



Summer 2023 Newsletter



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John Ellis

July 1 is the start of a new fiscal year for the Gamma Mu Foundation.

Over the past few months, our Grant and Scholarship committees have reviewed and recommended winners for our annual round of awards. Our Board will approve these requests shortly for distribution after the start of the new fiscal year. We want to thank our volunteer reviewers and congratulate the award winners.

During the last year our Grants process was revised to better align it with the Mission Statement of the Foundation. It appears the results are winners that closely fit the goals and intent of the Foundation.

During August, we will hold a summer workshop meeting in Atlanta. The purpose of this Kick off meeting will be to expand on the findings of the study done a few years ago with the Fremont report. While much has been done as a result of the study, we now feel it is important to look down the road for the next 5 to 10 years, to make sure the goals of our donors are fulfilled and the long term financial health of the Foundation is secured. A lot has happened in the past few years (COVID etc), and we feel there will be many changes in the next several years.

We are planning to work with a few long term donors to establish some goals for the future, as well as communicating with all donors about their thoughts on how the Foundation should improve it's position as we go forward.

Part of this process will be having you participate as much as possible if you wish. We invite anyone to attend the August workshop, respond objectively when we kick off the polling all donors later this year, and of course participate in the volunteer work such as reviewers and

committee members.

Our annual meeting will be held in October (as a ZOOM call) and we encourage any of you to consider applying to become a Board member. It does not require a lot of time and can help shape the future of the Foundation.

Best wishes for a great summer season.



GAMMA MU FOUNDATION CO-HOSTS MAJOR EVENT AT THE PALM SPRINGS MAY FLY- IN

The Gamma Mu Foundation co-hosted a major event at the Rancho Mirage home of John Block and Chuck Kuglen during the Palm Springs Fly In. The event was in appreciation of all Foundation donors and an orientation to new members of Gamma Mu. Cocktails and dinner as well as poolside entertainment were provided to 110 participants





2023-2024 Scholarships

**The application review process has just been completed and the scholarship winners will be notified shortly.
Total funding \$115,000**



Recipients of Named Scholarships

Wade Simpson and Gordon Mann Scholarship - Daniel Hansen

Steinhilber WEISER Foundation - Kayden Donovan

Art Huskey and Herman Phillips Memorial Scholarship - Brian Thai

Douglas Morton Scholarship - Jacob Bjork

Tonomora Scholarship - Clyde Engle Jr

Clark Trust Scholarship - Marshall Brewer

Steve Lotterer Scholarship - Ryan Ball

Gamma Mu 50th Anniversary Scholarship - Nicholas Cicchinelli

Cliff and Aileen Pettit Scholarship - Maddox Eckerlingg

Robin McDonald Memorial Scholarship - Ian Leach

Folsi and Goodwin Scholarship in memory of Ray Williams - Joe Served



BETTER, AND WORSE: WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A QUEER TEEN TODAY

**Francisca Paris
and Claire Cain Miller**

The New York Times

June 11, 2023

For LGBTQ teenagers, high school is a much more accepting place than even a decade ago. They change their pronouns, go to school dances with people of the same gender, and are more likely than any previous generation to openly identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or otherwise queer.

"Being queer and being happy about it is something that's so normal," said Reese Whisnant, who just graduated from Topeka High in Kansas.

Yet there is a darker side. Even as they are increasingly welcomed by peers, their mental health is significantly worse than that of heterosexual young people. Many young transgender and gay people have been affected by a wave of recent Republican-led legislation questioning their identity or putting restrictions on their lives. They're being raised by generations whose approval of and comfort with LGBTQ identities lag their own. Their experiences highlight a "paradoxical finding," as researchers have described it: Even as social inclusion for young LGBTQ people has grown, large health disparities between them and their non LGBTQ peers have not shrunk.

"This is what young people teach us: Change can happen as a generation" said Stephen T. Russell, a sociologist and professor at the University of Texas at Austin who studies adolescent development and LGBTQ youth.

At the same time, he said, "the moment we're in is so scary in terms of the mental health crisis."

