This academic year has presented many challenges as we learn to manage and be proactive about our heightened concern for the LGBTQ and allied community, as well as for undocumented students, Muslim students, students of color, and international students and scholars. We have formed strong coalitions in an effort to maintain legal protections and resources across our various communities, by participating in protests, contacting our legislators, making an extra effort to extend kindness and support, and organizing events that unite and empower us all.

The GSC is proud to have participated in many of these efforts, such as the #BuffsUnited event, which we helped organize in order to offer an affirming and inclusive event to counter the presence of a hate-spousing speaker on campus. We also collaborated with the CU System Faculty Council committees on Ethnic and Minority Affairs and LGBTQ+ issues to host the symposium, Intersections: Research and Teaching on Race, Gender and Sexuality.

We continue to provide a host of successful signature events, such as LGBTQ-inclusiveness workshops, welcome events, the TRANSforming Gender Conference, and Lavender Graduation. Every year, we are able to reach more members of the university community. In the last five years, participation in our programs has had steady growth of 30-35% each year, reaching over 3,500 people this year with over 100 programs.

While we still have much-needed policy and advocacy work to do to gain our former Campus Pride ranking in the top 25 LGBTQ-inclusive campuses, I am pleased that CU Boulder has been selected as the #20 LGBTQ-inclusive campus on the Best Colleges list and #43 on College Choice’s “Top 50 LGBTQ-inclusive universities.” These rankings were profiled in USA Today:

http://college.usatoday.com/2017/06/09/the-rankings-are-in-these-are-the-most-lgbtq-friendly-college-campuses/

Thank you to all our campus and community partners, donors, and social justice advocates who daily help us to be an exemplary university in supporting the CU LGBTQ and allied community!
This year’s conference was the largest yet with over 700 people registered. We offered 37 different panels and workshops over the course of two days. We also were very honor to host two illustrious keynote speakers. Over 45 different campus organizations and departments co-sponsored the conference – the most ever.

Our first keynote speaker was Willy Wilkinson (MPH), an Asian American trans man, from Oakland, California. Willy Wilkinson is the award-winning author of *Born on the Edge of Race and Gender: A Voice for Cultural Competency* as well as many other written works. He played a big part in including trans men in the discussion about the HIV and AIDS epidemic. He has done incredibly important work as an activist, public health consultant and is featured in the film “Diagnosing Difference.”

Our second keynote speaker was Elle Hearns, a Black trans woman from Columbus, Ohio. She became heavily involved in activism in 2014, after the deaths of Cemia Dove, Brittney Nicole Kidd-Stergis, Tiffany Edwards, and Betty Skinner. In 2015, she became the Central Region Coordinator for GetEQUAL. She is also a strategic partner with the #BlackLivesMatter movement. Elle has made huge strides for the black trans community that has had a lasting impact on the lives of many.

We are always looking for co-sponsors and volunteers for the next TRANSforming Gender Symposium. Contact Morgan Seamont if you are interested. Thank you to our staff, our lovely volunteers, attendees, presenters, supporters and co-sponsors.

The Gender and Sexuality Center is proud to welcome three new staff members and two new staff positions.

Danny Sussman is our new Peer Education Coordinator. Danny is a 3rd year student majoring in Psychology and Sociology with a minor in Women and Gender Studies.

Zoe Nefouse will join us in the fall as our Volunteer Coordinator. Zoe is a 3rd year student majoring in Women and Gender Studies with a Minor in Creative Writing.

Anna Foley, our new Office coordinator, joined us in the Winter and is a 2nd year majoring in Environmental Studies and minoring in Women and Gender Studies.

A Peer Mentor position has been created in partnership with Res Life. The mentor will split their work between the Spectrum Floor and the GSC, serving to bridge our programming efforts and community building between the two. Dan Oster will fill this position. He is a 3rd year Computer Science major with a minor in Space.

Edi Hernandez will be joining us in the fall as a graduate student intern from DU, in Higher Education.
This year our Peer Education Team gave 20 presentations and reached over 350 students!

The Team has developed and will incorporate several new presentations into our offerings. Alongside our “Allyship” and “Trans 101” presentations, we’ve included presentations on Intersectionality, ACE spectrums, non-binary identities, polyamory, and sexual health. We have also been asked by other universities to share those presentations so they can implement similar education opportunities.

We would also like to announce that the Peer Education Team has created a video on how to create more gender inclusive classrooms. The video is titled, “Be Gender Inclusive @CU” and can be found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWOT6s0uO0s

Interested in requesting a presentation or joining our peer education team? Contact Danny Sussman at danny.sussman@colorado.edu

Garrett Rose, former Peer Education Coordinator, won the CU Leigh Wyman Family Award for community involvement and exemplifying the Colorado Creed. We also congratulate Garrett on his graduation.

Morgan Seamont, the Assistant Director of the GSC, was given the President’s Volunteer Service Award. This award is given to Americans making a positive impact as engaging and deeply committed volunteers. He was nominated by Out Boulder.

Ayla Sullivan, our Communications Coordinator, won the Equity and Excellence award and was featured in Out Front for their use of poetry and spoken word to advocate for queer people.
The wake of the election brought an increase in prejudice and divisive rhetoric. A controversial speaker for the alt-right visited campus, spreading hateful messages against members of many marginalized groups. The CU community decided to fight back with #BuffsUnited. This collective, composed of students, faculty, and staff, is dedicated to the Colorado Creed based on values of respect and accountability. The group made its big debut on January 25th with a night dedicated to performance, love, and acceptance. The event was standing-room only— with an overflow room that was bustling with people. The group continues to host events that promote inclusion and unity across campus.

Preferred Name Changes
It is now possible to change your preferred name on your CU Portal! On MyCUInfo, just go to the drop-down menu for Profile and Settings, click on “Manage Profile and Privacy” and you will get a pop-up menu with an option titled “names.” There you will have an option to change your preferred name at any time and that will be the only name your professors see. Afterwards, email help@colorado.edu, tell them you changed your preferred name and you want your email to match and you are all set!

Gender Neutral Bathroom Map
The Gender and Sexuality Center is proud to announce that we have a map of campus that will point you to all of the gender-inclusive bathrooms open to the public! It is available on our homepage, check it out!

Hallett’s Social Justice Living and Learning Community
Hallett Hall’s Spectrum LLC will be joined next year by the Buchanan LLC dedicated to Black and African-American students and a Multicultural Perspectives theme to create the Social Justice LLC, geared towards creating an educational, open space to learn about social justice issues. While some people criticized its creation, many are celebrating a brighter future where community-based support and understanding will spread across the campus among all students and staff.

We would like to give special thanks to the Cultural Events Board, QTPOC, and Biphoria for bringing amazing speakers to campus, including Charles Blow, Laverne Cox, and George Takei.
Karen Rafforth Scholarship:  Arin Moriarty

The LGBTQIA Scholarship:  Nadia Brecl

The Joel Roger Wayne Scholarship:  Dan Oster

The GLBT Alumni Chapter Scholarship:  Lindsey Kenyon & Oriana Richmond

Transito “Tito” Torres Award for Outstanding Student Activist and Leadership:  Bri Huizar

Joanne Arnold Courage and Commitment Award:  Elizabeth McVeigh & Kristi Wold-McCormack

Evan Wolfson Award:  Caleb Bay & Anthony DeCamillis