

# 2017 lgbt+ college conference awards dinner

**April 8, 2017 | 7:00 PM**

James Union Building,  
Middle Tennessee State University



**LGBT+  
COLLEGE  
CONFERENCE**



**Sidney A. McPhee**

President  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Cope Administration Building 204  
1301 East Main Street  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132  
o: 615-898-2622 • f: 615-898-2507



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebekah Dawson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray rectangular background.

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 awards dinner

## 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

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### 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

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### 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

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### 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  
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### Silver

Atty. Terry Bird  
Atlanta, GA

Ms. Jennifer Jackson  
Murfreesboro, TN

Dr. Newtona (Tina)  
Johnson  
Murfreesboro, TN

Ms. Bea Perdue  
Murfreesboro, TN

Ms. Bobbie Porter  
Murfreesboro, TN

Dr. Barbara Turnage  
Murfreesboro, TN

Drs. Terry & Sharon  
Whiteside  
Murfreesboro, TN

Dr. Marian Wilson  
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 awards dinner

## 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

## 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

## Awards Dinner Table Sponsors

MTSU College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

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Tennessee Human Rights Commission

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Intrepid Sports Development

## Conference Sponsors

# NISSAN



*Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance*



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Homeland Security  
United States  
Secret Service*

## 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

