

## ***Cocktails and Conversation Event***

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

Hosted by  
**waller**

# Biographies

## Moderator



### **Meg Garner**

**Banking, Government and Law Reporter, Nashville Business Journal**

Meg Garner is a business reporter for the Nashville Business Journal. She covers a variety of issues, from the city's fast-growing finance industry to the intersection of business and policy. Prior to moving to Nashville, Meg lived in San Francisco, covering technology companies for Reuters. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she specialized in business journalism.

## Panelists



### **Jarod Forsythe**

**Financial Analyst – Materials Finance, Nissan Motor Corporation**

Jarod Forsythe is a financial analyst for Nissan North America. He joined Nissan in the summer of 2016 as an intern at the company's headquarters in Franklin, Tennessee. He returned as an intern two more times. In 2018, he transitioned to full-time employment on the Materials Finance team. Forsythe is a member of the Gay Straight Alliance at Nissan Business Synergy Team (GSAN). He was selected to the role of Pride Director, which works to coordinate activities with various departments for Nashville Pride and other LGBTQ events in the Middle Tennessee community. He earned a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania.



### **Meg Harris**

**Head of Strategic Initiatives, Human Capital, AllianceBernstein**

Meg Harris is the Head of Strategic Initiatives at AB, a role that focuses mainly on the people- and community-related initiatives required to make a successful home for AB's global HQ in Nashville. She currently leads the talent acquisition team for AB and manages a number of projects within the firm related to human capital and philanthropy/community relationships.

Most of Meg's career was spent at UBS in London, New York and then Nashville as a Global HR Business Partner and finally overseeing the HR business partner team, providing support to global hub locations in China, India, Poland and Nashville. Meg also worked as an English as a Second Language teacher in Prague, Czech Republic, and worked for a research firm in Washington, D.C. just out of college.

Meg has been an active participant on the Habitat for Humanity of Greater Nashville Board for the past 2 years and joined the Center for Nonprofit Management board in 2018. She co-chaired the Chamber's Education Report Card Committee in Nashville in 2017 and is actively engaged in numerous forums related to public education, literacy and inclusion. She will join the Nashville Public Library Board in fall 2019.

Meg is a Metro Nashville Public Schools parent with three young children. She earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Wake Forest University and a master's in HR management and organizational analysis from King's College in London.

**Cocktails and Conversation Event**

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

Hosted by

**waller****Officer Catie Poole****LGBTQ Liaison, Metro Nashville Police Department**

Officer Catie Poole has been serving as a police officer with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department since 2013. She served as a Patrol Officer from 2014–2015 and as a Bicycle Patrol Officer from 2015–2018. In November 2018, she was chosen to be the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department's first LGBTQ Liaison. Since her appointment, she has actively been involved in the LGBTQ community building relationships and spreading awareness about the Safe Place Initiative, a partnership with the community to address hate crimes.

**Marisa Richmond****Professor of History, Women's and Gender Studies, Middle Tennessee State University**

Dr. Marisa Richmond currently teaches history and women's and gender studies at Middle Tennessee State University. She is also a member of the Metro Human Relations Commission in Nashville, and the only openly transgender member of the Democratic National Committee. Previously, she served many years as the President and lobbyist for the Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition. She is a prolific author and speaker on transgender rights and has served on many boards at the local, state and National levels. She has been recognized for her work with many awards. She has three degrees, all in U.S. History. Her A.B. is from Harvard University, her M.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and her Ph.D. from George Washington University.

