

Award Descriptions

These 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 LGBTQ+ 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 LGBTQ+ 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 Plus College Conference.

Marisa Richmond Civic Advocacy Award

This award serves to recognize individuals for their outstanding civic works in support of the LGBTQ+ 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 at the 2019 LGBT Plus College Conference awards dinner in recognition of her outstanding advocacy on behalf of the community.

Community Excellence Award

This award serves to recognize individuals for their work in advancing LGBTQ+ rights and the efforts of the LGBTQ+ community. Efforts include advocating for community programs, and initiatives that speak to the unique challenges of the LGBTQ+ community.

Diane Easter Corporate Engagement Award

This award serves to recognize individuals for their professional efforts in advancing and advocating for LGBTQ+ 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 Plus 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.