

CONSORTIUM OF HIGHER EDUCATION LGBT RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS

Natasha Cox – Promising New Professional Award

Presented at the Creating Change Conference 2015 in Denver, Colorado

It is with great pleasure that we recognize the work of Natasha Cox with the Consortium's Promising New Professional Award. Natasha is currently the program coordinator at the LGBTQA Resource Center at Penn State. In a short time, Natasha has accomplished quite a lot.

We could start by exploring her academic accomplishments, which show her speeding through her bachelors, her masters, and now just a year away from completing her PhD. In that doctoral research, Natasha is gaining a better understanding of how Black trans men understand themselves. We could cite her impressive list of publications and conference presentations. Or we could talk about the awards she received before this one.

Instead, I would like to focus on sharing the words of her students:



In the short time she has been the Programming Coordinator at the LGBTQA Student Resource Center, she has not only adapted to the new environment, but she has become the central point of the inner workings of this office. I have witnessed Ms. Cox take to the culture here like a fish to water while maintaining multiple programs provided by the LGBTQA SRC. However, as Ms. Cox has proven in her life's work, she does not accept mediocrity. She has revamped stagnant programs to include modern complements to historical content and improved them to emphasize inclusiveness. While consistently leading workshops, facilitating discussion groups, and reaching out to other organizations, Natasha Cox has steadily introduced a line of progressive programs that have conquered unfamiliar grounds at this university.

Another student writes:

As a queer African-American woman under the age of 30, she has many accomplishments. She is intelligent, graceful and ambitious. She has reached the peak of many milestones and continues to move forward to the top. Ms. Cox works three times harder than everyone else in the center, and she even works overtime, unpaid to make sure everything that needs to be done, gets done. Her work ethic is superb and cannot be touched.

Natasha's work is recognized as exemplary by those who see her the most - her students and her co-workers. They cite late night programs, discussions for LGBTQ students of color, ally development education, and her tireless drive for inclusion. They describe her as a fearless leader.

For all of these reasons, we are delighted to celebrate Natasha Cox as our Promising New Professional. We know this is just the beginning of a fabulous career.

To critically transform higher education environments so that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students, faculty, administrators, staff, and alumni have equity in every respect.

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