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Saturday, April 11 ▼ 7:00 p.m.

# 2015 LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner

James Union Building ▼ Middle Tennessee State University

**Office of the President**

Middle Tennessee State University  
110 Cope Administration Building  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132  
o: 615-898-2622 • f: 615-898-2507



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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sidney A. McPhee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Elizabeth Villasana'.

President  
MT Lambda



LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner Host

# 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.



LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner Host

# 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.





LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner  
Keynote Speaker

## 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.



LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner Music

## **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*.





LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner Hosts  
Christin Baker and Dennis Stull

# Program

## 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

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*  
Margaret Mead

## 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



LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner

# 2015 Award Nominees

## 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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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



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Linda Hall

Sharon McCoin

Bea Perdue

Bobbie Porter

Josh Rigsby

Barbara Scales

Steve Smotherman



LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner

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## 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.**

Thumbprint art by Della Wheeler.

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