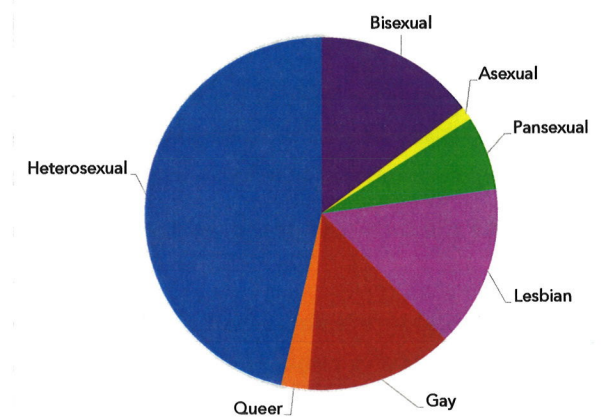
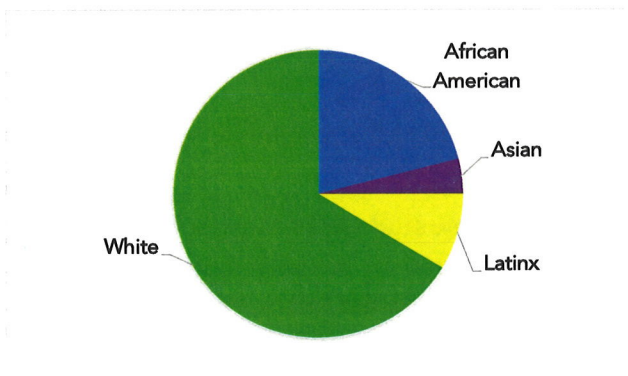
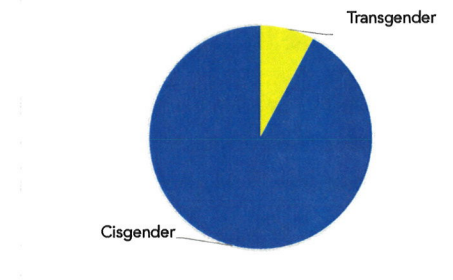
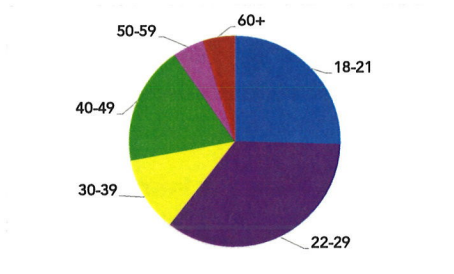
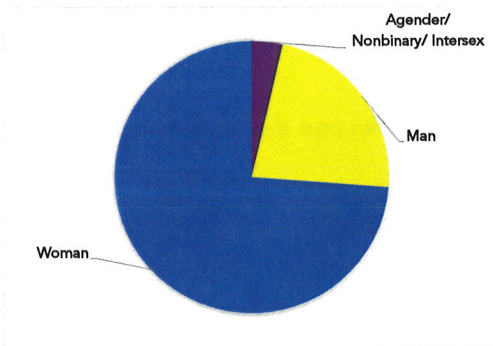
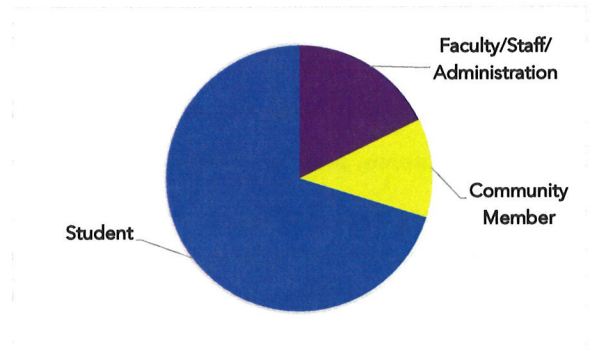
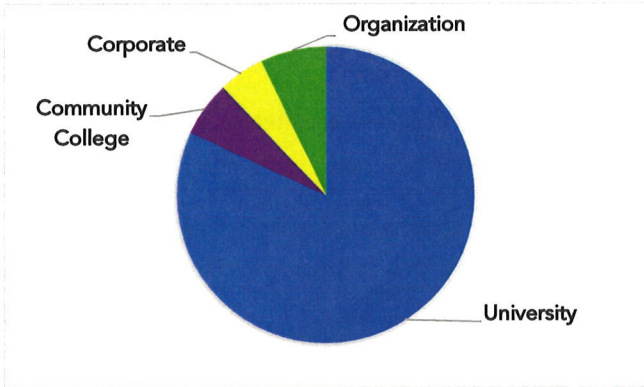
**Joe Woolley****CEO, Nashville LGBT Chamber**

