NOGLSTP’s 2018 Out to Innovate™ Scholarship Recipients Announced

NOGLSTP is proud to announce the winners for the 2018 NOGLSTP Out To Innovate™ Scholarships, made possible by an Innovation Generation grant from the Motorola Solutions Foundation. This NOGLSTP program is marking its 8th year as a source of educational support.

The winner of the 2018 Out to Innovate™ $5000 Undergraduate Scholarship is Thomas Frietag. Thomas is a junior at the University of Pittsburgh, with a double major in neuroscience and psychology, with minors in chemistry and social work. After graduation, Thomas intends to pursue a medical degree as well as a masters degree in public health. He intends to work in psychiatry and public health policy focused on LGBTQIA issues, and conducting research on health disparities among underprivileged communities.

The winner of the 2018 Out to Innovate™ $2500 Graduate Scholarship is Christian Zimmerman. Christian was a full-time student at Towson University and was recently accepted into the A. James Clark School of Engineering at the University of Maryland, where he will be studying for a dual degree in physics and mechanical engineering.

The winner of the 2018 Out to Innovate™ $5000 Graduate Scholarship is Patrick Martin-Tuite. Patrick is studying medicine at the University of California, Berkeley/ UCSF Joint Medical Program.

The winner of the 2018 Out to Innovate™ $2500 Graduate Scholarship is Noelle Fries. Noelle is studying for a masters degree in public health in community health, with a specialization in maternal, child reproductive, and sexual health at the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy.

Congratulations go out to all of the recipients and best wishes for their future success.

Please see the following URL for details about how to apply for the 2019 scholarships next spring: https://www.noglstp.org/programs-projects/scholarships/

NOGLSTP Receives $25,000 Grant from Motorola Solutions Foundation to Continue Funding its Out to Innovate™ Scholarships

A grant of $25,000 from the Motorola Solutions Foundation was received by NOGLSTP in September to support four student scholarships. Through the grant, NOGLSTP will fund two undergraduate and two graduate student scholarships for deserving LGBTQ+ STEM students, and continue its partnership with MentorNet, a division of Great Minds in STEM, to provide a virtual mentoring program for LGBTQ+ STEM students. This will be the 8th year of support from the foundation.

“These scholarships are intended for undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in STEM programs who are either lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or an active ally of the LGBTQ+ community,” said Rochelle Diamond, chair of the NOGLSTP Board of Directors. “The scholarships are designed to promote academic excellence and increased visibility of talented LGBTQ+ students in STEM careers.” Funded at $5,000 and $2,500 each, the scholarships will be for the 2019 fall academic year. As the embodiment of pride in LGBTQ+ and STEM communities, interested scholarship applicants may receive a complimentary student membership in NOGLSTP. The scholarship winners will attend NOGLSTP’s biennial Out to Innovate™, a two-day summit for LGBTQ+ people in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The Motorola Solutions Foundation is honored to and privileged to support the work of NOGLSTP,” said Matt Blakely, Executive Director of the Motorola Solutions Foundation. “We believe in organizations that are fostering innovation, building partnerships and driving change, and we’re proud to be part of the positive impact they’re making in communities.”

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NOGLSTP will be convening a 90-minute scientific discussion-focused session entitled “Persistence of Sexual Minorities in the STEM Pipeline - from Education to Workplace” during the AAAS 2019 Annual meeting in Washington, DC on February 14-17, 2019. Speakers will include Erin Cech (U. of Michigan) presenting “The STEM Inclusion Study: LGBTQ Professional in Science and Engineering Workplaces,” Joey Nelson (Stanford U.) presenting “Productivity Measures of Participants in the Queer in STEM 2.0 Study,” and Bryce Hughes (Montana State U.) presenting “Coming Out and Leaving STEM: Experiences of LGBTQ STEM Undergraduates.” NOGLSTP will also present a Career Development Workshop, entitled: “LGBTQ+ in Academia and the Workplace: Your Rights and the Law.” NOGLSTP has also been given a free table at the AAAS expo. All LGBTQ attendees at AAAS are encouraged to attend and support these events.

oSTEM and NOGLSTP to Mutually Support Conferences Starting with oSTEM’s National Conference this Fall

Cortland Russel, president and CEO of oSTEM, and Rochelle Diamond, Chair of NOGLSTP’s Board of Directors, have agreed to mutually support each other’s national conferences by issuing a free registration and table to each organization to enable networking and mentoring opportunities. NOGLSTP member Suzanne Kennedy has agreed to staff the oSTEM National Conference table at the upcoming oSTEM National Conference in Houston on November 15-18. NOGLSTP will do the same for oSTEM at the Out to Innovate™ Summit in March 2019.

