CELEBRATING THE 20th Anniversary
OUTSTANDING Women of Color in Education AWARDS
&
Dr. P.B. Poorman Awards FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT ON BEHALF OF LGBTQ PEOPLE
Outstanding Women of Color in Education &
Dr. P.B. Poorman Awards Ceremony

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015
Gordon Dining and Event Center 770 W. Dayton St. Madison, Wisconsin

12:00 p.m. Luncheon

12:15 p.m. Welcome
   UW System President Ray Cross

12:20 p.m. Introduction of Keynote Speaker
   Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Vicki Washington

12:25 p.m. Keynote Address
   Dr. Gloria J. Ladson-Billings, UW-Madison

1:00 p.m. Presentation of Awards
   Awards will be presented by institution. Photos will also be taken during this time.

2:00 p.m. End of Program
About the Award

OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF COLOR IN EDUCATION

The UW System Outstanding Women of Color in Education Award is organized and supported by the former UW System Office of Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Student Success (IDEASS). The award and recognition ceremony was initiated in 1994 to acknowledge the ties and shared concerns among administrators, faculty, staff, and students within women’s studies and ethnic studies. Each UW System institution was invited to select one woman to receive this recognition based on their contributions in the areas of diversity or women’s studies scholarship and activism, and/or service to improve the status and climate for women, particularly women of color. The charge was to identify women of color who have consistently demonstrated their ability to rally diverse forces together to advance the agenda of women; who have created positive changes at their institutional level, such as curriculum development and infusion, acquiring grants, or mentoring women; and who have demonstrated an understanding of the interplay of family, community, and culture in the lives of women of color.

The biographies contained in this program indicate the vital work and accomplishments that award recipients bring to their campuses and communities.
About the Award

DR. P.B. POORMAN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT ON BEHALF OF LGBTQ PEOPLE

Paula B. Poorman, a founding member of the UW System LGBTQ Inclusivity Initiative and a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, was killed in an accident on Interstate 90 on June 27, 2007, at age 56. Those who worked with Dr. Poorman in the University of Wisconsin System knew her as P.B.

P.B. and her life partner of 19 years, Susan Simmons, lived in Madison. P.B. was filled with joy and light and cared for all people in her life, whether it was her partner, family, friends, colleagues, or her students. She was exuberant and inspired and encouraged excellence in all of those around her.

P.B. grew up in Phoenix, Arizona, and Bakersfield, California. She began her college career at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Illinois, where her father was president of the college, earning an associate's degree there. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Southern Illinois University, her master’s degree from Mankato State University, and her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Colorado State University. P.B was a faculty member for 11 years in the Psychology Department at the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, where she was promoted to full professor. She loved to teach and encouraged students to go further than they ever thought they could with their education. She was the author of Microskills and Theoretical foundations for professional helpers. Her scholarly work focused on underserved populations and issues of powerlessness and privilege. Her research on domestic violence and oppression was published in numerous professional articles and presented at state, regional, and national conferences.

P.B. played an instrumental role in the foundation and development of the LGBTQ Inclusivity Initiative. She was a member of both the Steering and Research Committees at the inception of the initiative. P.B. took on the daunting task of investigating various campus climate research models and made contact with Dr. Susan Rankin regarding implementing a systemwide campus climate study initiated in the fall of 2007 and completed in 2013. P.B. was a strong voice on the Inclusivity Initiative, rallying members with humor and determination to continue with advocacy when things looked bleak, and cajoling and urging the administration to continue moving further in its support of LGBTQ students, faculty, and staff. Her legacy to the state of Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin System, and LGBTQ communities is immeasurable. She is deeply missed.

The UW System and the LGBTQ Inclusivity Initiative established the annual Dr. P.B. Poorman Award for Outstanding Achievement on Behalf of LGBTQ People in 2008, honoring UW System faculty, staff, and students for excellence in their advocacy, research or service efforts on behalf of LGBTQ communities.
Gloria J. Ladson-Billings, Ph.D., is the Kellner Family Chair in Urban Education and a professor in the departments of Curriculum and Instruction, Educational Policy Studies, Afro-American Studies, and Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She received her B. S. from Morgan State University, M.Ed. from the University of Washington, and Ph.D. from Stanford University.

Ladson-Billings’ many awards include an honorary doctorate from Umeå University in Umeå, Sweden (2002) and the George and Louise Spindler Award for ongoing contributions in educational anthropology (2004). In 2005 she was elected to the National Academy of Education. In 2008 she was awarded the Hilldale Award, the highest faculty award given at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. In that same year she was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from Teachers College–Columbia University. Most recently, Ladson-Billings received the 2015 Social Justice in Education Award from the American Educational Research Association.

Dr. Ladson-Billings’ scholarship is extensive and has focused on multicultural education, social studies, critical race theory and education, and culturally relevant pedagogy. She has authored or edited eight books and over 100 journal articles and book chapters; given over 50 invited presentations throughout the United States and internationally; served as a reviewer of six education journals; published scholarly articles in leading journals; and received numerous grants to work with school teachers. In 1994 she wrote the book, *The Dreamkeepers: Successful Teachers of African American Children*, in which she examined eight outstanding teachers who differ in personal style but who all approach teaching their subject in a way that affirms cultural identity. “The quest for quality education remains an elusive dream for the African American community. However, it does remain a dream—perhaps the most powerful for the people of African descent in this nation,” she wrote.

Last, but certainly not least, Ladson-Billings is engaged in community service, including membership in the Mt. Zion Baptist Church where she also serves as an ordained deacon. She is a member of the Board of Directors for both the Madison Children’s Museum and the Urban League of Greater Madison, and is also on the United Way Dane County Vision Council. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., a member of the Links, Inc., and a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).
Dr. Renée M. Gralewicz is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at UW-Fox Valley. She has taught in the UW Colleges since 1997 after completing a dissertation on the effects of federal policies on Indian health and earning her Ph.D. in anthropology from Washington State University.

