2017 LGBT+ college conference awards dinner
April 8, 2017 | 7:00 PM
James Union Building,
Middle Tennessee State University
April 8, 2017

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2017 LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner. MTSU is once again excited to partner with great colleagues, sponsors and friends in celebrating the outstanding role models being honored tonight. These honorees have responded to essential needs on campuses, in workplaces and in this community to address issues of diversity, inclusion and social justice. They have often worked behind the scenes, without notice or recognition, in their respective areas to open doors and create safe places.

The honorees have advocated with strength and conviction for the inclusion of LGBT+ students, colleagues and friends and resisted stereotypes, discrimination and exclusion at all levels and in all places. These honorees, individually and collectively, inspire us to continually raise our voices to create positive change.

When we join together to include and not exclude, great things are possible!

Sincerely,

Sidney A McPhee
President
April 8, 2017

Dear Friends,

Thank you all so much for attending this year’s LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner. I hope you have all enjoyed the conference and that you continue to have these discussions of inclusion for all in your organizations, workplaces, and beyond. I’d like to thank the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences for being with us since the beginning, and to thank our ever-growing list of sponsors and supporters for joining us on our journey to better our communities.

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

Again, thank you so much for your support of the LGBT+ community and the support of this campus, showing that—once again—All Diversity is True Blue!

Sincerely,

Rebekah Dawson
President
MT Lambda
Mr. Orlando Andrews
2017 LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner Host

Orlando has been a servant to others in his daily work for many years. He is currently helping those struggling with substance abuse disorders as an admissions counselor at Journey Pure Treatment Centers. Before finding himself in this role he devoted himself to helping nonprofit fine arts organizations survive and thrive. Orlando is an artist at heart, he began acting on stage at age nine, throughout high school and into College. He added radio, television, film and dance to his repertoire at Northwestern University. After graduation, he began his career in the entertainment industry as a talent agent at Northshore Talent Agency in Chicago, and later he became the voiceover director of Glynn Kennedy Models and Talent in Atlanta. He has continued to perform throughout his adult life, most notably in Aida with the Atlanta Opera, and in improv performances at Whole World Theatre in Atlanta.

Dr. Jessica Kratzer
2017 LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner Host

Dr. Jessica Kratzer is an assistant professor in communication studies at Northern Kentucky University. She teaches communication courses in interpersonal, family, small group, gender, and sexuality. Dr. Kratzer’s research focuses on sexual communication in varying age groups, including hooking up among college students and senior citizen intimacy. Dr. Kratzer presents her research at the annual conventions for the National Communication Association and the Central States Communication Association. Dr. Kratzer is a member of her university’s SAFE (Staff, Administrators, & Faculty for Equity) organization, is on the Coordinated Community Response Team for the Norse Violence Prevention Center, and is on the university’s sexual misconduct board. Dr. Kratzer has a Bachelor of Arts from Northern Kentucky University, Master of Arts from the University of Cincinnati, and Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Missouri. Dr. Kratzer is the 2016 LGBT+ College Conference Civic Advocacy Award recipient.
Ms. Connye Florance
2017 LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner Music

As the youngest of five in a family of musicians, Connye didn’t have to look far for encouragement when her love of singing took off. “There was just always music in the house...” she recalls of her childhood in North Carolina. The scope of Connye’s career has included studio, stage, television and film. She has even sung country...as a background vocalist on the Elton John/Tammy Wynette duet “What a Woman Needs”. Connye has toured nationally with Columbia Artists and vocalist Jennifer Holliday, and as featured vocalist with Modern Jazz Tuba Project, The Nashville Jazz Orchestra, and with her own award-winning trio of musicians. She has shared the stage with numerous notables, including Steinway artist Beegie Adair, Grammy award-winner Randy Brecker and vocalist and grammy-award winning songwriter Benita Hill. Connye is a vocal performance instructor at Nashville Jazz Workshop and is enjoying the success of her one-woman show, “Jazz Rhapsody”.