Meeting together at the Council of Engineering and Scientific Society Executives in July and encouraged by AAAS, Cortland and Rochelle agreed to promote each other’s events and do more to work together on their common missions.

NOGLSTP, a Community Partner for the HENAAC Conference

Rochelle Diamond (NOGLSTP Chair), Barbara Belmont (NOGLSTP Treasurer), and Terry Demby (Chair of the Out to Innovate™ 2019 Summit) attended the Great Minds in STEM (GMiS) Hispanic Engineer National Awards Conference (HENAAC) in Pasadena, CA, on October 17-21. NOGLSTP was a community sponsor for this event and had the opportunity to present a 45-minute seminar on NOGLSTP, speaking about inclusion of LGBTQ in the diversity equation and NOGLSTP’s programming initiatives, highlighting the upcoming 2019 Out to Innovate™ for LGBTQ+ People in STEM. Rochelle Diamond also addressed the HENAAC Student Leadership Awards Celebration, energizing the cheering crowd by letting them know that NOGLSTP was there to support them in their endeavors and pledging to support the LGBTQ+ com-munity served by GMiS. The organizers at the conference gave numerous shout outs to NOGLSTP during the four-day event. Many people, students and career professionals alike, came by the NOGLSTP booth on the last day to let us know what NOGLSTP’s presence at the HENAAC conference meant to them. Next year’s leadership summit and HENAAC conference will be in Orlando, FL.

NOGLSTP to Present a HERC Workshop on December 6

The Higher Education Recruitment Consortium (HERC) is partnering with NOGLSTP to help LGBTQ academics in finding safe space for their career objectives. They have given NOGLSTP an opportunity to address their membership. Led by Rochelle “Shelley” Diamond, Chair of NOGLSTP, the webinar will explore how to find an affirming workplace where you can thrive. Is there a “right time” to come out to a prospective employer? What challenges do dual-career gay and lesbian couples face in the academic job market? How can you determine if your future colleagues will welcome not only your talents and work experience, but you? Join this webinar for LGBTQ+ jobseekers. Watch the NOGLSTP website for the logistics on how to join the webinar.

Out to Innovate™ 2019, March 16-17 – Save the Date – Submit a Workshop Proposal or Poster Abstract, Volunteer to Help

Planning for the Out to Innovate™ Summit for LGBTQ+ People in STEM is getting into high gear for the March 16-17, 2019 event. It will be held on the campus of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. This biennial two-day, cross-generational summit will provide an educational and supportive environment for career development and enrichment for LGBTQ+ students, academics, and career professionals in STEM. Diverse backgrounds and perspectives drive innovation and creativity, as well as fantastic program content at Out to Innovate™ summits. Do you have an idea for a workshop that you would like us to consider for Out to Innovate™ 2019? There is still time to submit your proposal. We want to know what you have in mind. Go to this link to submit your ideas: https://goo.gl/forms/C2UzoPT35BSURbd02

We also need your help to populate committees to assist with many of the activities including programming, speakers, workshop proposals, marketing/advertising, outreach to students, sponsor/exhibitor outreach, poster contest, and volunteer coordination. If you would like to lead or help out on any of these committees, please contact NOGLSTP board members Terry Demby or Rochelle Diamond.

Want to present a research poster at the summit? Follow this link to submit your poster abstract:
https://goo.gl/forms/7aGiZ0l8fmdEyfPZ2

NOGLSTP to Staff Table at Southern California Undergraduate Research Council’s Career Fair

NOGLSTP will be staffing a table at the Southern California Undergraduate Research Council’s Career Fair to spread the word about its Out to Innovate™ 2019 Summit for LGBTQ+ People in STEM. It will be an all-day affair at the Pasadena Community College. The objective is to encourage undergraduate LGBTQ and ally students in the area to participate in the March 2019 summit.

