Our Mission
Promoting equal opportunity and social justice for successful academic, social and personal development for all GLBTQIA students, staff, faculty and their allies in a safe and supportive environment.
For more information, visit http://www.colorado.edu/gsc/

Love for Orlando

By now, we are sure the queer and trans identifying people of color in our community are more than exhausted by any reference to the terrible tragedy of the Orlando massacre. In this time of vulnerability and loss, we want to remind you that your grief and the expression of your grief is valid. Whether you are angry, lethargic, numb, or all other manifestations of mourning, the Queer and Trans People of Color Student Group affirms and supports you. While many voices and organizations are neglecting to understand the complexities of how intersectional this loss is for us, we would like to remind you that your community stands with you. You do not have to take time for your “allies” this week. You do not have to educate others through your grief. Your grief is not a weapon. Your mourning is not political. The most important person to take care of and protect is yourself, then your community when you are ready. We are the work we have to do.

Love,
CU Queer &Trans People Of Color

In Solidarity: Queer Women in Community, CU Gay-Straight Alliance, Biphoria, CU Leeds Pride, CU LGBTQ Students of Faith, Athlete Allies, CU Students Alliance of GLBT Engineers, and the Gender & Sexuality Center.
This year has been punctuated with many difficult developments for the LGBTQ community, from the attacks on LGBT civil rights, particularly transgender rights, to the mass shooting in Orlando. We have experienced grief over the loss of lives and anger that state legislators and governors could in a day overturn rights we’ve barely had an opportunity to celebrate.

For staff at the GSC, we are ending the academic year with a stark reminder of why our Center exists and why we each do the work we do. With the history of social justice movements as inspiration, we will continue to do our part to dismantle and disarm prejudice.

Here are some of the highlights of the year. After decades of work from students, faculty, staff and alumni to improve the University’s resources and support for LGBTQ and allied people, CU Boulder has been ranked as one of the top 25 LGBTQ-inclusive campuses in the nation. We celebrated the announcement with a campus-wide photo shoot, spearheaded by professor sj miller, in which we all wore a color of the rainbow to create a massive, human rainbow flag.

After a year of canvassing various constituents and surveying other universities, we also implemented a name change for the center to Gender and Sexuality Center. People have responded very positively to the new name, and we are already seeing more international students in the Center, confirming our hopes that this culturally diverse population would feel more comfortable visiting the office with the new name.

CU, including all four campuses, was for the first year an official sponsor of Denver Pride. Marching in the parade with the CU community provided a necessary and important occasion to show unity and support in the aftermath of a terrible tragedy. We are even more appreciative of our many collaborators and fellow social justice advocates across the University and in the surrounding community. Thank you for all that you do!
2015 - 2016 Highlights

10th Annual TRANSforming Gender Conference

New Staff at GSC 2015-2016

The Gender and Sexuality Center is proud to welcome Leighanne Gray and Ayla Sullivan to our staff. Leighanne (She/Her) and Ayla (They/Them) are entering their second year at CU. Leighanne, our Events and Outreach Coordinator is studying communications. Ayla, our Communications Coordinator, is studying Theatre and Business. Our continuing student staff are Garrett Rose, (He/Him) Volunteer Coordinator, Caitlin Galiz-Rowe, (She/Her, They/Them) Peer Education Coordinator, Emma Easterly, (She/Her) Special Projects Coordinator, JiJi Baik, (She/Her) International Student Outreach and Office Coordinator.

This year marked our tenth anniversary of this unique conference. In celebration we chose three keynote speakers. Jennicet Gutiérrez, a transgender Latina from Los Angeles, garnered internet fame when she heckled President Obama about undocumented transgender people and on ICE facilities. She has been a vocal activist, both locally and nationally, calling for reform around the treatment of undocumented trans women being placed in men’s facilities and denied access to transgender healthcare. Her involvement in this grassroots campaign has highlighted another troubling aspect of immigration policies.

Our second speaker was CeCe McDonald, a Black transgender woman, who was convicted for killing a transphobic man in self-defense after being attacked by him. After serving 41 months in a male prison, she now serves as a national spokesperson for prison reform and calls for change to the current prison system’s policies of housing transgender women in men’s facilities and denying access to transgender health care. She serves as an inspiration for those currently serving time in prison and is a fierce speaker for the Black Lives Matter movement.

Lastly, we hosted Tiq and Kim Milan. Tiq, a Black trans man, and his wife Kim, a descendent of West Indian and African heritage hailing from Quebec, are both educators and writers speaking to a multitude of social justice issues. Defining their relationship as queer, they spoke to the power of love in relationships and within the community. Finding strength in the diversity of our community, they encouraged us all to embrace that diversity and draw on our multiple perspectives.

The conference doubled in size going from 300 to 600 attendees. As we continue to grow we are seeing an increase in the diversity of our audience members around age, race, ability, ethnicity, and class. We are also drawing in college students from across the nation, with groups attending from the University of Oregon and Wisconsin. We look forward to next year’s conference, where we plan to have Elle Hearns, a Black trans woman, who is a leader in the Black Lives Matter movement and outspoken critic of our criminal justice system and the violence visited on trans women of color. Willy Wilkinson, an Asian-American trans man, will be the other keynote speaker and will be addressing gender on the edge of race, ethnicity and disability.
New International Student Outreach Staff Position

Every year more universities have been accepting a larger population of international students from all over the world. This year, in Fall semester of 2015, the CU Boulder campus has an international population of 8%. To respond to the increase in the international student population, the Gender and Sexuality Center developed a new staff position to outreach to international students and to provide culturally competent support around gender identity and sexual orientation. Such support is vital for students to be academically successful and finish school while exploring their identities.

JiJi Baik, who is an international student from South Korea, holds the International Student Outreach position. With her own experiences and struggles that she faced once she realized her sexual identity, she started to advocate and reach out to other international students hoping to help students who might need support. Most international queer students often encounter a “double barrier,” in which they cannot reveal their different sexualities to their own race/ethnic group due to cultural taboos against LGBT identities, but within the US LGBT community, they feel isolated due to different cultures and backgrounds.

JiJi's personal experience with the double barrier drives her passion to bring more international students into our safe space and create a queer friendly environment. Currently she is attempting to organize an international students ally group and let our community hear their voice.

Because some of the countries where international students are from have high rates of criminalization of LGBT identities, and in some cases even the death penalty, discussing any LGBTQ matter could be a huge barrier and may be a deterrent for people to talk openly about their gender identity or sexuality. To tackle this stigma and provide a safe space/environment for both incoming international students and other undergraduates, JiJi welcomes support and interest in her first attempt to bring a small group of international students together with her outreach work on the Boulder campus.

Creating Change – Chicago 2016

This year, students attended the National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change in Chicago, Illinois, one of the largest annual gatherings of activists, organizers, and leaders in the LGBT movement.

Barbara Smith, Reina Gossett, and Charlene Carruthers presented the opening plenary of this year's Creating Change on Black Feminism and the Movement for Black Lives. Intersectionality, in past years, was a large focus of Creating Change 2016, and conversations about Black Lives and Undocuqueer continued from the 2015 conference. Students from our Center attended events on responding to police harassment, AIDS and HIV, education queer issues in Asian American communities and undocumented immigrant communities, and ways to reach out to queer Deaf/HoH students on campus, as well as many other sessions. There were further plenary sessions, institutes, and discussions on racial justice, faith within the community, recovery and mental wellness, and youth empowerment. The next Creating Change will be held in Philadelphia.

Student funding to attend Creating Change is made possible through generous donations. If you wish to contribute to helping students attend the 2017 Creating Change conference, follow the link below.

http://www.cufund.org/giving-opportunities/fund-description/?id=3633
The University of Colorado Boulder made the list of Top 25 LGBTQ Campuses this past year, receiving 4.5/5 stars from the Campus Pride Index. Campuses are rated by the following: LGBTQ Policy Inclusion, Support and Institutional Commitment, Academic Life, Student Life, Housing and Residency Life, Campus Safety, Counseling and Health, and Recruitment and Retention. In order to be in the Top 25 listing, an institution had to score the highest percentages in the LGBTQ-friendly benchmarks. The listing this year includes colleges with student populations from 1600 to over 50,000, public and private schools alike. The Campus Pride Index is based in research on policy, program and practice and is conducted for and by LGBTQ experts in the field of higher education. Each campus updates their index annually and uses the Campus Pride benchmarking tool to make improvements for LGBTQ life on campus.

We’re so proud to have made such an achievement, and appreciate all of the hard work everyone has done to improve the campus! Thank you for your support!


CU Athlete, Jaron Thomas receives Tito Torres Award

Thomas' impact on the CU campus has been so powerful and deep that he was awarded the school's Tito Torres award for advancement of social-justice issues on campus. This isn't an award given to athletes, it is open to the entire student body. Thomas is the first athlete to ever win the award.

Read more at:

Annual Awards Presented at Lavender Graduation

Karen Raforth Scholarship: Nadia Brecl

The LGBTQIA Scholarship: Ayla Sullivan

The Positive Futures Scholarship: Garrett Rose

GLBT Alumni Chapter Scholarship: Daniel Burian and Louise Vazquez

Transito “Tito” Torres Award for Outstanding Student Activist and Leadership: Jaron Thomas

Joanne Arnold Courage and Commitment Award: Elizabeth Whalley

Evan Wolfson Essay Prize: Nadia Brecl and Danny Jackson
Morgan Seamont was the recipient of the New Staff Member of the Year for the Student Affairs Division. The Award recognizes a staff member with less than two years of service who demonstrates capacity in the areas of student success, inclusion, collaboration, ethical practice, and leadership, and demonstrates outstanding performance and contributions to students, their department, the division and/or the CU community.

Our Peer Education Team finished their first Gender Inclusive Pronoun video that will be sent out to Professors, Faculty, and Staff—if you’d like to view the video, you can watch it here!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWOT6s0uO0s

For information throughout the year visit us here:

CU Gender and Sexuality Center
@cugscenter
@cugsc
http://www.colorado.edu/gsc/

If you have suggestions for programming or events you would like us to offer, contact the Center at http://www.colorado.edu/asc/