Joe Woolley is the CEO of the Nashville LGBT Chamber of Commerce. Joe joined the board of the Nashville LGBT Chamber in 2013 and has served as both President and Vice President; he was named CEO of the Nashville LGBT Chamber in 2018.

Joe is originally from Twin Falls, Idaho, and moved to Nashville in 2000. He was the first graduate of the New Century Journalism program from Belmont University in 2006. He was selected as an IRTS fellow in New York where he worked for the "Daily Show with Jon Stewart" and then became a foreign producer with CBS News. Joe moved back to Nashville in 2008 and became communications director with the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad based at Belmont. He worked as communications director with Stand for Children Tennessee. In 2014, Joe launched Get it Done Solutions consulting with nonprofits and small businesses.

Joe is a longtime steering committee member for the Belmont-Hillsboro Neighborhood. His passion for transit issues has placed him on several transit groups, most notably the Livable Nashville Transit committee that helped plan the 2017 transit initiative. He was appointed by the mayor as a board member for Nashville Education Community and Arts Television (NECAT). Joe is a current participant in Leadership Nashville. He is a fitness enthusiast and enjoys entertaining friends at home, and lots of travel, with his husband, Jim Schmidt.

## 2018 LGBT+ College Attendee Profile





## 2018 LGBT+ College Conference Feedback

### Please list conference strengths...

Very relaxed atmosphere, everyone who wanted to speak was heard in a respectful manner

Extremely diverse, and fully informative and accurate info

This was a very strong scholarly conference. I enjoyed the research presentations on day one. The panelists from the various industries were also incredibly meaningful. For this being a free conference, aside from travel and lodging, I was highly impressed with the execution

The conference is very educational and offers an expansion of learning to students I found out. I think it is great to reach out beyond the LGBTQ+ community

### Please list some things you learned at the conference...

OMG I learned a lot about the Intersex Community, I also learned the history of the name change process and laws forbidding trans or gender non-conforming folks from accessing those resources who live in different counties throughout the state of TN.

EVERYTHING during the intersex discussion. Also, the information about trans folks and documents in TN as well as hunger and food security for students was helpful and eye opening.

I learned some AMAZING career building tips and negotiating tactics. I also learned some amazing ways to include the LGBT+ community in my organization.

That there is an increasing awareness of the need for minority groups to work together and support each other's causes, resume tips, legislative information

### Is there anything else you want to add?

Coming down from Tiffin U in Ohio, I was worried about how the conference would have paid off, but I am incredibly pleased with what my students, colleague, and I were able to take from the experience. I will definitely recommend that folks continue to attend from up north.

Yes, I like the inclusion of the corporate with student. I think helps connect us to the companies we are going to.

It was my pleasure being a part of something so powerful. I spoke with a few students in regards to the conference and the atmosphere on campus prior to me speaking which inclined me to speak more openly about my experiences working with the community. If you ever need me again in the future, I'm readily available.

MTSU LGBT+ College Conference | Cocktails & Conversation 2019  
Tuesday, March 5, 2019 | Waller  
Program Flow and Moderated Questions

**EXERCISE**

**What does support mean to me?**

Each table has a post-it sheet and a marker. Appoint a scribe to take notes on the exercise (these notes will be shared with the group).

Discuss with the people at your table and provide answers to the following questions:

1. What does support mean?
2. How does that definition change when applied to support for LGBT+ people in particular?
3. Where does that support come from; how can we build that support?