NOGLSTP at SWE18

Marcie Mathis and Jaimie Stewart staffed a NOGLSTP table at the Society of Women Engineers 2018 conference (SWE18). Marcie posted on Facebook that the first day was a happening place at the booth.
Celebrating Diversity: 45th SACNAS Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX

by Bruno da Rocha-Azevedo

Thursday, October 11 was the start of the 45th SACNAS Annual Conference, one of the biggest and most prominent diversity conferences in the nation. LGBTQ presence in this conference was amazingly clear right from the beginning. National Coming Out Day was on 10/11, and didn’t take long for the emcee to talk about the importance of sexual orientation and gender identity diversity and the importance of being out and proud during the opening plenary (including waving the rainbow flag). The new SACNAS Executive Director John Winnett gave a powerful speech about diversity and being out and proud. He shared with us his moving story about being gay and his southern background — the type of story that is very similar to those of so many people. The First Lady of San Antonio, Erika Prosper, also gave a warm welcome to the LGBTQ community present at SACNAS. All these uplifting welcomes were followed by a great keynote address given by Ellen Ochoa, the first Hispanic woman ever to go to space.

SACNAS hosted a LGBTQ reception on the conference’s first night, which was sponsored by Genentech and supported by NOGLSTP. With the presence of SACNAS Executive Attendees included SACNAS Director John Winnett and Jenny Kurzweil (Director of Communications and Marketing), and people representing the Genentech LGBTQ employee resource group (GRPRIDE). Lauren and I represented NOGLSTP. The reception started with a full room containing nearly 200 people — and the room remained full until the end. The networking environment was remarkable: undergrad and grad students, postdocs, faculty, scientists from so many places and career stages meeting, greeting, discussing and sharing information. From someone asking how to start a LGBTQ chapter in her small college in countryside Texas to people discussing how to be openly gay in industry, the reception was a social and very informative gathering of highly energetic scientists! NOGLSTP promoted a raffle giving one free registration for the 2019 SACNAS Conference, which made the attendees very happy! The raffle winner was Alex Martell, a Chemistry / Chem Bio undergraduate student from Cornell University.

SACNAS is over for this year, but the inspirational message from the conference for diversity and inclusion is strong. I was glad to be there to witness it, especially as a Latino gay man living in Texas. I am looking forward to the 2019 SACNAS National Diversity in STEM Conference (NDISTEM) in beautiful Honolulu, HI, for more high level science, career development, diversity and inclusion.
Fifty-Six Major Companies Respond to US Administration and Legislative Efforts to Erase Legal Protections for Transgender and Intersex People

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has organized a coalition of companies to issue a business statement in support of transgender equality. The statement calls for respect and transparency in policymaking and for full equality under the law. Additional corporate signatories and other organizations are expected to join in. Dated November 1, 2018, the letter states:

We, the undersigned businesses, stand with the millions of people in America who identify as transgender, gender non-binary, or intersex, and call for all such people to be treated with the respect and dignity everyone deserves.

We oppose any administrative and legislative efforts to erase transgender protections through reinterpretation of existing laws and regulations. We also fundamentally oppose any policy or regulation that violates the privacy rights of those that identify as transgender, gender non-binary, or intersex.

In the last two decades, dozens of federal courts have affirmed the rights and identities of transgender people. Cognizant of growing medical and scientific consensus, courts have recognized that policies that force people into a binary gender definition determined by birth anatomy fail to reflect the complex realities of gender identity and human biology.

Recognizing that diversity and inclusion are good for business, and that discrimination imposes enormous productivity costs (and exerts undue burdens), hundreds of companies, including the undersigned, have continued to expand inclusion for transgender people across corporate America. Currently more than 80 per-cent of the Fortune 500 have clear gender identity protections; two-thirds have transgender-inclusive healthcare coverage; hun-dreds have LGBTQ+ and Allies business resource groups and internal training efforts.

Transgender people are our beloved family members and friends, and our valued team members. What harms transgender people harms our companies. We call for respect and transparency in policy-making, and for equality under the law for transgender people.

Among the signing companies are Adobe, Cargill, Cisco Systems, Corning Inc, Corteva Agriscience™, the Agriculture Division of DowDuPont, E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Facebook, Google, IBM, Intel, Intuit, LinkedIn, Microsoft, The Dow Chemical Company, and Twitter Inc.

