwriter, fearlessly bares her soul through music, creating an intimate space of shared vulnerability for her listeners. Her unbridled honesty, both on and off stage, has cultivated a devoted fanbase. In her 2019 release, "Glimmer," Heather Mae crafts a luminescent masterpiece, drawing parallels to vocal powerhouses Adele and Sara Bareilles. With storytelling depth reminiscent of Florence Welch, the record uniquely centers on mental health. In 2023, she spearheaded a transformative movement, rallying a powerhouse collective of women and non-binary talents in Nashville, including luminaries like producer ZDAN and Lollies, along with guest artists like Grammy Award-winning musician Allison Russell and the extraordinary duo Sistastrings. Together, they crafted two electrifying albums. Leading the charge in queer songwriting, Heather Mae is poised to make a resounding impact with both groundbreaking records slated for release in 2024.

Keynote Speaker

Michelle Conceison (she/her)

Michelle Conceison is a manager, professor, researcher, and community organizer. She is a tenured Associate Professor at Middle Tennessee State University, where she serves as Chair of the Recording Industry Department in the College of Media and Entertainment and teaches Music Business course. She founded Nashville-based artist management and marketing firm Mmgt. She works with Kyshona, Della Mae and the Guy Clark estate, and her company serves many clients. She is global Chair of Mentorship for Women in Music and runs professional development programs for multiple music organizations. Prior to music, she worked in digital media, leading teams at multiple global advertising agencies. She has served on the boards of Folk Alliance International (former President), International Bluegrass Music Association (former Secretary), Women In Music (founding Nashville Chapter Chair). She is a member of Leadership Music (2024) and Leadership Bluegrass (2019). Her fields of research include public history, LGBT+ and gender studies, change making, audience and industry stakeholder analysis, representation in media, merchandising, and leadership in music organizations.

Page 6

Program

Hosted by Kayla Gore (she/her) and Justin Reed (he/him)

Welcome and Introductions

The Occasion

Greetings

Lee Wade (he/him)

Associate Dean, College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, Middle Tennessee State University
Beverly Mangan (she/her)
President, MTSU Lambda Association

Music Prelude
Heather Mae (she/her)

Dinner

Welcome Back

Keynote Address
Michelle Conceison (she/her)

Page 7

2024 Conference Awards Presentation Ceremony
Terry Whiteside Ally in Diversity Award
Marisa Richmond Civic Advocacy Award
Community Excellence Award
Diane Easter Corporate Engagement Award
Academic Advancement Award

MTSU Lambda Association Award Presentation
Wayne C. Rosing LGBTQ+ Advocacy Award
Danielle Rochelle
Director of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs Center, Middle Tennessee State University

MTSU Lambda Association Heroes Scholarship Presentation

Remarks
Dr. William Langston
Professor, Department of Psychology, Middle Tennessee State University

Acknowledgements and Conference Closing

Pages 8-9

Nominees

Harold "Terry" Whiteside Ally in Diversity Award

This award serves to recognize allies of the LGBTQ+ community for their work in advancing, supporting, and advocating for the rights and well-being of others. The award was named for Dr. Harold "Terry" Whiteside, Dean of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences at Middle Tennessee State University, for his support of the inaugural LGBT Plus College Conference.

Troy Yost (he/him)

Community Organizer

Maigan Wipfli (she/her)

Director, June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students, Middle Tennessee State University

Mirabelle Stoedter (she/her)

Americans United for Separation of Church and State – Nashville Chapter

Marisa Richmond Civic Advocacy Award

This award serves to recognize individuals for their outstanding works in support of the LGBTQ+ Community through civic advocacy efforts. The award was named for Marisa Richmond in honor of her extraordinary level of commitment to civic advocacy on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community.

Jace Wilder (he/they)

Education Manager, Tennessee Equality Project

Olivia Hill (she/her)

Metro Council at-Large

Dahron Johnson (she/her)

Chaplain, Community Education, Outreach

Community Excellence Award

This award serves to recognize individuals for their work in advancing LGBTQ+ rights and the efforts of the LGBTQ+ community.

Theodore Baker (he/him)

Youth Organizing Fellow for Rutherford County, Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi

Zofia Zagalsky (she/her)

MTSU Professional Counseling Student, IDAC Assistant

Devyn Kelly (she/her)

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Diane Easter Corporate Engagement Award

This award serves to recognize individuals for their professional efforts in advancing and advocating for LGBTQ+ inclusive workplace and community initiatives. The award was named for Diane Easter for her support of the inaugural LGBT Plus College Conference.

Stephanie Mahnke (she/her)

Tennessee Pride Chamber

Brynn Plummer (she/her)

AllianceBernstein

Amna Osman (she/her)

Chief Executive Officer, Nashville CARES

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.

