



Fall 2020

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Director & Associate Director

## Incoming Penn Graduate and Professional Students –

Welcome! We are excited you are here and invite you to become part of the LGBT Center's family. Our mission is "to enrich the experiences, foster the success, celebrate victories, and affirm the existence of Penn's LGBTQ+ undergraduates, **professional and graduate students**, staff, faculty, and alum using the lenses of social justice and intersectionality. Through education, support, and advocacy, the Center cultivates a campus climate where all students, regardless of their gender or sexual identity, can live, learn, and thrive authentically." This means you belong.

The Center is a space – even virtually, like this semester – where graduate and professional students are always welcome and can find a space outside of their departments to socialize, learn, laugh, and be themselves. We partner with the Graduate Student Center on programming as well as offer specific programming for you. This year, our *Thank Grad it's Friday!* is going online and will be held the final Friday of each month. The event is an opportunity to connect with other LGBTQ+ and affirming professional and graduate students and celebrate the end of the month, Center-style. We are also collaborating with Career Services on a program aimed at being out in the academy focusing on those of you who are on the professor-track. Be on the lookout for other programs too, as graduate and professional students are welcome in any of our sessions, such as a monthly LGBTQ+ alum talk, Bi-Weekly Kiki, National Coming Out Day, and more.

We know you are thinking, how can I learn about these events? The best way is to:

- Sign-up for our [weekly newsletter](#)
- Go to our [webpage](#)
- Follow us on social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and/or [Instagram](#))

In addition to events, the Center is your go-to around anything regarding sexuality and gender identity. We can advise on research, explain Penn policies, be a confidential resource around interpersonal violence, be a sounding board, connect you to other resources, and so much more. With almost 25 years of experience between us, we know Penn and want you to thrive, so let us know how we can help.

Again, welcome to Penn and the LGBT Center! Please do not hesitate to reach out to either of us to chat, problem-solve, share your success, or suggest a program.

You belong!

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