A member of the Brothertown tribe, Renée has worked for over 20 years to foster a greater understanding of contemporary American Indian experiences, culture, and issues. Her many accomplishments include playing a critical role in crafting the UW Colleges American Indian Studies program and developing the interdisciplinary American Indian Studies core course – AIS 101 (American Indian Studies); and creating an online course for out-of-state teachers seeking licensure in Wisconsin that meets the Department of Public Instruction and state statutory requirements for coursework on Wisconsin Indian culture, sovereignty, and history. Additionally, Renée has served on the UW System American Indian Studies Consortium and participated in UW System Administration’s Access2Success initiative to recruit and retain American Indian students.

Renée’s work and passion go beyond teaching. In addition to serving as the tribal secretary and tribal veteran contact coordinator (she is a veteran herself), she has worked with tribal members to regain federal recognition of the Brothertown tribe. She has also established an internship for students to assist in a language and cultural archiving initiative involving the Brothertown, Oneida and Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans.

These efforts highlight Renée’s commitment to serving the Native American community across the UW System and the state of Wisconsin.

Dr. Lisa Hager is an Associate Professor of English at UW-Waukesha. Lisa created the first LGBTQ studies courses in the UW Colleges.

Lisa was instrumental to the founding of the Pride Alliance during her first year on campus. This LGBTQ student organization has brought about a cultural and educational transformation of the campus. UW-Waukesha, under the sponsorship of the Pride Alliance, became the first campus in the state to hold an annual Pride Prom to allow students who never felt welcomed at their own high school prom the opportunity to experience this special event.

Lisa also played a central role in establishing the LGBTQIA Resource Center on campus and has served as co-director or director of the resource center since its inception. Lisa organizes the center’s speaker series and has provided the UW-Waukesha community the opportunity to listen and learn from some of the leading LGBTQ voices of our times. Considering the size of the campus and the political climate of the local community, this accomplishment is truly outstanding.

Lisa has labored to make UW-Waukesha and UW Colleges more inclusive of transgender students, staff, and faculty. She spearheaded the drive to create all-gender restrooms that are highly visible. Because of her efforts, UW Colleges students may now use a preferred name rather than the name assigned to them at birth that may not reflect their gender identity.

In short, Lisa’s efforts have changed UW-Waukesha’s students, colleagues, campus, and community; her work has transformed who we are.
**UW–Eau Claire**

**OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF COLOR IN EDUCATION**

**Dr. Dandrielle C. Lewis** is an Assistant Professor in Mathematics at UW-Eau Claire. She received her Bachelor of Science from Winston Salem State University in 2001, her Master of Science from the University of Iowa in 2006, and her Ph.D. from SUNY Binghamton in 2011.

Since 2011, Dandrielle has served as a member of the University of Wisconsin Women and Science Advisory Board. The mission of this program is to attract and retain more women and minority students in STEM.

She continues to be an advocate for broadening the participation for women and minorities in STEM as director and organizer of UWEC’s Sonia Kovalevsky Math Days for high school and middle school girls. This day program encourages girls to pursue higher education and careers in STEM through exposure to STEM opportunities, workshops and panels, and networking opportunities with prominent women who use STEM in their careers. Additionally, Dandrielle serves as co-facilitator of a Domestic Intercultural Immersion Program, “Embracing the Somali Immigrant Experience in Midwestern Public Schools.” This program increases awareness and understanding of how race, background knowledge and experiences, culture, religion, and gender impact school environments.

For her contributions to educational excellence and diversity, Dandrielle has earned UW-Eau Claire’s Distinguished Service Award from the Office of Multicultural Affairs. She has also participated extensively in undergraduate research and mentoring at UWEC, nationally, and with the WiscAMP program, all in the hopes of exposing more women and minorities to opportunities and possibilities in STEM fields.

**Christopher J. Jorgenson** has accomplished much in the last few years as Director of the Women’s & LGBTQ Resource Center at UW-Eau Claire. With a focused emphasis on cross-collaboration, the lived experiences of the LGBTQIA+ community have become a key element in the planning of administrative policy and overall campus culture. Under Christopher’s direction, the Women’s & LGBTQ Resource Center serves as a powerful example of the UW System’s commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusivity.

With 10 student interns at his side, Christopher plans numerous programs and events throughout the academic year: National Coming Out Day, National Day of Silence, Trans*Mission Week, Night OUT: Film Series, Walking OUT: An LGBTQA Graduation Celebration, and The Fire Ball. Christopher and his student interns work tirelessly to bring these events to the university community. The Fire Ball alone has become the second largest event on campus, and has generated approximately $40,000 to benefit students’ social justice advocacy. In addition, the Women’s & LGBTQ Resource Center is responsible for several crucial training programs on campus—including Safe Space Training and Bystander Intervention Training for Sexual Assault.

Christopher is also frequently invited for speaking engagements, delivering presentations across the state that seek to expand participants’ views on sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, privilege—and the countless ways such identities intersect. He engages every corner of the university community and constantly strategizes ways to ensure that UW–Eau Claire is a welcoming and inclusive community for all students, faculty, and staff.
Crystal Chevalier is the 4-H Youth Development Educator and Co-Department Head for Menominee County/Nation Cooperative Extension. She provides a strong voice for inclusivity and increased outreach of the university resources and advocates for awareness of Native American culture and educational needs. This has included organizing the collaborative presentation on Wisconsin’s 11 Federally Recognized Tribes at the 2012 State 4-H Youth Development and Family Living conference and planning the 2012 National Extension North Central Region All Colleague Conference in Menominee County. In 2013 and 2015, through her work with the statewide UW-Extension’s Native American Task Force, she helped plan the bi-annual “Working Effectively with Tribal Communities” conference.

