



# THE MILTON E. FORD LGBT RESOURCE CENTER

## Annual Report 2023-2024

## Table of Contents

1. Mission & Vision
2. Our Team
3. Impact
4. Programs & Efforts
5. Trainings
6. Community Connections
7. Acknowledgments



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MILTON E. FORD  
LGBT RESOURCE CENTER



# MISSION & VISION

## Our Mission

The Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center advocates for institutional equity, promotes community-building, and provides educational opportunities to create an informed, cohesive, and just campus where community members of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender presentations are supported and welcome.



## Our Vision

The Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center collaborates with campus and community partners to create an inclusive and equitable environment where all are empowered to be their authentic selves. Our advocacy work advances GVSU's commitment to a campus climate that celebrates and engages people of all gender identities, gender presentations, and sexual orientations. Using an intersectional framework, the Center promotes a more equitable campus, region, and world that values social justice and centers the needs of the most vulnerable people.

# OUR TEAM

## **DL McKinney: Director** *(they/them)*



D.L. is a Detroit native turned GVSU “Laker for a Lifetime” Grand Rapids resident. They serve as support to QTPOC folks as a member of various West Michigan community committees focusing on wellness, homelessness, equity, and social change. D.L. continues to work from a lens of racial and social justice to support individuals and communities in building their capacity to challenge internal and external systems of oppression to create sustainable change.

## **DeAn Hollowell: Assistant Director** *(they/them)*



DeAn is dreaming of a better world where collective liberation is realized. A GVSU alum with a desire to amplify the voices of the marginalized, and dedication of translating theory into practice, they look forward to supporting the LGBTQIA+ community at GVSU, and all people seeking to live out their truths. They hope you know you matter. DeAn runs Center programming and supervises student facilitators for the Center’s evening clubs.

## **Joey Grubbs-Hulst: Center Assistant** *(she/her)*



Joey is passionate about creating an equitable society for all LGBTQIA+ people. With a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies and a minor in Sociology, her career experience has been in Refugee and Immigrant Services. Joey is a friendly face in the Center who keeps the space cozy and resource-full, and she supervises front desk student employees.

# IMPACT

## 7 Student clubs!

Meeting weekly, our student facilitators led these identity-based groups, with 152 students attending one or more club.

## 24 Mentor matches!

Through our Queer Connections Mentoring Program, these students met with an LGBTQIA+ faculty/staff member monthly for the academic year.

## 34 Events!

With 1,668 total attendees, and the second annual Trans Week of Visibility!

## 314 New students!

who visited the Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center! The Center averaged 5 students in our space every hour we were open.

# PROGRAMS & EFFORTS

## ► Evening Clubs

These weekly clubs are by and for students and include Ace of Clubs (ace/aro students), Bi-Furious (non-monosexual students), Colors of Pride (LGBTQ students of color), First-year Queer Alliance, General Queer Alliance, NeuroQueers (neurodivergent, queer students), and T2 (trans and non-binary students).

## ► Queer Connections Mentoring Program

This mentoring program pairs LGBTQIA+ students with out faculty and staff. Mentoring pairs meet regularly over a six-month period, during which they build connections, explore resources, and work toward collaboratively-constructed goals.

## ► Events

Annual events included the Rainbow Social, Queer the Air, QueeraPOOLooza, Wear the Rainbow, and Lavender Graduation (recognizing 17 graduates!). Nine student-led Open Door Discussions were held in the Center.

## ► Mads Terpstra LGBT Resource Center Library

Available to all GVSU faculty, staff, and students, our library is linked to the main library's inventory. There are 482 books and 139 DVDs that are available for checkout. All LGBTQIA+ topics and authors!



# TRAININGS

## LGBTQ Foundations

**LGBTQ Foundations, Level I: Terminology and Language -**

Begin by building a strong foundation through an exploration of inclusive language, terminology, and a breakdown of LGBTQIA+ identities. Participants will gain clarity on concepts such as gender identity, sexual orientation, and the gender spectrum.

**LGBTQ Foundations, Level II: Gender Identity and Expression -**

A comprehensive exploration of gender diversity, fostering understanding and empathy for the spectrum of gender identities beyond the binary.

**LGBTQ Foundations, Level III: Privilege, Power, and Oppression -**

Understand how various social identities intersect and impact LGBTQIA+ experiences. Delve into the broader social justice movement and the role of LGBTQIA+ rights within it. Examine unconscious biases and stereotypes that may hinder LGBTQIA+ inclusion.

**LGBTQ Foundations, Level IV: Make NOISE -**

Developing strategic action plans to integrate LGBTQIA+ inclusion into leadership practices. Through interactive activities and case studies, attendees will learn how to create comprehensive organizational policies, foster a culture of open communication, and implement initiatives that champion diversity and acceptance. By equipping leaders with actionable strategies, this session empowers them to drive transformative change, elevate inclusivity as a core value, and ensure that LGBTQIA+ individuals are safe, valued, respected, and empowered within their organizations.

**23 LGBTQ Foundations sessions were facilitated during the academic year, with 98% positive feedback.**

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## GVSU Campus Involvement:

- Inclusion Advocacy (HR)
- Restorative Practice Advocacy (HR)
- Victim Advocacy (CWGE)
- Well-Being and Inclusion Communication Team (DSA)
- Student Health and Wellness Acceleration Team (DSA)
- Sea of Change, TGNB Athlete Inclusion in Sport facilitator (Athletics)
- Inclusion and Equity Institute facilitator
- Anti-Racism, White Consciousness Accountability Counsel member
- Community Health Advisory Team member
- GVSU Teach-In presenter
- Queer Connections mentor
- Pride Prom Committee support
- Brains and Beauty Student Org. advisor
- Multicultural Student Nurses Org. advisor

## Local/National Involvement:

- BDO Alliance USA workshops
- Michigan Student Financial Aid Association workshop
- Grand Rapids LGBTQIA+ Healthcare Consortium member
- CenterLink member
- Sponsor of Building a Movement for Michigan (BAMM) Pride Youth Summit
- Grand Rapids Community Foundation
- LGBT Higher Education Consortium member

## Community Partners:

- AYA Youth Collective
- LGBTQIA+ Patient Navigator with Corewell Health
- Grand Rapids Pride Center
- Grand Rapids Trans Foundation
- Grand Rapids Red Project
- YWCA
- Resilience
- Ottawa County Health Dept.
- Out on the Lakeshore
- Planned Parenthood
- Gilead

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The efforts of the Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center were made possible by an amazing team of professional staff, a graduate assistant, 10 undergraduate student staff, and volunteers.

With immense gratitude, we recognize the labor and dedication of all who support the Center's work. Thank you!

Give now to support our efforts!  
Select "Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center Endowment"



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