April 2015

Dear Friends,

Welcome all! As you gather this evening to recognize outstanding leadership in and support of the LGBT+ community, you contribute to a rich history at MTSU that affirms the importance of a diverse campus. For more than 100 years, the success of our students and the MTSU community at large has been linked with individuals like the awardees who dared to step up and lead, serve, demand, shepherd, and stand in the breach to defend personal and societal liberty.

The persons honored tonight have placed their stamp on history through their service to education, industry, and community. Their contributions are significant, and the awards they receive are a testament to what can be done to make a difference in our institution and in the world. More importantly, these honorees are role models, reminders to all of us to use all of our differences to make a greater difference for the good of all.

Congratulations to the awardees and may we all be inspired to serve.

Sincerely,

Sidney A. McPhee
President
April 2015

Dear Friends,

Thank you all for spending the evening with us at the second annual LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner. MT Lambda is proud to work with the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, our corporate sponsors, patrons, and friends to thank and recognize those who continue to make a difference in the lives of others.

This is a very special part of the LGBT+ College Conference. It’s also a milestone for the student membership of MT Lambda as we prepare to enter the workplace and the world beyond college, armed with the knowledge and understanding of how we can each utilize our differences to make a difference. Everyone being honored this evening has gone well beyond the call to serve, where many might have faltered from fatigue or discouragement. They have each accepted the challenge to lead, and their example has been the inspiration for others to ask “What can I do?”

Congratulations to all of the honorees! MT Lambda is pleased to support your work and be a part of honoring your accomplishments because you provide deeply needed services and support to the LGBT+ community and beyond.

Again, to all of you who are with us, on behalf of MT Lambda and the entire True Blue family, we thank you for sharing this very special evening with us.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Villasenor
President
MT Lambda
Christin Baker

Christin (‘97) is a filmmaker, producer, and cofounder of Tello Films, a Web-based distribution company that produces all-lesbian original content. Originally from a small town in Indiana, her family moved several times and she spent her formative years in Orlando and Chattanooga. She has called Nashville home since 1988.

Her passion for filmmaking started early, when she began attending shows at TPAC and doing local theater. As a young producer, she made home movies and SNL parodies. Pursuing her mass communication’s degree at MTSU gave her opportunities to intern in broadcast journalism, but she decided that the news business was not for her. She spent a summer on a movie set as an extra, and that was the pathway to her destiny as a storyteller. She served as SGA president at MTSU and graduated cum laude and made her way to Hollywood, where she spent three years in the industry.

Introduced by a friend to filmmakers Jessica King and Julie Keck, Chicago was her next stop. Their personal partnership became a professional collaboration and launched Tello Films. The company has already produced more than ten original projects, and many others are in preproduction.

Dennis Stull

Dennis is chair of the Corporate Advisory Board for this year’s LGBT+ College Conference. He served on the Board last year and helped launch the inaugural event.

He is director of human resources at Nashville-based Ghertner and Company, a property management firm established in 1968 that was named a Top Place to Work by the Tennessean in 2013 and 2014. Dennis has more than twenty years of human resource management and business operations experience across business sectors that include consumer goods, automotive manufacturing, energy, retail, hospitality, healthcare, consultative service and property management. His unusual HR career has been shaped by work that included start-up ventures and established well-recognized brands.

He graduated cum laude with a BS in Management and an M.B.A. from Indiana Wesleyan University. He has earned PHR, SPHR, and CDE human resource certifications. In 2013, he became a Certified Diversity Executive and received the prestigious TNSHRM James House Williamson award, the highest human resource award in Tennessee. He is a frequent speaker and presenter on human resource and diversity topics and provides consultation and guidance throughout the country. As a member of the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM) he has held many leadership positions. He is now diversity and inclusion director–elect on the Tennessee SHRM State Council.
Brigadier General
Tammy S. Smith

Tammy Smith is a career Army officer. Her current assignment is deputy chief of staff, United States Army Reserve, responsible for synchronizing strategic planning and resourcing for a worldwide force of 205,000.

Tammy made history in August 2012 when she was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. With the simple act of having her wife, Tracey Hepner, place a star on her shoulder, Smith became the first gay or lesbian general/flag officer to serve openly in the United States military. This promotion occurred less than one year after the repeal of Don’t Ask Don’t Tell, the ban on gays and lesbians serving in the U.S. military.

Smith’s education includes a master’s in strategic studies from the Army War College and a doctorate in management and organizational leadership from the University of Phoenix. She serves on the Deloitte External Inclusion Advisory Council and Out and Equal Workplace Advocates board of directors.

She has been featured in the Oregon Quarterly and Out magazine and made More magazine’s 2013 Fierce List, which included 50 women who have made brave stands. She is profiled in Diversity Journal as one of its 2015 Women Worth Watching.