Researchers say that as being gay or transgender became more accepted, more people came out of the closet than in previous generations, and earlier.

In much of the country, what it's like to be an LGBTQ teenager changed around the mid-2010s. The Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in 2015. "Will and Grace" had been on TV, and the show "I Am Jazz" started that year. In 2014, the basketball player Jason Collins became the first openly gay athlete, Caitlyn Jenner came out as transgender. Children and teenagers grew up with campaigns spreading inclusive messages about sexual orientation and identity.

For today's teenagers, it has been all they have known - they were in elementary school at the time.

Perhaps the biggest driver, young people say, was the explosion of social media in the 2010s. Though it has been a contributor to bullying, low-esteem and other mental issues, for many LGBTQ children, it has also been a boon.

A recent survey by The New York Times and Morning Consult of 1,574 young adults found that people ages 18 to 28 - who mostly graduated from high school since 2013 - were significantly more likely to know LGBTQ students in school than those a decade older, who were teenagers in the 2000s.

The younger group was twice as likely to report knowing at least one transgender student, and three times as likely to have known three or more. Four in ten said they knew numerous gay, lesbian or bisexual people in high school, compared with a quarter of the older group.

As acceptance has grown, though, the mental health of queer youth has continued to suffer. Reported rates of mental health problems among all young people have been rising for at least a decade, but non-heterosexual students face far higher rates than straight students.

About 70 percent of high school who identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual reported persistent sadness, according to recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, twice the rate of their heterosexual peers. One in five attempted suicide in the past year, nearly four times the rate of straight young people. The C.D.C. does not track the mental health of transgender youth, but other data shows that roughly half had considered suicide in the past year.

The isolation of the pandemic may have been particularly hard on LGBTQ youth if they were home with families who were not supportive. Acceptance among adults and peers varies by geography: It's more common in liberal areas and cities. Homophobic remarks among students are more common in Southern and rural schools, and less so at private schools and in the West and Northeast.

Parents and schools play big roles and can do specific things to support LGBTQ youth, researchers say. Studies find that family acceptance is among the most important protective factors, something teenagers also said in interviews.

"Accepting peers is important, but it is not the most important component of the mental health crisis the LGBTQ youth are experiencing." said Shelly L. Craig, the Canada Research Chair in sexual and gender minority youth at the University of Toronto. "It's family rejection."

Some sex education curriculums cover LGBTQ health and identities; nine states require it. The presence of a gay-straight alliance improves the school climate as a whole, studies show, even for people who don't participate. At Anissa Suniga's high school in Beeville, Texas, she said the alliance was "the first welcoming environment I've been in."

At Topeka High, Reese Whisnant said, teachers now talk about LGBTQ issues, especially in history class, and there's a gender-sexuality alliance with nearly 100 members. "They're really trying to help kids understand they need to be more accepting and stuff." he said.

RECIPIENTS OF NAMED GRANTS

THE APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS HAS JUST BEEN COMPLETED AND GRANT RECIPIENTS ARE CURRENTLY IN THE NOTIFICATION PROCESS

The Gamma Mu 50th Anniversary Award - Colorado ManReach

The Vanden Heuvel & Greeson Grant Award - The Source LGBT+ Center

The Jones Kahle Award IHO Martin Culbreth - Alzheimer's Association Minnesota - North Dakota Chapter

The Gordon Mann Memorial Award - Green Mountain Crossroads

The Richard Karpawich Award for Research & Education - New Mexico Community AIDS Partnership

LGBTQ REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT HITS FRESH HIGH

BROOKE MIGDON

THE HILL

JUNE 8, 2023



LGBTQ representation in government has made leaps and bounds over the past year, but there's still a long way to go before equitable representation is achieved, according to numbers released Thursday by the LGBTQ+ Victory Institute.

The number of openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people elected to public office between June 2022 and May 2023 increased by 13.6 percent, according to the organization's annual overview of elected officials in the U.S. At least 1,185 are currently serving, the most on record and more than double what representation was in 2017, when the LGBTQ+ Victory Institute first measured it.