## Your 2019 LGBT+ College Conference Checklist

### ✓ Review the schedule and plan your attendance

Visit the conference web page at [mtsu.edu/LGBTplusCC](http://mtsu.edu/LGBTplusCC)

The *Conference Details* link is under “LGBT+ College Conference” in the menu on the left side of your screen (computer) or under the “LGBT+ College Conference” submenu (mobile device). Find the information you need to plan your conference experience.

The *Conference Schedule* link is under “LGBT+ College Conference” in the menu on the left side of your screen (computer) or under the “LGBT+ College Conference” submenu (mobile device).

### ✓ Consider a sponsorship

Visit the conference web page at [mtsu.edu/LGBTplusCC](http://mtsu.edu/LGBTplusCC)

The *Conference Details* link is under “LGBT+ College Conference” in the menu on the left side of your screen (computer) or under the “LGBT+ College Conference” submenu (mobile device).

Click the button for “Support.” Under that section you can go to the marketplace and order awards dinner tickets, sponsor an awards dinner table, or become a patron sponsor of the conference.

If your organization would like to become a sponsor, please contact William Langston for a sponsorship packet (some are available tonight; [William.Langston@mtsu.edu](mailto:William.Langston@mtsu.edu)). Paul Wydra ([Paul.Wydra@mtsu.edu](mailto:Paul.Wydra@mtsu.edu)) is our MTSU foundation representative and can answer your sponsorship questions.

### ✓ Make a nomination for conference awards

Visit the conference web page at [mtsu.edu/LGBTplusCC](http://mtsu.edu/LGBTplusCC)

The *Conference Details* link is under “LGBT+ College Conference” in the menu on the left side of your screen (computer) or under the “LGBT+ College Conference” submenu (mobile device).

Click the button for “Submit.” Under that section you will find the link for the awards nomination form (all nominations need to come through the form). The awards categories are included on the form. Finalists are expected to attend; finalists and a plus-one are our guests at the awards dinner on April 6.

### ✓ Spread the word

Conference web page: [mtsu.edu/LGBTplusCC](http://mtsu.edu/LGBTplusCC)

Email people in your sphere of influence and invite them to conference programming.

Conference Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/lgbtcollegeconf/>

Facebook events are posted for conference programming; share them with your networks. Post about your conference plans.

## LGBT+ College Conference Brief History

### Inaugural LGBT+ College Conference: *The Advocate in You* (2014)

Launched the conference with a focus on intensive strategy sessions and network building, started the state-wide LGBT+ faculty and staff network, hosted the inaugural LGBT+ College Conference Awards Dinner with the (*Terry Whiteside*) *Ally in Diversity*, *Civic Advocacy*, *Community Excellence*, and (*Diane Easter*) *Corporate Engagement* awards, reported on our state-wide campus climate survey to the Tennessee Human Rights Commission, collaborated to develop Safe Zone trainings on multiple campuses

### 2015 LGBT+ College Conference: *Diversify Your World*

Launch of the *Tennovation Research Symposium* and research day, premiere of the *LGBT+ College Conference Film Festival*, added the *Academic Advancement Award*

### 2016 LGBT+ College Conference: *All Identities*

Introduced *Cocktails and Conversation* hosted by Waller to present a preview of the conference programming to the community, added the documentary keynote with the presentation of Yoruba Richen's film *The New Black*, piloted the *Welcoming Churches and Religious Organizations Fair*, made Safe Zone training available to conference attendees

### 2017 LGBT+ College Conference: *All Identities: Removing Obstacles to Inclusion*

Introduced the *Data Blitz* to the research day to facilitate the exchange of ideas between researchers and attendees, launched the *LGBT+ College Conference Open Mic* to allow attendees to express themselves, launched the "*Plus*" in LGBT+ Keynote focusing on the diversity of the LGBT+ community

### 2018 LGBT+ College Conference: *All Identities: Bridging the Divide*

Introduced spoken papers to the *Tennovation Research Symposium* (with our first international presenter), launched workplace tours for conference attendees, introduced a formal corporate/workplace track for participants, added a *Safe Zone Train the Trainer* session to allow attendees to become Safe Zone trainers at their home institutions (including training for campuses in Ohio and Alabama)

