

Leslie Morrow – Award for Intersectionality

Presented at the Creating Change Conference 2015 in Denver, Colorado

We are very excited to honor Leslie Morrow's work with the Consortium Award for Intersectionality. Leslie's contributions to the Consortium and to our field at large demonstrate her commitment to intersectionality.

Leslie has had a large impact in shaping the Consortium's approach to the intersections of race, class, sexual orientation, and gender identity. She was a force during the formative conversations held during the 2005 Creating Change conference in Oakland. This led to her tenure as the first People of Color co-chair, a position she shared with Shiva Subbaraman. In this role, she helped shape a sense of community for people of color in this profession, helping our members make sense of the challenges they faced at work. She continued this important work by holding two terms as the Consortium's Anti-Racism Chair, helping to mold that position into one that helps affirm our organization's values and helps keep us accountable to those values. She built the Anti-Racism position into one that helped us take action towards social justice, through public press releases, conference sessions, and internal board conversations. Throughout these formal positions, Leslie remained a supportive resource and community builder.

Her professional roles are just as impressive, and just as clearly illustrate her commitment to intersectionality. Leslie previously did LGBTQ work at Miami University in Ohio, and currently works as the Director of the LGBT Resource Center in the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Diversity at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Leslie reminds all of us that while our jobs may be singularly defined by the titles of our offices, our work must not be so in our approach. An LGBT student is not only LGBT. Leslie courageously supports multiply marginalized students and their identities simultaneously even as she faces pressure to narrow her scope. She is particularly adept at working within larger diversity offices. In these contexts, she makes it possible to support LGBTQ students and students of color and other marginalized students, even as she has faced pressure to narrow the scope of her work. She has also fought to not be tokenized within student affairs as a queer person of color at two predominantly white universities. In this way her professional work and her personal identities embody intersectionality, both refusing convenient categorizations.

We also have the pleasure of knowing that this important work will continue. Leslie is working on a doctorate in the Department of Education, Policy, Organization and Leadership at the University of Illinois. Her academic work addresses inclusion and diversity, particularly the intersections of culture, race, class, gender, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and student identity development. Her work, when it is complete, will benefit all of us who are invested in this field: practitioners, affiliates, researcher/scholars and students alike.

For all that she has done for the Consortium, all that she does for her students, and for the work we know will come in the future, we are pleased to present Leslie Morrow with the Consortium's Intersectionality Award.



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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