



Dr. Luke Jensen

Distinguished Achievement in the Profession Award, 2017

University of Maryland, College Park

As a leader and a pioneer, Dr. Luke Jensen is responsible for much of the basic infrastructure that supports LGBTQ+ people and work at the University of Maryland, College Park. A higher education administrator for nearly three decades, Dr. Jensen was the first Chair of the campus President's Commission on LGBT Issues (1996), founded the LGBT Equity Center (1998), established the LGBT Scholarship Fund (1999), and was the lead author of the proposal resulting in the establishment of the LGBT Studies Program (2002) where he continues to teach two courses each year. Under his leadership, the LGBT Equity Center has grown from a tiny one-person office in the attic of a building on the edge of campus into vibrant hub of activity at the center of campus with three professional staff, graduate assistants, and student volunteers. His influence has led to the establishment of dedicated resources in a wide variety of other campus units leading Campus Pride to include Maryland as the "Best of the Best" for several years. Nationally, Dr. Jensen represented the Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals on the Board of Directors of the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) for eleven years. In addition to revisions to the standards for LGBT Programs and



Services, his expertise meant that LGBTQ+ people and issues were considered and included in each of the functional areas of Student Affairs as an integral part of standards for quality in Higher Education. Dr. Jensen's framework for social justice is intentionally intersectional. His proudest moments have been witnessing the success of his Associate Directors, past and present. All are people of color, and three have dedicated their careers to intersectional social justice efforts with two winning awards from the Consortium recognizing their contributions for Intersectionality and for Intersectional Social Justice.