Lo-Ke Musik
Something about the smooth-melodic feel of Lo-Ke Musik’s sound—the way they express Love from God and their love for God—makes you want more of what they have. Before forming the duet, they served for three years as worship leaders together. After realizing that their collaborative sound had a healing and soothing effect on their listeners, they decided to offer the world Lo-Ke Musik. They released an EP three years ago that showed how their music has evolved. Today, they are completing their freshman album, Love Is Key.
Welcome and Introductions

The Occasion

Greetings

Ms. Beverly Watts
Executive Director, Tennessee Human Rights Commission

Ms. Cathy Lively
Senior Analyst, Diversity and Inclusion, Nissan Motor Corporation

Ms. Elizabeth Villasana
MT Lambda President, Middle Tennessee State University

Invocation

Lo-Ke Musik (Loretta Constant and Michael Scott), Murfreesboro, Tennessee
“God Bless America,” Irving Berlin (1918, rev. 1938)

Dinner

Welcome Back

Introduction Of Speaker

Ms. Jan Maddox
Senior Manager, Deloitte

Keynote Address

Brigadier General Tammy Smith
Deputy Chief of Staff, United States Army Reserve
2015 Conference Awards Presentation Ceremony

Terry Whiteside Ally in Diversity Award
Civic Advocacy Award
Community Excellence Award
Diane Easter Corporate Engagement Award
Academic Advancement Award *(new for 2015)*

MT Lambda Award Presentation *(Wayne C. Rosing LGBT+ Advocacy Award)*
Wayne C. Rosing was an advisor for the MTSU Lambda association during the 1990s. In that role, he took significant risks to both his career and his personal safety in an effort to support LGBT+ students. The Wayne C. Rosing Award recognizes those who have exhibited his level of courage and support for LGBT+ students.

**Christian Grantham (’97)**
Christian Grantham was the chair of the Uniform Equality Committee in 1996–97, a past subcommittee of MT Lambda. As chair, Christian advocated and rallied support for adapting the MTSU nondiscrimination policy to include sexual orientation. MTSU updated its policy in 2001 to include sexual orientation, becoming the first public college or university in Tennessee to include this language in its nondiscrimination policy.

Remarks

**Dr. Harold “Terry” Whiteside**
Dean, College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, Middle Tennessee State University

Acknowledgements and Conference Closing
Terry Whiteside Ally in Diversity Award

The Terry Whiteside Ally in Diversity Award recognizes allies of the LGBT+ community in Tennessee for their support in advancing, supporting, and advocating where they live, work, and play. Dr. Whiteside is dean of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences at MTSU, and his views on the educational and societal value of diversity and inclusion are well known. His support was crucial to the launch of the first LGBT+ College Conference.

Nominees

Ms. Francis Canedo  
Assistant Professor  
Spanish  
Northeast State Community College

Dr. Debra Sells  
Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment and Academic Services  
Middle Tennessee State University

Dr. Kenny Yarbrough  
Director Student Life and Diversity Initiatives  
Volunteer State Community College

Civic Advocacy Award

The Civic Advocacy Award recognizes individuals in Tennessee and beyond for their outstanding civic works in support of the LGBT+ community through state and national advocacy works. Examples include, but are not limited to, someone whose personal or professional efforts focus on legislation, building grassroots coalitions, or providing leadership to overall strategic advocacy.

Nominees

Ms. Kathy Halbrooks  
President  
Nashville PFLAG

Dr. Marisa Richmond  
Lobbyist  
Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition

Atty. Ilona Turner  
Legal Director  
Transgender Law Center

Community Excellence Award

The Community Excellence Award recognizes individuals in Tennessee and beyond for their work in advancing LGBT+ rights and efforts of the LGBT+ community. Their work includes recognizing and advocating for community programs and initiatives that address the unique challenges of the LGBT+ community.

Nominees

Mr. Thomas Chappell (’76)  
Founder  
Association for Family and Community Integrity

Rev. Greg Bullard and Mr. Brian Copeland  
Founders  
Nashville Gay Parents

Ms. Lisa Howe  
President  
Nashville LGBT Chamber
Diane Easter Corporate Engagement Award

The Diane Easter Corporate Engagement Award recognizes Tennesseans for their professional efforts in advancing and advocating for diverse and LGBT+ inclusive workplace and community initiatives. The person recognized has successfully led high-impact, collaborative programs in higher education and the community to advance social progress while contributing to the strategic goals of their organization. Diane has a rich history working in corporate and community diversity and inclusion. Her efforts in leading the first corporate advisory board and raising financial and public support among her corporate peers contributed greatly to the success of the first LGBT+ College Conference.

Nominees
Ms. Rosa Berger
Financial Center Manager III
Fifth Third Bank

Ms. Cathy Lively
Senior Analyst
Diversity and Inclusion
Nissan Motor Corporation

Mr. Dennis Stull
Director
Human Resources
Ghertner and Company

Academic Advancement Award (new for 2015)

The Academic Advancement Award recognizes Tennesseans who have made a tremendous impact on diversity and inclusion through study, research, or thought at an academic institution. The person recognized has contributed to knowledge and understanding that supports and advances inclusive policies and practices.

Nominees
Mr. Brock Swims
President Gay-Straight Alliance
Christian Brothers University

Mr. Keven Lewis
Founder
Interfaith Affirming Alliance of MTSU

Ms. Allison Heming
Assistant Coordinator for SafeZone
University of Tennessee–Knoxville
LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner

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Lance Selva
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Ron Snitker
Nashville, Tennessee

Rutherford County Chamber
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Barbara Turnage
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

2014 Awardees

Civic Advocacy Award
Mr. Chris Sanders
Tennessee Equity Project

Community Excellence Award
Mr. Michael McDaniel
Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee

Ally in Diversity Award
Dr. Harold "Terry" Whiteside
Middle Tennessee State University

Corporate Engagement Award
Ms. Diane Easter
Deloitte LLP

Wayne C. Rosing LGBT+ Advocacy Award
Dr. Jim Williams
Middle Tennessee State University
Corporate Advisory Board

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Deloitte

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Terry Bird  
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Candice Warner  
Columbia State Community College

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LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner

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Tennessee Human Rights Commission
VAI Consulting and Training
Vanderbilt University and Medical Center

Thank You for Your Support

MT Lambda and the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences thank you for your support of the 2015 LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner and especially thank those honored this evening for their contributions to building inclusive communities.

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