BIO Promotes Diversity

It was reported in the October 12, 2018 issue of Science that the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), based in Washington, DC, with over 1000 members, sent a letter on 11/2 that urged its members to fill their executive ranks and boardrooms with more women, people of color, and LGBTQ employees. The CEO of BIO also warned members that they could be ejected for sexist, racist, or homophobic actions, activities or events. BIO is also working on goals for racial and LGBTQ representation in the biotech industry.

Editorial from the Chair: #WONTBEERASED

Thursday, November 20 will mark the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR), a solemn day to honor and remember the lives of people who have died as a result of transphobia and hate. It is a reminder that the fight is ever present, the reality is that the progress that has been made is being challenged as never before. This is clear from the leaked US Department of Health and Human Services memo outlining an initiative to formalize a legal definition of sex within Title IX that aims to limit the basic civil rights of the transgender, intersex, and gender-expansive people in the United States. This could result in heightened opposition and discrimination, including genetic testing and barriers to healthcare, education, employment and housing. We have a responsibility as scientists and technical professionals to stand up against such unscientific thinking and bigotry. It has reminded me that when marriage equality was first being discussed, NOGLSTP presented a 2005 AAAS Societal Implications for Medical Advance Symposium at the AAAS Annual Meeting entitled “Defining Male and Female: Biology and the Law.” That presentation brought together experts in the fields of developmental biology, endocrinology, legal, and community advocacy to discuss the legal challenges of gender identity. They talked about the biological reality, not to mention the psychological reality, of the complexity of nature in terms of variability and mechanism, and that one cannot simply define sex in a binary manner. Here we are again 13 years later discussing these facts. It is imperative that scientific facts continue to play an important role in gender identity politics, and in the laws such politics spawn that determine protections, prohibitions and their effect on our communities. Science, medicine, morality, and the law are on our side, but education and communication is vital in such turbulent times where politics is used as a weapon for blatant hate. We need to step up the fight for the Equality Act, a bill currently in Congress that would explicitly enshrine civil rights protections for transgender and gender-nonconforming people. We need all hands on deck in these divisive, turbulent times. Facts have never mattered as much as they do now. Please support our national LGBTQ organizations and transgender leaders on the front lines of this fight who making our voices known for full transgender equality - HRC, Out and Equal, GLAAD, GLSEN, Lambda Legal, National Center for Transgender Equality, National LGBT Chamber of Commerce, Out Leadership, PFLAG and The Trevor Project These groups are coordinating a sign-on statement for businesses that wish to make their support for full transgender equality known. You can help personally by reaching out to a transgender or gender non-conforming person in your life and check in with them, let them know you care about them. Use the hashtag #WontBeErased in your social media communication and support the facts.

- Rochelle Diamond

Image:

Out to Innovate™ 2019

Connect. Create. Innovate.

March 16-17, 2019

Los Angeles, CA
New NOGLSTP Regional Affiliate in Nebraska

A new NOGLSTP regional group was founded at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this fall: NOGLSTP-UNL. The group is open to anyone supportive of the LGBTQ+ community with STEM interests. Currently, the eight graduate student members represent clinical, social, and cognitive psychology, as well as entomology and behavioral neuroscience. By actively recruiting new members, they hope to gather together an interdisciplinary network of LGBTQ+ STEM students, researchers, and professionals from the Lincoln, Nebraska area.

As the first graduate student-oriented LGBTQ+ group on UNL’s campus, the group plans to organize professional development opportunities that focus on topics specific to both the LGBTQ+ community and the various STEM professions represented. At monthly meet-ups, usually over coffee, the group discusses research articles on relevant topics like the retention of LGBTQ+ and STEM students in higher education (and would welcome any article suggestions). NOGLSTP-UNL hopes to grow their membership and utilize their presence on campus to advocate for Lincoln’s LGBTQ+ STEM community. Follow their journey on Twitter (@NoglstpU), Facebook (@NOGLSTPUNL), and their webpage (https://unlcms.unl.edu/student-involvement/noglstp).

