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Women's and Gender Studies



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The members of Middle Tennessee State University Lambda Association thank all those who have supported us publicly and financially in the presentation of the 2025 LGBT Plus College Conference. A very special thank you is extended to those honored this evening for their outstanding contributions toward making our communities welcoming to all identities.

The 2025 LGBT Plus College Conference is a partnership between Middle Tennessee State University Lambda Association and the Middle Tennessee State University College of Behavioral and Health Sciences.

Conference editing services provided by Trent Jackson (they/them)

Conference graphics and artwork by Taylor Watson (he/him)

2025 LGBT PLUS COLLEGE CONFERENCE AWARDS DINNER

APRIL 5, 2025 | 7:00PM
STUDENT UNION BUILDING - BALLROOM





HOSTS



TIFFANY FEE (she/her)

Tiffany Fee co-founded the Rutherford County Library Alliance with her husband in July 2023 and now serves on its board as Founder Emeritus. Originally from Michigan, she has called Rutherford County home for over 20 years. While best known for her work with RCLA, Tiffany is also deeply involved in local politics and made history as the first declared Democrat to run for the Rutherford County School Board in 2024. In her free time, she enjoys reading, crocheting, spending time with her family and pets, creatively cursing, and taking on the patriarchy—one fight at a time.



KAYLA GORE (she/her)

Kayla Gore is a published author, non-profit founder, and social justice advocate. She has worked for many organizations with a collective mission of elevating marginalized identities and the advancement of rights for those people, including The Transgender Law Center, OUTMemphis, Trans Justice Funding Project, SONG, The Official Black Lives Matter Memphis, Memphis Community Bail Fund, Planned Parenthood, The Transgender Strategy Center, and most notably My Sistah's House, an organization that breaks down the barriers to homeownership for some of the most marginalized people.

Kayla has presented at many conferences over the past decade, including SXSW, Transgender Health Summit by USFC, Black Trans Advocacy Coalition Conference, USCHA Conference on HIV/AIDS, Creating Change, Middle Tennessee State University LGBT Plus College Conference, Point Source Youth Conference, and Enterprise LGBT Employee Conference.

MUSIC



TURTLE (he/him)

Turtle is a transgender musician local to Murfreesboro, TN. He started his music career with the release of his single Cage (T the Year) in hopes of educating people about the struggles of being transgender and promoting acceptance. In addition to music, Turtle worked to promote a sense of community amongst LGBTQIA+ students at Middle Tennessee State University as president of MTSU Lambda Association in the years 2021 and 2022. He also created a community online through his TikTok page, where he posted relatable content, and through the game show he ran called The TurtleTok Games. Currently, Turtle spends his time doing various activities, including designing board games, making dice, ghost hunting, reading, and watching movies.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



DAHRON JOHNSON (she/her)

Dahron Johnson, a clinically trained United Church of Christ chaplain, works with an area hospice in grief and bereavement support. She is the Davidson County Committee co-chair for the Tennessee Equality Project—a statewide legislative advocacy organization for LGBTQIA+ Tennesseans. Dahron works closely with the Southern Christian Coalition and serves on the community advisory boards for the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, the Program for LGBTQ+ Health at VUMC, and, for 16+ years, the IRB for the VA health system serving middle Tennessee. In addition to testifying before state House and Senate committees on multiple occasions, in January 2024, Chaplain Johnson became the first openly trans person to speak from the floor of the Tennessee House during session. (www.edgehill.org/dahron-johnson) Dahron has lived in Nashville for the past 20 years with her wife of 27 years and their child.

PROGRAM

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

GREETINGS

MUSIC PRELUDE

DINNER

WELCOME BACK

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

2025 CONFERENCE AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY

Harold Whiteside Ally in Diversity Award
Marisa Richmond Civic Advocacy Award
Community Excellence Award
Academic Advancement Award

*Nominees are on the conference schedule page, and
past awardees are on the conference history page.
Both can be reached at mtsu.edu/LGBTPlusCC*

MTSU LAMBDA ASSOCIATION AWARD PRESENTATION

Wayne C. Rosing LGBTQ+ Advocacy Award

MTSU LAMBDA ASSOCIATION HEROES SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & CONFERENCE CLOSING