Since 2014, Crystal has worked on four grant programs, building capacity in her local community. One of these, “Menominee Youth Empowerment,” focuses on improving the overall community through the positive impact on a cohort of 50 youth over five years. Through a “Children Youth and Families at Risk” grant awarded to the Menominee County/Nation, Crystal starts local 4-H clubs and increases the capacity for health and culture related programs.

Crystal is an advocate and civil servant for Native American issues as a member of the Menominee Tribal Legislature since 2013. Her roles include serving as Vice Chairwoman and Secretary of the Menominee Nation. Crystal is in her second year as both the Chairwoman of the Menominee Indian Gaming Authority, working diligently to increase tribal self-determination through financial security, and also as the Chairwoman of the Governmental Affairs standing committee that oversees the restructuring and amending of tribal law.

Dr. Idella Yamben is an outstanding woman of color in science, business and education.

Idella’s work to increase diversity has clearly been a sustained effort. Early in her career as a research assistant in Anatomy in UW-Madison’s School of Medicine and Public Health, she co-founded the Cellular and Molecular Biology Diversity Committee and founded the student mentorship program, CELS (Creating Excellence in Leadership in Science).

In her current role as Entrepreneurial Consultant and Program Manager with UW-Extension, Idella developed, manages and delivers the Ideadvance Seed Fund, a new venture fund developed by UW System and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. Through Ideadvance, Idella has provided personalized, one-on-one assistance to help more than 30 grantees reach their dreams. Current projects include the development of an infant sleep pod to prevent sleeping-related deaths and injuries in infants; an earthquake- and tornado-resistant cross-laminated wall system; and dissolvable packets to eliminate packaging waste from soap and shampoo products.

Idella also participates in Milwaukee-area projects with communities of color, including a series led by Dr. Keenan Grinnell to help military veterans and aspiring entrepreneurs in lower-income neighborhoods start businesses. Idella volunteers on the selection committee and serves as a mentor for participants.

She also recently completed the year-long UW Colleges and UW-Extension Academy for Leadership and Innovation. In addition to receiving high praise for her personal contributions and commitment to the group, she independently built relationships with Milwaukee community leaders to help improve access to diverse consultants and business services for the Division of Business and Entrepreneurship.
**UW-Green Bay**

OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF COLOR IN EDUCATION

**Juliet Cole**, Associate Director of the Institute for Learning Partnerships at UW-Green Bay, is a strong leader known for making great strides to help bridge the gap between the university and underrepresented people of color. One of her signature contributions is the development of the highly successful model for increasing enrollment among historically disadvantaged local populations known as Phuture Phoenix. The program’s success was built upon the strong relationships Juliet established in Green Bay Schools working with K-12 educators, administrators, students, and families.

Juliet is known as a beloved mentor to generations of students of color and believes her role is to create a supportive environment conducive to retaining the diverse students she recruits. Juliet tracks her mentees and connects them to necessary resources. She provides educational workshops on issues of diversity and engages in university service dedicated to the promotion of inclusive environments.

Juliet is recognized as an advocate for racial and ethnic groups within special education as well. She holds an invited position in the Wisconsin Disproportionality Technical Assistance network, which assists Wisconsin school districts in meeting federal mandates related to racial disproportionality in special education. She plays a key role in planning the network’s statewide Summit for Addressing Disproportionality and has developed key relationships with First Nations, Hispanic, and Hmong education leaders throughout the state, including the tribal education directors.

There are a precious few in the Green Bay community or on campus who have changed the culture of our community as Juliet has over the years. She is a rare and valuable asset.

**Stacie Christian** is a highly motivated advocate and leader for inclusivity and diversity at UW-Green Bay. She was one of the key leaders on campus that helped create the LGBTQ/Pride Center that opened in 2012. Stacie was serving in a faculty role at the time the LGBTQ Center was created. For the past three years, Stacie has served as the Pride Center Coordinator and direct supervisor for six student interns. The creation of the Pride Center has positively influenced the entire campus.

The LGBTQ/Pride Center’s Inclusivity Health Fair was held the past two years in April. Stacie worked with students, faculty, and staff across campus to secure 25 vendors and over 50 student presentations from Health Psychology and Gender Across the Lifespan. In 2015, the national keynote speaker was Mara Keisling from the National Center for Transgender Equality in Washington, D.C. This event brought students, faculty, staff and community members together to learn and celebrate LGBTQ visibility and inclusion.

Stacie is leading an initiative at UW-Green Bay on a preferred name policy. She is working with key areas across campus to fully implement this change.

Last, but certainly not least, Stacie partnered with staff and students to bring forward a Gender Inclusive Housing proposal. All of the appropriate boards and administrators have supported this initiative that started in 2014. There were 21 students who participated in the Safe and Inclusive Living (SAIL) program in the fall of 2014.

Stacie’s impact on the UW-Green Bay campus was recognized nationally, as UWGB was named by Campus Pride as a top 25 LGBTQ-friendly campus in 2015.
**UW-La Crosse**

**OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF COLOR IN EDUCATION**

**Xia Vang**, a Financial Aid Counselor at UW-La Crosse, is seriously dedicated to social justice and genuinely committed to helping students from underserved communities.