Mr. Eric Watson
2017 LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner Keynote Speaker

Eric Watson is president and CEO of the Carolinas-Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council, a private, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, with more than 175 corporate members and 430 certified Minority Business Enterprise members. Watson is responsible for the development and execution of strategy to achieve the Council’s vision and goals of advancing business opportunities between major corporations and minority business enterprises in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Central Virginia.

Watson has 33 years of experience in operations management, including more than 18 years in the field of diversity and inclusion. From 2003 to 2013, Watson held leadership roles at Delhaize America, beginning as vice president of diversity and inclusion of Food Lion in 2003. From 2007 through 2009, he also served on Food Lion’s Executive Committee and led the Talent Acquisition department. In February 2010, he became vice president of diversity & inclusion for all of Delhaize America.

Watson currently serves on the board of directors of the Executive Leadership Council, Calibr Global Leadership Network, and the University of North Carolina-Center for International Understanding. Watson holds a bachelor’s degree in English literature from Livingstone College in Salisbury, N.C.
Program

Hosted by Mr. Orlando Andrews and Dr. Jessica Kratzer

Welcome and Introductions

The Occasion

Greetings

Ms. Beverly Watts
Executive Director,
Tennessee Human Rights Commission

Dr. Debra Sells
Vice President for Student Affairs,
Middle Tennessee State University

Ms. Rebekah Dawson
President, MT Lambda

Mr. Terry Bird
Retired US Attorney, MTSU Alumnus

Music Invocation

Dinner

Welcome Back

Introduction of Speaker

Ms. Jennifer Jackson
Hilton Garden Inn

Keynote Address

Mr. Eric Watson
President and CEO, Carolinas-Virginia
Minority Supplier Development Council
2017 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

Ms. Sarah Hadley
MT Lambda Past President

2017 Honoree Mr. Jon Breeding ’93
Jon Breeding is a Manager of Credit Risk for Insurance Policy at Freddie Mac. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Arlington Arts Center (AAC) in Arlington, Virginia. In 2014, Mr. Breeding established the LGBT Heroes Endowed Scholarship to support MT Lambda officers and members who may incur financial need during the course of their academic pursuits. His philanthropic efforts reflect his appreciation of his alma mater and his desire to ensure that each student has the freedom, space, and support to sculpt his or her own future. Mr. Breeding is “grateful to endow the MTSU LGBT Heroes Scholarship to honor the many known and unknown heroes who have helped me succeed as a gay man and to honor all heroes of the MT Lambda community.” Mr. Breeding grew up in Savannah, Tennessee and earned his BBA at MTSU. He currently resides in Arlington, Virginia with his spouse Ryan McCannell.

Remarks

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

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

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 launching of the Inaugural LGBT+ College Conference.

Dr. Bobbie Porter  
Tennessee Board of Regents

Ms. Jan Maddox  
Deloitte, Retired

Ms. Anna Belle Robertson  
Jackson State Community College

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.

Ms. Beverly Watts  
Tennessee Human Rights Commission

Mr. David Long  
Street Works

Mr. Darrell Bouldin  
Political Organizer

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.

Ms. Kim Sharp  
Nissan

Mr. Doug Alexander  
Nashville Cares

Ms. Rebekah Dawson  
MTSU Lambda Association
**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 launching of the Inaugural LGBT+ College Conference.

