



Today, as a university community, we recognize and celebrate National Coming Out Day (NCOD). On college campuses, NCOD is an opportunity to educate the community about how LGBTQIA+ members are often silenced, as well as demonstrate ways to support individuals during their coming out journeys. While this day may provide an educational opportunity for potential allies, it holds even more meaning for our LGBTQIA+ community members who want to be authentically seen and recognized.

For 30 years, NCOD has been celebrated as a way to remind LGBTQIA+ individuals about the power that is coming out and how LGBTQIA+ people can use the day to rewrite their history. This day also holds such great significance for many as it may be the first time that an LGBTQIA+ individual gets the opportunity to feel affirmed in their identity while having the support of the larger campus community.

Understand that everyone's coming out experience is different and the process is never-ending. At MU, we have faculty, staff and students who are members of the LGBTQIA+ community that we celebrate. Even on NCOD, we recognize that not all folks are ready and/or able to "come out" and we affirm them. The process of the development of a positive LGBTQIA+ identity is very long and difficult. Individuals may experience loss via family and friends and even be confronted with homophobic/transphobic attitudes and discriminatory practices along the way.

To celebrate this national day that brings awareness to the coming out process and the importance of understanding and appreciating the lived experience of LGBTQIA+ people, Millersville University will be hosting Pridefest 2018 on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Pridefest will be held from 5pm-8pm in the Student Memorial Center. This annual celebration will consist of opportunities to learn about local and regional LGBT organizations, learn about LGBTQIA+ issues and identities, and ways to become an advocate. The celebration will also consist of a Drag Show highlighting MU student drag performers, and featuring Queens from RuPaul's Drag Race. We invite you to join us as we acknowledge and affirm LGBTQIA+ folks at the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Millersville University Pridefest, a celebration that observes National Coming Out Day and LGBTQ Month.

**Let's celebrate our LGBTQIA+ community today, tomorrow and forever!**

Jas Whitlow  
Director, Dr. Rita Smith Wade-El Intercultural Center  
Pronouns: They/Them

Levi Moyer  
President, The Gender and Sexuality Alliance  
Pronouns: He/Him

Dr. Tiffany Wright  
Chair, President's Commission on Gender and Sexual Diversity(PCGSD)  
Pronouns: She/Her