Xia’s impact as a member of the UW-L community has taken many forms. As a Graduate Assistant in the Office of Multicultural Student Services, Xia assisted in the retention of freshman multicultural students by mentoring, advising and working as part of two important summer bridge programs (Academic Success Institute and SMART). Xia also served on the campus-wide Inclusive Excellence Student Retention Committee and coordinated the Act 31-Widening the Circle Teacher Symposium.

As a Financial Aid Counselor, Xia assists students in completing the forms required to apply for grants allocated for students of color. These grants include, among others, the Bureau of Indian Affairs/Tribal Grants and Lawton. Xia also attends the admissions multicultural recruitment programs and works closely with the students who utilize Student Support Services, Upward Bound and the Office of Multicultural Services to help them understand the financial aid process. Her impact as a member of the Financial Aid Office to retain and advise students of color has been critical to advancing the university’s diversity and inclusion goals.

Finally, Xia’s commitment to diversity and inclusion is reflected in her work as an adviser and mentor for the Asian Student Organization (ASO) and the Asian, Latina, African, Native American Women (ALANA). Her long-standing efforts to retain and graduate students of color are why we honor her today.

**DR. PB. POORMAN AWARD**

**Jay Mark Lokken** began his career at UW-La Crosse in November 1988 as the international internship coordinator in Career Services. He became Director of International Education in 1995. Jay joined the University Advancement team as a development officer in January 2015.

From 1989 to 1995, Jay provided career advising for LGBTQ students studying at UW-La Crosse, as well as support for those studying abroad. He helped make connections with LGBTQ international students studying on campus and encouraged the Pride Center to work with the university’s American students applying to study abroad. Jay also made the LGBTQ Study Abroad Trip to Paris, France, a reality.

In addition to his work on campus, Jay has worked closely with The Center: 7 Rivers LGBTQ Connection. The Center’s goal is to improve the community’s understanding of human sexuality and gender identity. Jay has also supported the fundraising efforts of the La Crosse Youth Galaxy LGBTQ program, a group for LGBTQ youth ages 13 to 20 who want to meet and share experiences with other LGBTQ teens. In addition to his work with The Center, Jay supports the activities of Bridge Builders. This fund promotes communication, understanding and appreciation between the LGBTQ community and the wider community in La Crosse County. Jay is also an active member of the La Crosse LGBTQ Professional Network whose purpose is to support a Gay Friendly Professional Network through monthly social and networking opportunities for LGBTQ professionals and allies.
Dr. Heather M. Johnson is a cardiologist and an Assistant Professor of Medicine within UW-Madison’s School of Medicine and Public Health. She is currently the Principal Investigator of a National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute research program that is identifying and addressing barriers to hypertension control in young adults. In this project, Heather identifies barriers and develops interventions to improve high blood pressure control in young adults between 18 and 39; high blood pressure is significantly more prevalent among African-American men in young age groups and significantly increases their risk for premature kidney disease, heart failure, and stroke.

Heather’s scholarship has fostered social justice. As a part of her work, she created the “MyHEART“ (my Hypertension, Education, and Reaching Target) program, a team-based hypertension, self-management intervention that was developed by her with young adults, healthcare providers, and healthcare administrators. This program received national media attention from CNN, USA Today, U.S. News & World Report and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Even as a busy clinician and researcher, Heather continues to give back to the communities that played a critical role in her development. She individually mentors underrepresented minority undergraduate students, as well as pharmacy and internal medicine trainees at all levels. She has been actively involved with the AHANA (African, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American) Pre-Health Society and mentors a Chancellor’s Scholar at UW-Madison.

These activities demonstrate Heather’s commitment to community service, social justice, and her continued advocacy on behalf of minority students and populations.

Dr. Earlise C. Ward, Associate Professor in UW-Madison’s School of Nursing, shows her commitment to health equity in both her scholarship and practice and is a model to those aspiring to live in a society where equal access to health services is available to all. Her research focuses on culturally appropriate interventions for people from diverse groups who are experiencing serious depression. She has developed the first culturally adapted depression intervention for African Americans, called the Oh Happy Day Class. Her innovative interventions involve changes in service delivery, the therapeutic relationship, and the treatment itself to accommodate cultural beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors. Positive outcomes from pilot studies led to a $1.8-million award from the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparity for a randomized control trial of her treatment protocol.

Earlise has contributed to positive transformation within UW-Madison and the broader community. Through School of Nursing committees, she actively engaged in re-envisioning the PhD program; created a new certificate in advanced psychiatric mental health nursing; and helped develop strategies to increase diversity among students and faculty, as well as meet the academic needs of all students, including the growing population of international students. Earlise frequently speaks at local churches and community organizations on health and wellness. In addition to mentoring UW-Madison junior faculty, she mentors faculty of color at other institutions, and is currently serving as a Master Mentor for the newly established National Research Mentoring Network.

Her service includes chair/co-chair positions within the American Psychological Association-Division of Counseling Psychology. She also serves on UW-Madison’s Project 1808, a nonprofit committed to developing community stability in Kabala, Sierra Leone, Africa.
Gabriel (Gabe) C. Javier was hired in August 2011 to be UW-Madison’s Assistant Dean of Students and Director of the LGBT Campus Center. He has consistently demonstrated unwavering advocacy and support for LGBTQ students, faculty and staff.

Gabe spearheaded the establishment of a campus-wide preferred name policy. This required working with many colleagues to change both campus systems and policies. Gabe has also been a driving force behind the creation of a Hate and Bias committee – which he currently chairs – that responds to incidents of discrimination at UW-Madison.

Gabe has increased the staffing and support resources for the LGBT Campus Center by creatively partnering with the Multicultural Student Center to create a shared staff position focusing on the intersectionality of LGBTQ students of color. This innovative effort has received attention from peer institutions.

