2022 LGBT+ College Conference

Awards Dinner

April 9, 2022 | 7:00 p.m.
Student Union Building

Middle Tennessee State University
April 9, 2022

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2022 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 (he/him/his)
President

April 9, 2022

Dear Friends,

Thank you all so much for attending this year’s LGBT+ 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 LGBT+ community and beyond.

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

Sincerely,

Adam Peavy (he/him/his)
President
MTSU Lambda Association
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 tiny homes for Black and Brown Trans Women. With the assistance of Jasmine Wright and DKGR Architects, they launched the pilot for the project in 2021.

Adam Peavy is a Junior at Middle Tennessee State University studying Video and Film Production. He is a transgender male who has released music under his nickname “Turtle” that shares his life experiences including his gender identity journey. He is also the current president of MTSU’s LGBTQ+ and Ally Organization, MT Lambda.

Kathy Halbrooks has been involved as an ally and advocate for almost twenty years. As a straight, cisgender person with no children, she became active as an ally because a bill that would protect employees of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County was introduced to the city council in 2002. As a Metro employee, she was in favor of this bill, but her first step into committed activism came when protestors from Westboro Baptist Church came to Nashville to protest the bill.

For the first time, she did something besides being supportive in her heart and mind. She stepped onto the courthouse steps and stood in support of the bill. (It failed, but a bill passed in 2009 that included protection for both sexual orientation and gender identity for city employees.)

Once Kathy started to learn about LGBTQ+ issues, her passion grew. She went from not even knowing anyone LGBTQ+ to having numerous cherished friends who belong to the community. Kathy is Co-Chair of PFLAG Nashville and is South Atlantic Regional Director for PFLAG. She volunteers with the Tennessee Equality Project and works whenever possible to do her part to ensure that someday everyone, regardless of whom they are or whom they love, is treated equally with respect and affirmation.

She is immensely grateful to the people she’s met along her journey who have taught her about the privileges she was lucky enough to be born with and how to use those privileges to help others.
WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

THE OCCASION

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

Adam Peavy
President,
MTSU Lambda Association

MUSICAL PRELUDE
Adam Peavy

DINNER

WELCOME BACK

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Kathy Halbrooks

2022 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 LGBT+ Advocacy Award
Vincent Windrow
Middle Tennessee State University

MTSU Lambda Association
Heroes Scholarship Presentation

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CONFERENCE CLOSING
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. LaToya Eaves
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Dr. Meredith Anne (MA) Higgs
Middle Tennessee State University

Jamie Fuston
Volunteer State Community College

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.

Erin Bloom
Volunteer State Community College

Matt Lively
Cracker Barrel

Ray White
Licensed Professional Counselor

Marissa Richmond 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. This award was named for Marisa Richmond in 2019 in honor of her extraordinary level of commitment to civic advocacy.

BoroPride Planning Team
(Leslie Russell Yost, Troy Yost, William Langston, Trent Jackson, Christopher Michael Maupins, Nichole McVeigh, Norman Hanks, River Johnson, George W. Manus, Jr., Brittany Potts, Laura Bohling, Airana McMillan)
Boro Pride

Aly Chapman
GLSEN Tennessee

Reverend Pamela Hawkins
Belmont United Methodist Church

Eliott Noble-Holt
MediCopy

Terry Vo
Comcast

Ron Balcarras
Deloitte

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.

Amanda Crawford
Licensed Professional Counselor/MHSP

Jake Martino
PFLAG Nashville

Amy Whittemore
Write with Pride

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.

Eliott Noble-Holt
MediCopy

Terry Vo
Comcast

Ron Balcarras
Deloitte

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Boro Pride

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GLSEN Tennessee

Reverend Pamela Hawkins
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Amanda Crawford
Licensed Professional Counselor/MHSP

Jake Martino
PFLAG Nashville

Amy Whittemore
Write with Pride
Past Awardees

Community Excellence Award
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

Academic Achievement Award (introduced 2015)
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

Terry Whiteside Ally in Diversity Award
2019 Patrick McCarthy Middle Tennessee State University Department of Psychology
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

Diane Easter Corporate Engagement Award
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 LLP

Marissa Richmond Civic Advocacy Award
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

Wayne C. Rosing LGBT+ Advocacy Award
2019 Donna Baker Archivist, Middle Tennessee State University Gore Research Center
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 Wayne C. Rosing Middle Tennessee State University

Academic Achievement Award
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

2022 Conference Advisory Board

Selena Haynes Chair, Conference Advisory Board CEO of S&L Companies
Don Hayes (he/him/his) Nissan
Tyler Kibbey (he/they) Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
William Langston (he/him/his) Middle Tennessee State University
Shane McCoy (they/them/their) Middle Tennessee State University
Lloyd McDonald (he/him/his) USH Advisors
Justin Reed (he/him/his) Middle Tennessee State University
Marisa Richmond (she/her/hers) Middle Tennessee State University
Ray White (he/him/his) Whitewood Counseling
Paul Wydra (he/him/his) Middle Tennessee State University

Awards Dinner Table Sponsors

Tennessee Human Rights Commission
Shane McCoy, Ph.D.
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 2022 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 building support.

Conference graphics & artwork by Taylor Watson (he/him/his)