Roberta Chevrette (she/her)

Middle Tennessee State University
Dr. Jessica Gaby (she/her)
Middle Tennessee State University
Eric W. Hughes (he/they)
Middle Tennessee State University

Page 10

Past Awardees

Terry Whiteside Ally in Diversity Award
2024 Mirabelle Stoedter
Americans United for Separation of Church and State – Nashville Chapter
2023 Lyndsay Sneckenberger
Tennessee Valley Authority
2022 Ray White
Licensed Professional Counselor
2019 Patrick McCarthy
Middle Tennessee State University
2018 Sharon Collins
PFLAG Franklin
2017 Anna Belle Robertson
Jackson State Community College
2016 Claudia Huskey
Special Advisor to the Mayor, Nashville
2015 Dr. Kenny Yarbrough
Volunteer State Community College
2014 Dr. Harold “Terry” Whiteside
Middle Tennessee State University

Marisa Richmond Civic Advocacy Award
2024 Jace Wilder
Education Manager, Tennessee Equality Project
2024 Dahron Johnson
Chaplain, Community Education, Outreach
2023 Roberta Chevrette
Middle Tennessee State University
2023 Pamba Paul Samuel
Together for Uganda
2022 BoroPride Planning Team
BoroPride
2019 Ronellis Tunstill
Nashville CARES
2018 Selena Haynes
Focus Middle Tennessee
2017 Beverly Watts
Tennessee Human Rights Commission
2016 Dr. Jessica Kratzer & Dr. Mary Beth Asbury

Middle Tennessee State University
2015 Dr. Marisa Richmond
Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition
2014 Chris Sanders
Tennessee Equality Project

Community Excellence Award
2024 Zofia Zagalsky
MTSU Professional Counseling Student, IDAC Assistant
2023 Ray Holloman
Tennessee Transgender Task Force
2022 Jake Martino
PFLAG Nashville
2019 Michael Reding
PFLAG Nashville/Nashville in Harmony
2018 Kayla Gore
OUTMemphis
2017 Doug Alexander
Nashville CARES
2016 Kathy Halbrooks
PFLAG Nashville
2015 Thomas Chappell
Association for Family and Community Integrity
2014 Michael McDaniel
Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee

Diane Easter Corporate Engagement Award
2024 Brynn Plummer
AllianceBernstein
2023 Victoria Montefusco
Tennessee Valley Authority
2022 Ron Balcarras
Deloitte
2019 Bethany Mason
Dollar General
2018 Greg Cason
Nissan
2017 Ron Snitker
Waller Law
2016 Steve Smotherman
Cracker Barrel
2015 Cathy Lively
Nissan Motor Corporation
2014 Diane Easter
Deloitte

Academic Achievement Award
2024 Dr. Jessica Gaby
Middle Tennessee State University
2023 La Shonda Mims
Middle Tennessee State University
2022 Dr. LaToya Eaves
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
2019 Tyler Kibbey
University of Kentucky
2018 Bonnie Johnson
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
2018 Jennifer Novo
Cumberland University
2017 Dwayne Jenkins
Nashville CARES
2016 Morgan Hunlen
Middle Tennessee State University
2015 Brock Swims
Christian Brothers University

MTSU Lambda Association Wayne C. Rosing LGBTQ+ Advocacy Award
2024 Danielle Rochelle
Middle Tennessee State University
2023 Dr. Debra Sells
Middle Tennessee State University
2022 Vincent Windrow
Middle Tennessee State University
2019 Donna Baker
Middle Tennessee State University
2018 Christy Osborne
Middle Tennessee State University Alumnus '98
2017 Jon Breeding
Freddie Mac
2016 John Weaver
Delta Airlines
2015 Christian Grantham
Half Hill Farm
2014 Dr. Jim Williams
Middle Tennessee State University
2013 Dr. Wayne C. Rosing
Middle Tennessee State University

Justin Reed (he/him)
Middle Tennessee State University

Roberta Chevrette (she/her)
Middle Tennessee State University

Lynn Cothren (he/him)
Tennessee Human Rights Commission

Latoya E. Eaves (she/her)
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Kerri French-Nelson (she/her)
University of Memphis

Jamie Fuston (they/them)
Volunteer State Community College

Diane Hatley (she/her)
Nissan

Don Hayes (he/him)
Nissan

Eric Kruse (he/him)
Nissan

William Langston (he/him)
Middle Tennessee State University

Maurice Moore (they/them)
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Marisa Richmond (she/her)
Middle Tennessee State University

John Roberson (he/him)
Middle Tennessee State University

Danielle Rochelle (she/her)
Middle Tennessee State University

Kathlene Smith (she/her)
Nissan

Michelle Stevens (she/her)
Middle Tennessee State University

Ray White (he/him)
Whitewood Counseling

Back Cover

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors

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Middle Tennessee State University President's Commission on the Status of Women

Thank You for Your Support

The members of MTSU Lambda Association thank all those who have supported us publicly and financially in the presentation of the 2024 LGBT Plus College Conference. A very special thank you is extended to those honored this evening for their outstanding contributions toward making our communities welcoming to all identities.

The 2024 LGBT Plus College Conference is a partnership between MTSU Lambda Association and the MTSU College of Behavioral and Health Sciences.

Conference editing services provided by Trent Jackson (they/them). Conference graphics and artwork by Taylor Watson (he/him).