Gabe has partnered with, and improved the quality of, University Health Services’ transgender health care by creating a training program based on the World Professional Association of Transgender Health Standards of Care.

Gabe is a presenter extraordinaire, conducting nearly 50 educational workshops each year. His presentations have been requested for national conferences such as Creating Change, the National Association for Student Personnel Administrators, the American College Health Association, National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE), and Expanding the Circle.

Finally, Gabe provides support beyond the borders of the UW-Madison campus. He hosted numerous meetings for UW System LGBTQ centers, and brought the national Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals to Madison for a drive-in workshop in 2013.
Dr. Michelle Lopez-Rios is an Associate Professor of Voice and Speech in UW-Milwaukee’s Department of Theatre. She believes deeply in the power of one’s own voice. It is that belief that has inspired her work as an educator and artist. Her research centers on voice work, and the “Latina/o voice” in particular.

Utilizing her skills as a voice teacher, Michelle has designed and led many workshops on and off campus to help people of diverse backgrounds use their voice to its full potential, including the Multicultural Center Voice Workshop (UWM); Nuestra Voz, Nuestra Historia; Cultures & Communities Difficult Dialogue Series: Casting Blindly?; and The Healing Center Healthy Girls Program, among others.

As one of the first tenured Latina voice professors, Michelle takes the role of mentor seriously. She works one-on-one as an adviser and mentor to many of the students of color at UWM, a role she continues after they graduate. She also serves as a mentor in the Peck School of the Arts to junior faculty and chairs the Diversity Committee where she helped spearhead the first Diversity Scholarship for early career voice practitioners.

As an artist, Michelle is committed to creating and supporting works that celebrate diversity and bring light to social injustices. Recently, Michelle wrote and performed 500 Years, a play about a 500-year-old Latina who discusses events from 15th-century Spain to Milwaukee in 1968. Other productions include Bienvenidos a Milwaukee which explored immigrants in Milwaukee, as well as Nuestra Voz, Nuestra Historia, an original piece that brought together participants from UWM and the Latina/o Community.

Michelle believes that by embracing, nurturing and celebrating diversity, we become a stronger community.

Roy Badger has been an active employee on the UW-Milwaukee campus since 1981. He quietly and humbly distinguished himself as a valuable classified staff member even as he earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology with a minor in Peace Studies. Roy always cheerfully helped his colleagues with new phone systems, changes in the directory, and questions they did not know how to answer. He worked behind the scenes, smiling, helping, and rarely gaining any attention.

Some close friends were aware of his committee work at UW-Milwaukee and in the community. Currently, he is serving on the Classified Staff Advisory Committee for a three-year term. He previously served on the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee for LGBT+ Advocacy for three years. Additionally, he has volunteered to work with Milwaukee Pridefest since the 1990’s and also with the Galano Club – Milwaukee’s 12-step club serving the LGBTQ community – since 1991, where he served many years on the Board of Directors and as the Board President for three years.

Roy’s behind-the-scenes work on one of society’s most pressing issues, same-sex marriage, became very public in February 2014. Roy and his then partner, now husband, were among the four couples that legally challenged the state on the issue of same-sex marriage in Wisconsin. To our knowledge, he is the first person in UW-Milwaukee’s campus community to take an historic case to the U.S. Supreme Court on any matter.
Dr. Sylvia R. Carey-Butler has been an educator for over 32 years. She earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Vanderbilt University; her master’s degree from Binghamton University; and her undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Oneonta.

She joined UW-Oshkosh in November 2013 as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Support of Inclusive Excellence. In this role, Sylvia is responsible for the LGBTQ Resource Center, Women's Center, Student Support Services, Multicultural Retention Programs and the Multicultural Education Center. In the short time Sylvia has been on campus, she has done much to transform the campus community and ensure that everyone matters at UW-Oshkosh.

Under her leadership, the university has started its work on the Campus Climate Survey and Equity Scorecard Project. She established an array of programs and activities to improve the campus climate and understanding of differences, including coordinating forums to discuss issues pertaining to social justice, civil unrest and advocacy. She planned the first Annual UW-Oshkosh Masked Ball to begin a scholarship fund to help students with additional financial needs. She also implemented the Smart Conversations Series which are thought-provoking presentations and dialogue on why smart or difficult conversations are necessary, especially on college campuses. She established a faculty visitation program with Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, and she brought national experts to campus to increase awareness and understanding of the challenges institutions face in retaining and graduating students of color. She currently co-chairs the University's Strategic Planning process.

Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) M. Cannon is the Director of the LGBTQ Resource Center and a lecturer in English, Women's and Gender Studies, and African American Studies at UW-Oshkosh. She also administers the LGBTQ Studies certificate program. Liz has a B.A. in English from Oberlin College, an M.A. in 19th and 20th Century British Literature from Indiana University Bloomington, and a Ph.D. in Women's Writing and Feminist Theory with a minor in Women's Studies from UW-Madison. Her research interests include exploring contemporary constructions of bisexuality and effective methods of developing student centers devoted to social justice causes.