- **Ms. Lisa Howe**
  Nashville LGBT Chamber of Commerce

- **Mr. Ron Snitker**
  Waller Law

- **Mr. David Taylor**
  PLAY/Tribe Nashville

**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.

- **Mr. Dwayne Jenkins**
  Nashville Cares

- **Ms. Jennie Turrell**
  Faculty Advisor, Franklin High School GSA

- **Mr. Kristopher Roberson**
  MTSU Lambda Association
### Event Patrons

**Gold**
- Mr. Thomas Chappell  
  Houston, TX
- Dr. William Langston  
  Murfreesboro, TN
- Mr. Ron Snitker  
  Nashville, TN
- Ms. Jennifer Sturgeon  
  Woodbury, TN

**Silver**
- Atty. Terry Bird  
  Atlanta, GA
- Ms. Jennifer Jackson  
  Murfreesboro, TN
- Dr. Newtona (Tina) Johnson  
  Murfreesboro, TN
- Ms. Bea Perdue  
  Murfreesboro, TN

**Bronze**
- Dr. Justin Bucchio  
  Murfreesboro, TN
- Ms. Selena Hayes  
  Murfreesboro, TN

### Past Awardees

**Civic Advocacy Award**
- 2016 Dr. Jessica Kratzer & Dr. Mary Beth Asbury  
  Middle Tennessee State University
- 2015 Dr. Marisa Richmond  
  Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition
- 2014 Mr. Chris Sanders  
  Tennessee Equality Project

**Community Excellence Award**
- 2016 Ms. Kathy Halbrooks  
  PFLAG Nashville
- 2015 Mr. Thomas Chappell  
  Association for Family and Community Integrity
- 2014 Mr. Michael McDaniel  
  Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee

**Terry Whiteside Ally in Diversity Award**
- 2016 Ms. 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

**Diane Easter Corporate Engagement Award**
- 2016 Mr. Steve Smotherman  
  Cracker Barrel
- 2015 Ms. Cathy Lively  
  Nissan Motor Corporation
- 2014 Ms. Diane Easter  
  Deloitte LLP

**Academic Achievement Award (introduced 2015)**
- 2016 Ms. Morgan Hunlen  
  Middle Tennessee State University
- 2015 Mr. Brock Swims  
  Christian Brothers University

**Wayne C. Rosing LGBT+ Advocacy Award**
- 2016 Mr. John Weaver  
  Delta Airlines
- 2015 Mr. Christian Grantham  
  Half Hill Farm
- 2014 Dr. Jim Williams  
  Middle Tennessee State University
- 2013 Dr. Wayne C. Rosing  
  Middle Tennessee State University
2017 Conference Corporate Advisory Board

**Mr. Johnathan A. Johnson, LPC-MHSP**
Chair Conference Corporate Advisory Board
New Directions Counseling & Consulting

**Mr. Terry Bird**
Chief Counsel to the Director of Immigration for Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina, Retired

**Dr. Justin Bucchio**
Middle Tennessee State University Department of Social Work

**Ms. Rebekah Dawson**
MT Lambda

**Ms. Nikki Gibson**
Dell

**Ms. Yolanda Greene**
First Tennessee

**Ms. Selena Haynes**
Focus

**Mr. Jeffery L. Humble**
First Tennessee

**Ms. Jennifer Jackson**
Hilton Garden Inn

**Dr. William Langston**
Middle Tennessee State University Department of Psychology

**Ms. Bea Perdue**
Middle Tennessee State University College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

**Dr. Bobbie Porter**
Tennessee Board of Regents

**Mr. Joshua Rigsby**
LGBT+ Diversity and Inclusion Trainer

**Mr. Ron Snitker**
Waller

**Ms. Jennifer Sturgeon**
Health Trust

**Mr. John G. Weaver (deceased)**
Delta Airlines Co-founder of MT Lambda

**Ms. Leslie Yost**
The Murfreesboro Pulse

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**Awards Dinner Committee**

**Mr. Brandon Dykes**
Street Works

**Ms. Jennifer Jackson**
Hilton Garden Inn

**Ms. Bea Perdue**
Middle Tennessee State University

**Mr. Joshua Rigsby**
LGBT+ Diversity and Inclusion Trainer

**Ms. Jennifer Sturgeon**
Health Trust

**Ms. Jan Watson**
Middle Tennessee State University Criminal Justice Major
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 2017 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 and removing obstacles to inclusion.

Conference graphics and artwork by Taylor Watson