For more, visit [mtsu.edu/LGBTplusCC](http://mtsu.edu/LGBTplusCC) and choose the *Conference History* link



## Award Descriptions

These categories of awards were established to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of individuals, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, who have made significant and positive contributions to the LGBT+ community. Through these awards we acknowledge the personal and professional work people are doing every day to make our campuses and global community a safe and thriving place for everyone. Nominations for each award will be reviewed by the Conference Advisory Board Awards Committee.

### 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 launch of the Inaugural LGBT+ College Conference.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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 launch of the Inaugural LGBT+ College Conference.

### 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.





## 2019 LGBT+ COLLEGE CONFERENCE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### PLENARY SESSIONS

#### Tennovation Keynote - Thursday, April 4

*Europe's Long-Lasting Fight towards LGBTI-Equality—Rémy Bonny*

#### Opening Panel - Friday, April 5

*Building a Coalition*

#### Film Keynote - Friday, April 5

*The Most Dangerous Year—Vlada Knowlton*

#### The "Plus" in LGBT+ Keynote - Saturday, April 6

*You Can't Play with Us, Bro—Nathan Fort*

#### Strategy Session - Saturday, April 6

*Connecting Academic and Corporate Diversity Training*

### TRACKS

#### Student

#### Advisor

#### Corporate/Workplace

Nissan Plant Tour

Safe Zone Training  
/ Train the Trainer

Safe Zone Training  
/ Train the Trainer

Academic Success Showcase —Tracy  
Nadzieja

Issues Summit—Meeting the  
Needs of LGBT+ Students

Workplace Success Showcase—  
Diane Easter, Deloitte

Issues Summit—When and How to  
Intervene

### PLUS don't miss...

2019 LGBT+ College Conference  
**FILM FESTIVAL**

2019 LGBT+ College Conference  
**GAME NIGHT**

2019 LGBT+ College Conference  
**AWARDS DINNER**

Plus so much more! View details at [mtsu.edu/LGBTplusCC](https://mtsu.edu/LGBTplusCC)



**NISSAN**

waller.



**focus**



**DOLLAR GENERAL**

Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance



**Evaluation**

**We appreciate your attendance at our seminar and your feedback is important. Please let us know how we can improve our efforts by evaluating the seminar on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest.**

	<i>Excellent</i>		<i>Average</i>		<i>Poor</i>
Overall quality of the evening	5	4	3	2	1
Extent to which your personal expectations were satisfied	5	4	3	2	1
Quality of the discussion	5	4	3	2	1
Quality of the venue	5	4	3	2	1
Quality of catering	5	4	3	2	1

**Please rate the individual speakers on the content of their presentations:**

Meg Garner-Nashville Business Journal	5	4	3	2	1
Jarod Forsythe- Nissan Motor Corporation	5	4	3	2	1
Meg Harris- AllianceBernstein	5	4	3	2	1
Officer Catie Poole- Metro Nashville Police Department	5	4	3	2	1
Marisa Richmond, Ph.D. - Middle Tennessee State University	5	4	3	2	1
Joe Woolley - Nashville LGBT Chamber	5	4	3	2	1

- I was aware of the LGBT+ College Conference before being invited to this evening's event:  YES  NO
- I would like to volunteer in some capacity at the LGBT+ College Conference:  YES  NO
- Myself and/or my organization would like to provide financial support the LGBT+ College Conference:  YES  NO
- I am a Middle Tennessee State University Alumni:  YES  NO

**Please provide any comments/suggestions you have about the program generally:**

---



---

**Do you have any speaker suggestions or topics that you would like covered at a future event?**

---



---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- Please add me to Waller's Diversity mailing list for future diversity notices and events.

**Thank you for completing this evaluation.**

