

Award Descriptions

These awards were established to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of individuals who have made significant and positive contributions to the LGBTQ+ community. Through these awards, we acknowledge recipients' personal and professional work to make our campuses and global community a safe and thriving place for everyone. Note that anyone meeting the award criteria is eligible for a nomination, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. The Conference Awards Committee will review nominations for each award.

Harold Whiteside Ally in Diversity Award

This award recognizes allies of the LGBTQ+ community for their work in advancing, supporting, and advocating for the rights and well-being of others. The award was named for Dr. Harold "Terry" Whiteside, former Dean of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences at Middle Tennessee State University, for supporting the inaugural LGBT Plus College Conference.

Marisa Richmond Civic Advocacy Award

This award recognizes individuals for their outstanding work supporting the LGBTQ+ Community through civic advocacy efforts. The award was named for Marisa Richmond in honor of her extraordinary level of commitment to civic advocacy on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community.

Community Excellence Award

This award recognizes individuals for their work in advancing LGBTQ+ rights and the efforts of the LGBTQ+ community.

Diane Easter Corporate Engagement Award

This award recognizes individuals for their professional efforts in advancing and advocating for LGBTQ+ inclusive workplace and community initiatives. The award was named for Diane Easter for supporting the inaugural LGBT Plus College Conference.

Academic Advancement Award

This award recognizes individuals who have impacted diversity and inclusion through study, research, or thought at an academic institution or through their work in the community. This individual's efforts will have contributed to increased knowledge and understanding that supports and advances inclusive policies and practices.