Under Liz’s leadership, the UW-Oshkosh LGBTQ Resource Center provides a safe, inclusive, and affirming campus climate for students, faculty, and staff of all genders and sexualities through education, advocacy, and support. At UW-Oshkosh, she teaches Introduction to Women's Studies, Women and Madness, Queer Theory/Queer Lives, Women in Literature, African American Literature, and Introduction to African American Studies. She also co-leads study abroad trips to Tanzania and Nicaragua. Liz coordinates the Lavender Graduation, a special ceremony to celebrate LGBTQ students and student allies of all races and ethnicities for their achievements and contributions to the university during their tenure. To help make the campus a safer and a more welcoming place for LGBTQ community, she offers S.A.F.E. training to students, staff and faculty for equality. Last but not least, Liz also coordinates the Annual Harvey Milk Commemorative Dinner to help raise funds for scholarships.
Dr. Adrienne M. Viramontes is an Associate Professor of Communications in the Department of Communications at UW-Parkside. Adrienne is a beloved teacher among the students in the Communications department because of her advocacy and sensitivity to students’ complex social and cultural issues. She has the kind of lived experiences that diverse students understand. When she shares her auto-ethnographic narratives about growing up in Gary, Indiana, as a Mexican-American, they nod. When she creates narratives from her White persona growing up in a working-class family they are hooked and ready to learn whatever she has to teach.

Adrienne’s advocacy extends beyond the classroom and into her research methodology and professional presentations. Her conference participation provides an intersectional perspective on gender, race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation using ethnography to address women’s rights and cultural realities. A representative sample of her conference presentations include: Abortion, Morality, and the Diabetic Female Body; Fascism and Gender History: Another Look at Pan’s Labyrinth; The Essentials of Cultural Performance; and Queer Theory, Communication Theory: Overviews, Applications, and New Directions.

Adrienne’s presence outside of the classroom includes campus service as co-director of Women’s and Gender Studies, facilitating Safe Zone Training Programs for the UW-Parkside LGBTQ Resource Center and serving as a member of the Ethnic Studies Committee.

In Professor Viramontes, students have a role model who demonstrates daily what it means to exhibit agency in the face of social injustice. She is a powerful teacher who disrupts traditional notions of what it means to be a scholar.

Kim White is an Academic and Career Advisor at UW-Parkside. Kim has served as Chair of UW-Parkside’s Inclusive Excellence Mini Grant Committee. This committee is charged with reviewing, recommending, and coordinating grant proposals related to the implementation of policies, programs, and practices that enhance diversity, inclusion, and equity into all levels of the University.

Kim is a strong advocate of LGBTQ equity and strives to create a supportive learning environment that is diverse and inclusive, but above all, is welcoming to all students. This past year, she has dedicated her leadership and hours of personal time to ensure the sustained viability of the LGBTQ Resource Center in the absence of a director. She plays an integral role in campus Safe Zone Training, often assisting in the coordination of sessions and serving as an instructor/facilitator.

She has been a valuable contributor to UW-Parkside’s Queer Thanksgiving, an annual event sponsored by the LGBTQ Resource Center that seeks to provide a safe space for UW-Parkside’s LGBTQ community and allies to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday. Through this event, Kim has exemplified her dedication to the wellbeing of UW-Parkside’s LGBTQ student population to ensure that the Thanksgiving holiday is a special time for students who may otherwise not have a safe place to celebrate the joy and generosity of the holiday.

Kim is an individual who personifies what it means to provide outstanding and unconditional service to and for the LGBTQ community.
Yunmei (Mei) Reeder is the Director of the Confucius Institute at UW-Platteville. In this role, she works with administration, faculty, and staff to implement Mandarin teaching and cultural understanding. The campus’s Chinese New Year Spring Festival is one example. In addition, she designs corporate on-site Mandarin language training, as well as outreach programs and events for the local community. She serves as a guest lecturer/presenter/interpreter for the tri-state area in hospitals, courtrooms, and schools. Mei also works with area schools and districts to establish Confucius Classrooms to ensure quality Chinese programs.

Mei moved up through the ranks at UW-Platteville, starting as a language instructor of the Confucius Institute, moving to program coordinator, assistant director, and then director. She is also the coordinator of cooperation on higher education and professional development in international programs. She plans to complete her doctoral degree, which focuses on higher education management and leadership, in May 2016.

She is actively involved in professional communities, including Asia Society and the College Board, Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools, Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. She has been involved in several statewide, regional and national organizations, including the Wisconsin Chinese Speech Contest coordinated with the Wisconsin Association of Chinese Language Teachers. She has traveled extensively and has familiarity with many other Asian cultures, including Taiwanese, Korean, Japanese, as well as the cultures of Hong Kong and China. In all she does, she serves as a positive role model for others.
Dr. P.B. Poorman Award

Dr. Todd A. Savage is known locally, regionally, and nationally as a mentor, an exemplary educator, and transformational leader. Locally, Todd collaborated with Dr. Michelle Parkinson to develop an academic course addressing LGBTQ topics. Through this course, students gain a broader understanding of the LGBTQ community, as well as how those identities intersect with class, race and gender. Todd also serves as a mentor to students, faculty and staff to create positive transformation within UW-River Falls to achieve the goals of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Todd facilitates workshops with great impact for educators in the upper Midwest, and engages as a graduate educator on campus, teaching courses in diversity and inclusion, assessment, advocacy and public policy, research, and crisis prevention and intervention.

Todd traveled to Washington, D.C., in November 2010 to provide a briefing on LGBTQ student topics at the U.S. Department of Education. Todd brought stories from the field to emphasize the need for specific policy recommendations. Todd highlighted suicides by several LGBTQ youth in Minneapolis/St. Paul, as well as struggles some local school districts are experiencing when creating and administering policies intended to protect LGBTQ students.

In the year ahead, as president of the National Association of School Psychologists, Todd will lead the nation’s association in efforts to advocate for the strengthening of public education and to support psychological safety, social-emotional learning, and resilience. Todd works to improve the climate for, and visibility of, LGBTQ people now and for future generations.

OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF COLOR IN EDUCATION

Hli Vang currently works at Augsburg College as the Director of Pan Asian Student Services. Hli earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from UW-River Falls in 2008, and her Master’s degree in Student Affairs from UW-La Crosse in 2011.