Compared with elected officials overall, LGBTQ officials are significantly more racially and ethnically diverse, according to Thursday's report, but remain less diverse than the total U.S. population.

The number of openly LGBTQ elected officials of color rose roughly 23 percent this year, with Latino and Hispanic officeholders leading the way. The number of Black LGBTQ officials increased by 18 to 125 in 2023, according to the LGBTQ+ Victory Institute, and the number of Asian American and Pacific Islander LGBTQ elected officials rose to 37 this year, up 19 percent from 2022.

The majority of openly LGBTQ officials — 783 — are white, and more than 91 percent are cisgender, according to Thursday's report, though transgender and nonbinary representation saw a notable bump this year.

Openly transgender and nonbinary officials now account for 8.1 percent of all LGBTQ elected officials, up from 6.9 percent last year. There are currently zero known intersex elected officials.

When elected officials are grouped by their sexual orientation, pansexuals and bisexuals saw the greatest gains over the past year, increasing 65 percent and 34 percent, respectively. As in prior years, growth in lesbian officials nearly stalled, up less than 1 percent over 2022.

All told, 0.23 percent of U.S. elected officials are LGBTQ, according to Thursday's report, meaning more than 36,000 openly LGBTQ state, local and federal officials need to be elected to achieve equitable representation. More than 7 percent of the nation's voting-age population identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, according to a February Gallup poll.

To achieve equitable representation in Congress, for instance, voters must elect 25 more openly LGBTQ members — 20 in the House and five in the Senate — for a total of 37, according to Thursday's report. Twelve openly LGBTQ people are serving in the current Congress, with 10 in the House and two in the Senate.

Voters in all 50 states, along with U.S. territories and the District of Columbia likewise need to elect an additional 319 openly LGBTQ state lawmakers for equitable representation, according to Thursday's report. Representation in state legislatures hit an all-time high of 226 this year, an increase of 18 percent over 2022.

Still, several states are lacking in adequate representation, and four states — Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi and West Virginia — have no LGBTQ people serving in the legislature.

Annise Parker, the president and chief executive of the LGBTQ+ Victory Institute, on Thursday said electing more LGBTQ people to public office is the community's best defense against rampant anti-LGBTQ rhetoric and a recent tidal wave of legislation that threatens to substantially roll back the rights of LGBTQ people in the U.S.

"LGBTQ+ leaders are our best firewall against the homophobia and transphobia sweeping our communities," Parker, a former mayor of Houston and the first openly LGBTQ person elected to lead a major city, said.

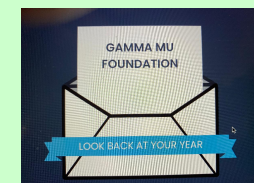
"As LGBTQ+ elected officials stand up and speak out on behalf of all of us, they are also inspiring countless LGBTQ+ leaders to consider running for office themselves," Parker said. "This is an all-hands-on-deck moment for the LGBTQ+ community and our allies: We must double down on our efforts to inspire, train and support future LGBTQ+ candidates — our rights will depend on it."

At least 491 anti-LGBTQ bills have been introduced this year in state legislatures nationwide, and a record-shattering 63 have become law, according to the American Civil Liberties Union. A recent analysis of proposed state-level legislation by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest LGBTQ civil rights group, found that roughly half of anti-LGBTQ bills filed this year explicitly targeted the transgender community.

Earlier this week, for the first time in its 40-year history, HRC declared a national state of emergency for LGBTQ people, citing the passage of recent laws.

***ANNUAL FOUNDATION COMMUNICATION
ACTIVITY***

DID YOU KNOW?



**IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS THE GAMMA MU FOUNDATION
PRODUCED 12 CAMPAIGNS**

4,006 EMAILS HAVE BEEN SENT

THE AVERAGE OPEN RATE IS 74%

THE AVERAGE CLICK-THROUGH RATE WAS 4%

EMAILS OPEN BY DEVICE: 5% MOBILE 95% DESKTOP



***THE GAMMA MU FOUNDATION
SUMMER MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE
IN ATLANTA GEORGIA AUGUST 14,
2023***

ALL CLIFF PETTIT FELLOWS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

**The summer meeting will take place immediately following the
summer house party - Blue Ridge Georgia August 10-13.**

**The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss future needs of the
Foundation, make an effort to expand the Fremont Study, and
consider future board members and officers.**

**The foundation has rooms blocked at about \$210/night which
includes happy hour and breakfast.**

***TO RESERVE ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE Embassy Suites Atlanta Airport, PLEASE
CONTACT JOHN ELLIS.***

SUGGESTED ARRIVAL ON Sunday JULY 13, 2023

JOHN ELLIS

***DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF, IN HONOR OF, AND NEW
CLIFF PETTIT DONORS***

Donations In Memory of:

**Gene Svrcek and Paul Gitnick IMO Bernie Langellutig
Cliff Pettit IMO Donn Wells
Bryan Keoppl IMO Donn Wells
John Ellis IMO Donn Wells
Gordon James IMO Rich Licensee
John Ellis IMO Michael Pack
Ken Thompson IMO Michael Pack**

**Shari McFarlane IMO Michael Pack
Tom Nall IMO Chip Matza
Bill Britt IMO Bob Baxter
Finn Longinotto IMO Lai Cao
Mr & Mrs Jack McCulloch IMO Bob McCulloch
Bryan Koepl IMO Michael Pack
Bryan Koepl IMO George Douglas
John Ellis IMO George Douglas
Jan Donsback and Jordan Budd IMO Eugene Avrett**

Donations In Honor of:

**Gina Koepl IHO Bryan Koepl
Lloyd Julson IHO Cliff Pettit**

New Cliff Pettit Fellows

**John Wallace
Anthony Klatt
Ralph Smith Foundation
Cyril Bacani
Jeffrey Kash
Jim Smith
Shawn McGowan
Leroy Green
Thomas Nico
Bill Venuti**

Deceased Cliff Pettit Fellows

**Bernie Langeluttig
Donn Wells
Bob McCulloch**

***ONCE AGAIN THE GAMMA MU FOUNDATION RECEIVED THE
HIGHEST RATING FROM GUIDESTAR NON-PROFIT RATING FOR
2023***



**GuideStar awards The
Gamma Mu Foundation it's
highest rating!**

GuideStar, the largest non-profit rating organization, has awarded the Gamma Mu Foundation it's highest rating for transparency.

How does this help the Foundation?

- Demonstrates that we are an organization that is focused on measuring our progress and results.
- Gives potential funders information they crave, so it's good for fundraising.
- Shows our improvement and results year over year.
- Provides a concrete alternative to donors evaluating us using our overhead ratio.



Join the great group of donors who volunteer time to the operations of the Gamma Mu Foundation.

The Foundation welcomes anyone who wishes to participate in the operations of our great organization. Many donors and friends of the Foundation have expertise that could be a benefit to the Foundation. Contact any member of the Board of Directors for information on how you can volunteer and contribute your time and knowledge.

Anyone interested in becoming an evaluator for either Grants or Scholarships, please contact Doug Morton (palmsspringsdoug@gmail.com) for Scholarships or Scott Kahle (scott@gammamufoundation.org) for Grants.

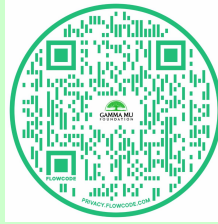
PLEASE USE THE WEBSITE TO MAKE DONATIONS

Our Foundation is receiving an unprecedented number of requests for Grants and Scholarships and we are only able to fund a small fraction of our requests.

Please consider making an "Extra" donation during these uncertain times so that the Foundation can fulfill more requests.

The Foundation is an all volunteer organization and every dollar that you donate is awarded to Grants or Scholarships.

PLEASE SCAN THE BELOW TO DONATE



PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE IN YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION OR A CHANGE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD

[Visit our Website](#)



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