PrideSTEM at Texas Tech

PrideSTEM is now an active student professional organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, (LGBTQIA) and allies associated with science, technology, engineering, and mathemat-ics (STEM) at Texas Tech University. As the only NOGLSTP regional group south of Oklahoma, they represent and serve most of West Texas as well as the rest of nearby southern US regions. As a student/professional organization for undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and staff, we provide various resources including research, scholarly, internship, conferences, and networking opportunities, and much more to help students reach their STEM career goals. If you are interested in learning more about PrideSTEM or to reach out or collaborate, please check them out on their campus webpage or on Facebook. You can also reach out to the group’s liaison/org representative, Helen Scott, at helen.scott@ttu.edu or to PrideSTEM’s president, Mychael Solis-Wheeler, at mychael.solis-wheeler@ttu.edu.

500 Queer Scientists

500 Queer Scientists was launched in June of this year (2018) as a visibility campaign for LGBTQAI+ people working in STEM and STEM-supporting careers. We collect self-submitted 250 word bios and post these in a gallery on our website (500queerscientists.com) and our social media channels (Twitter @500queerscientists; Instagram @500queerscientists). The original intent of 500QS was to raise the visibility of queer people working in STEM, breaking through the feelings of isolation so commonly experienced, and creating a sense of community. The future direction was left for the community itself to dictate. Now having amassed a community of over 780 people working in a huge range of disciplines, settings, geographic areas, and career stages, we can truly say that we have accomplished our goals. We have over 8,000 followers on our social media accounts, with hundreds to thousands of direct interactions daily. Each week brings a flurry of new submissions, with no sign of slowing down. Now through a survey on our website of the community goals for 500QS version 2.0, the most resounding requests are for a website with greater functionality (particularly search capability), mentorship opportunities, and greater community building through professional meet-ups at conferences and inter-disciplinary local meet-ups. We are excited to grow this community, moving great science forward, and improving the happiness of those doing great science.

--Lauren Esposito, Founder, 500QS
Mark Your Calendars

- November 15-18: oSTEM Annual Conference, Houston, TX
- December 6: HERC Workshop Webinar
- December 10-14: AGU Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
- February 14-27, 2019: AAAS Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
- March 16-17, 2019: Out to Innovate™ Summit, Los Angeles, CA

NOGLSTP Endorses Two Letters to the National Science Foundation

NOGLSTP has joined with a consortium of professional societies and prominent scientists organized by Jon Freeman, Ph.D. an Associate Professor of Psychology and Neural Science at New York University, to urge the National Science Foundation to collect sexual orientation and gender identity data in national STEM workforce surveys. The first letter was submitted in August as part of public comment in response to NSF’s comment request regarding the 2019 National Survey of College Graduates. The second letter was regarding their 2019 Survey of Doctorate Recipients. NOGLSTP is prepared to sign on another letter should there be an announcement to comment on the third national STEM survey.

Including sexual orientation and gender identity measures in national STEM workforce surveys would ultimately provide the official data that could allow NSF, other federal agencies, and universities across the country to better address disparities of LGBT people in STEM, if and where they exist. Uses could include informing diversity programs and initiatives (e.g., fellowships, hiring), helping develop strategies to address under-representation or career or educational barriers experienced by LGBT people, and testing paradigms or interventions to promote greater inclusion or reduce disadvantages for LGBT scientists and engineers.

ABOUT NOGLSTP

National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals is a 501(c)(3) educational organization and professional society of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people, and allies employed or interested in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) fields. NOGLSTP empowers LGBTQ+ individuals in STEM by providing education, advocacy, professional development, networking, and peer support. NOGLSTP educates all communities regarding scientific, technological, and medical concerns of LGBTQ+ people. Surface mail may be addressed to: NOGLSTP, PO BOX 91803, Pasadena, CA, 91109-9813. For more information, see our website at www.noglstp.org

Board of Directors (append each address with noglstp.org)

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Affiliates (more info at: https://tinyurl.com/y9kq2lps):

- CSUN QueerSTEM
- L’GASP: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists
- LAGLS: Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Scientists
- Mathematics Association of America or American Mathematical Society
- National Postdoctoral Association
- NOGLSTP-Chesapeake Region
- NOGLSTP at Indiana University
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- NOGLSTP at University of Nebraska - Lincoln
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