She currently serves on the UW-River Falls Alumni Board participating on the Special Events Committee, determined to engage more alumni of color. Hli continues to return to UW-River Falls and engage the community through a variety of means, including helping with campus move-in day and attending community events representing the campus. Hli is an advocate and supporter of student annual events at UW-River Falls and serves as a professional mentor to past and current students. In fall 2014, she participated in the campus’s Multicultural Student Services’ first Professional Alumni Speaker Series, where she shared with students her story, challenges, and wisdom.

A former Chancellor’s Award recipient, Hli continues to search for and contribute to initiatives, ideas, events, and programs that bring people with varying perspectives and backgrounds together so their stories can be shared and heard. She understands that by seeing others, and allowing them to be who they are, she becomes a truer and stronger version of herself. As an emerging leader in higher education, her approach is naturally linked to the experiences she has lived and is living – and her values reflect a strong sense of self and truth.

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**UW-Stevens Point**

**OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF COLOR IN EDUCATION**

**Ka Lia Lo Smith** is a Financial Aid Adviser at UW-Stevens Point. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Community and Nonprofit Leadership from UW-Madison and then continued her education in the Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education graduate program at UW-La Crosse.

In the Financial Aid Office, Ka Lia carefully guides parents and students through the often difficult and overwhelming financial aid process. She routinely meets with parents and students of color, assisting with the entire process from beginning to end. As a first-generation college student herself, Ka Lia understands the difficulties the financial aid process may cause for families and students. Her life experience helps in assisting parents and students as fully as possible.

On campus, Ka Lia serves on the Academic Staff Council as well as the Diversity Council. These councils allow Ka Lia to better understand and address the needs of the entire university population, including faculty, staff, and students of color. Ka Lia is also a co-adviser for Sigma Delta Rho and the Hmong and South East Asian American Club (HaSEAAC), providing guidance to students as they plan events and establish goals consistent with their organizational missions. Recently, Ka Lia was awarded a University Leadership Mentor Award for her efforts.

The impact she has as a financial aid adviser and co-adviser can be visibly seen through the students she serves.

**Dr. Andrew E. Stoner** served as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Communication at UW-Stevens Point, where he began working in 2012. Andrew earned his Ph.D. in Public Communication and Technology from Colorado State University, his master’s degree from Ball State University, and a bachelor’s degree from Franklin College of Indiana. His research focus includes mass media and public relations consideration of LGBTQ people and their history. His dissertation examined the life of noted AIDS writer and author Randy Shilts.

At UW-Stevens Point he served two years as the faculty adviser for the student-run Gender & Sexuality Alliance, and as a member of the Faculty-Staff Gay/Straight Alliance. An advocate for LGBTQ students, Andrew has spoken at the Wisconsin Women’s Studies & LGBTQ Conference, and is the teaching chair for the LGBTQ Interest Group in the Association for Educators in Journalism & Mass Communication (AEJMC). He has also presented on a variety of LGBTQ-related topics at the national and international level via AEJMC.

The author of six books on varied topics from political biography to true crime, he is currently preparing two new books – one on the life of journalist Randy Shilts and the other on the presidential campaign history of Indiana from Abraham Lincoln to Barack Obama.

Beginning in August 2015, Andrew is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Studies at California State University at Sacramento.
**UW-Stout**

**OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF COLOR IN EDUCATION**

**Doris A. Strehlau**, until her recent retirement after 17 years of service, worked as the Office Operations Associate in the Memorial Student Center (MSC) Reservations department at UW-Stout.

Doris holds a long record of community service and mentoring of women and minorities at UW-Stout. She was a founding member of the Minority Faculty and Staff Network, serving as a resource person and mentoring many new minority staff. As a member of the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Ojibwe, Doris also served as an adviser to the Native American Student Association. During her tenure as adviser, Doris helped to organize fry bread stands, cook Native American soups, and organize pow-wows.

Doris also had an active service record with the National Guard. She was the Area Coordinator for the Northwestern Quarter of Wisconsin for the Wisconsin Army National Guard Family Support Group during Operation Desert Storm. She provided liaison services between these families and the Wisconsin National Guard Administration and community contacts in times of need, including troubleshooting automobile problems, plumbing issues, illnesses and other emergencies experienced by the families. She received a Service Medal from the Wisconsin Army National Guard for her volunteer service.

By infusing Native American traditions into the fabric of UW-Stout campus life, Doris made the university a more hospitable and welcoming place for people of different backgrounds, including race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and disability status.

**Dr. PB. Poorman Award**

**Dr. Jeanne Foley** is a Professor of Mathematics and serves as the Director of the Math Teaching and Learning Center, which serves students in remedial and foundational mathematics courses. Throughout her career at UW-Stout, Jeanne has been a strong supporter of diversity and inclusivity initiatives.

Jeanne has served as a member of the university’s LGBTQ Inclusivity Committee (Pride Alliance) since its inception in 2005, and served as its co-chair from 2006 to 2007. For many years she served as the faculty adviser to the student Out at Stout club (currently the Gender and Sexuality Alliance). She has also regularly participated in LGBTQ Awareness Month. Jeanne served on the search committee to hire the university’s LGBTQ Program Coordinator, and she was one of the speakers at the grand opening of the QUBE, UW-Stout’s LGBTQ student resource center.

