

CONSORTIUM OF HIGHER EDUCATION LGBT RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS

Shiva Subbaraman – Award for Intersectionality

Remarks Delivered on Stage at Creating Change 2014, Houston, Texas

Hey, y'all! My name is Warren Scherer of the Inclusive Excellence Center at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee and a co-chair of the Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals.

I'm Demere Woolway, director of LGBTQ Life at Johns Hopkins University, and co-chair with Warren. Together, we serve a vibrant, worldwide network of over 500 student affairs professionals working to make colleges and universities safer places to learn and grow.

Tonight, we are honored to present the Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals Award for Intersectionality to Shiva Subbaraman. Shiva is the founding Director of the LGBTQ Resource Center at Georgetown University. Before that, she had a rich career working at the University of Maryland - College Park, and as an educator in Iowa, Illinois, and India.

This award is designed to help us think about intersections: how to embrace the spheres at which all of ourselves live; how to chart the terrain of ourselves. Many of her nominators noted how her identities themselves are an exemplar of intersectionality -- she is a queer Hindu woman, born in India, living in the United States. Yet Shiva's commitment to intersectional work goes beyond her own identity to include her knowledge, practice, and experience.

And from this perspective, Shiva's work reads like a world atlas of intersections. Cross-disciplinary in her approach, her work as an educator has been showcased in national journals even as she takes on increasingly challenging professional roles.

She demonstrates an intersectional approach as she negotiates being a religious outsider on one of the most visible Catholic college campuses in the U.S., in an arena dominated by racial and gender normativity. She combines the talk of interdisciplinary academic theory with the action of social justice. She emphasizes the needs of historically underrepresented groups while educating the majority; all the while insisting that the conversations within our own communities continue.



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

www.lgbtcampus.org
280 Madison Avenue Ste. 912
New York, NY 10016-0801



She moves seamlessly between being a fierce defender of individual students to taking on the DC city council and even the White House. She balances the pragmatic work of fundraising and running an office with the ideological and theoretical work of developing students.

Her professional work is full of these junctures, contradictions, and intersections. She balances them in a way I find inspiring. We are lucky to have her as an advocate within our profession.

Shiva reminds us we must “dwell in possibility” and advises us to “challenge ourselves and not be bound by the labels that seek to corral us into lagoons of solitary identity”. Siblings in the struggle, please join us in celebrating a champion of intersectionality - Shiva Subbaraman.