Beyond her work with the LGBTQ community, she has been involved with broader diversity-related activities including serving on a Multicultural Student Services Office Reorganization taskforce, the Diversity Education Committee, and the search committee for an Assistant to the Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusive Excellence. In her role as Director of the Math Teaching and Learning Center, she has worked closely with both the Multicultural Student Services and Disabilities Services Offices to help students succeed in campus MATH-010/110 courses. Under her guidance, the success rates in these courses have improved dramatically overall and, in particular, the achievement gap between underrepresented minority students and the general population has shrunk considerably.
Debbie Cheslock, Student Program Manager for the Gender Equity Center at UW-Superior, has demonstrated outstanding leadership in advancing the work of diversity, equity and inclusion of LGBTQ people through high-profile events and educational programs on campus. Debbie received her Bachelor’s of Science degree in Sociology in May 2014 and is currently a graduate student in Guidance and Counseling at UW-Superior.

Each semester Debbie facilitates the LGBTQ Safe Zone training for campus faculty, staff, and students. Debbie has also organized student volunteers to be a part of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Straight (LGBS) Allies panels which open up dialogue about LGBTQ topics on campus.

Not only has Debbie created large-scale events that increase the visibility of LGBTQ people, but also she has improved the climate for both the community and individuals. In her role as the student program manager of the Gender Equity Center, Debbie has strived to create a place that is welcoming to all.

Debbie is a great example and role model for her LGBTQ peers and the entire campus community. She has a contagious passion as a human rights activist and is not afraid to share her philosophy with others and challenge others to adopt a respectful and open attitude toward diversity. Debbie shares her creativity, resourcefulness, and helping skills openly.

Debbie exemplifies exactly what this award is about. She most certainly has made LGBTQ inclusion a topic that UW-Superior has paid attention to in the past three years.
Cynthia (Cindy) Konrad served as the LGBT Pride Center Coordinator at UW-Whitewater, enhancing support services for students, creating initiatives to raise awareness about LGBTQ identities, and developing the campus Safe Zone training. In addition to supporting the growth of LGBTQ students, Cindy brought together students from diverse campus groups to engage in dialogue. For example, Cindy worked with historically Black fraternities and sororities to co-host a film screening and discussion of LGBTQ people in African American communities. Cindy also worked to organize an event where Hmong and LGBTQ students could come together to discuss the intersection of gay and Hmong identities.

Cindy worked to support institutional change and improve the campus climate for LGBTQ students. Under Cindy’s leadership the Chancellor’s Committee on LGBT* issues secured gender inclusive restrooms. Cindy also served on a team to develop and test a values rubric to measure the effectiveness of diversity learning on UW-Whitewater’s campus. Cindy worked with colleagues to create a Diversity Leadership Honors Certificate program, one of only a few such programs in the country for undergraduate students.

Cindy expanded the Pride Center staff to include four interns, a graduate assistant, and a team of volunteers who share their experiences in classes and at meetings and events across campus. Finally, Cindy partnered with University Health and Counseling staff to offer professional development on providing care for LGBTQ students and increase services for transgender students.

As of August 2015, Cindy is the Assistant Director of LGBT Services and Outreach at Oregon State University.

Dr. Ozalle Marie Toms is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Special Education at UW-Whitewater.

Ozalle teaches Special Education courses, expertly infusing culturally responsive practices in her instruction to prepare future school professionals to effectively teach and work with students of color and families who come from diverse and nontraditional backgrounds. She has shared her practices with other UW-Whitewater faculty contributing to the advancement of diversity practices on campus.

Her leadership is evident at the national level in the field of Special Education. She has co-authored refereed journal articles and book chapters and co-presented extensively with one of the national leaders in multicultural education in Special Education. Her publications and presentations showcase her scholarship on social justice, organizational change, and non-punitive behavior management practices for culturally diverse learners who exhibit challenging behavior. Her scholarship adds to the limited body of professional literature that addresses the needs of African American males who are disproportionately represented in school suspensions and overrepresented in Special Education programs at the K-12 level. Her new research agenda includes addressing the equity gap of students of color at the college level. She participates in university initiatives that support, retain, and graduate students of color and informally mentors students on campus.

Ozalle’s advocacy for diversity is not limited to the campus. After noticing that the Whitewater Unified School District did not commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s birthday, she met with the district administrators. She is now the coordinator for the district’s MLK Day program for all of the schools.
OUTSTANDING

Women of Color in Education

AWARDS


Other Universities & Colleges: 1999 Mary Council Austin, Marian College; M. Shawn Copeland, Marquette University; Connie Burditt, Northland College; Debora Barrera Pontillo, Edgewood College
Dr. P.B. Poorman Awards
FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT
ON BEHALF OF LGBTQ PEOPLE

2008 Denise Clark, UW-Oshkosh
2009 Mariamne Whatley, UW-Madison
2010 Willem Van Roosenbeek, UW-La Crosse
2011 Jeffrey Merrick, UW-Milwaukee
2012 Lisa Beckstrand, UW System Administration
2013 Dejan Kuzmanovic, UW-Stevens Point
2014 Julie Miller, UW-Stout
Appreciations

TO EVERYONE WHO MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE

The efforts of many people went into organizing the 20th Annual Outstanding Women of Color in Education Award and the 8th Annual Dr. P.B. Poorman Award for Outstanding Achievement on Behalf of LGBTQ People ceremony and luncheon. Please help us extend our gratitude to all of those who are making visible the important work being done every day on our campuses and in our communities by these amazing advocates for diversity and inclusion. This includes our keynote speaker Dr. Gloria J. Ladson-Billings, and the staff and sponsors who have contributed to this effort. We would like to recognize the work that Helen Klebesadel and Dace Zeps have put in over many years to make these award programs a success. Thanks to UW System staff Catherine King, Brinsen Wynn, Ann Fisher, Brandon Clementi, Jennifer Moore, and Karin Wrzesinski. We are also grateful for the sponsorship of the Willy Street Co-op. Finally, we also thank Vicki Washington, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, for her ongoing support of these awards.

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM