

PRIDE CENTER | ARTHUR L. JOHNSON UNITY WING | DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

# Lavender Graduation 2018



**Friday, May 4, 5 p.m.**

**Paul E. Johnson Sr. Conference Room | J. Eugene Smith Library**



EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

It is the policy of Eastern Connecticut State University to ensure equal access to its events. If you are an individual with a disability and will need accommodations for this event, please contact Starsheemar Byrum at (860) 465-4314 or email [byrums@easternct.edu](mailto:byrums@easternct.edu).

# What is Lavender Graduation?



*Lavender Graduation is an annual ceremony that allows LGBTQ+ students and their allies to celebrate their accomplishments while recognizing the unique obstacles that many of them have faced during their collegiate careers. The concept of Lavender Graduation was originated by Dr. Ronni Sanlo in 1995 during her tenure as director of the LGBT Center at the University of Michigan. The ceremony was developed as a way of building campus community for LGBTQ+ students while allowing them to celebrate both their personal and academic achievements. Over 100 colleges and universities throughout the United States hold Lavender Graduation ceremonies on their campuses annually.*

## Why is Lavender Graduation Important?

Lavender Graduation is a cultural celebration that recognizes LGBTQ+ students and their allies by acknowledging their achievements and contributions to the University as students who completed the college experience. Through such recognition, students may leave the University with a positive final experience of the institution, thereby encouraging them to stay engaged with Eastern as alumni. It also gives current students a celebration to look forward to at the end of their own college journey.

## The Significance of “Lavender”

The color lavender is important to LGBT history. It combines the pink triangle that gay men were forced to wear and the black triangle designating lesbians as political prisoners in Nazi Germany. LGBT activists took these symbols of hatred, combined them, and created a symbol and color of pride and community.

## Lavender Graduation Award Nomination

The LGBTQ+ Campus Community Award and Academic Excellence Award are honored at the Lavender Graduation ceremony to recognize the contributions of graduating students who have committed their time and effort at Eastern to advancing an inclusive climate for academic excellence, service and LGBTQ+ life. Nominees should be a May 2018 graduating student who, through their leadership, has made a positive impact within the Eastern community for those of diverse sexualities and gender identities. Award nominees may include LGBTQ+ identifying students AND allies who have committed themselves to furthering LGBTQ+ life at Eastern.

**Award nominations are due by April 25, 2018 and can be emailed to Nicole Potestivo at [potestivon@easternmct.edu](mailto:potestivon@easternmct.edu) or mailed to Student Center, Pride Center Room 108G**



# LGBTQ+ Campus Community Award: Nomination Form

## Award Description

The LGBTQ+ Campus Community Award recognizes the involvements, achievements and contributions of a May 2018 graduating student that has positively impacted LGBTQ+ life and culture at Eastern. Their efforts helped to build community, strengthen awareness, and support inclusive practices of diverse sexual and gender identities on our campus. Award nominations due by April 25, 2018.

## Criteria

**Nominee's must:**

- be a May 2018 graduating student;
- have demonstrated leadership and involvement in efforts on Eastern's campus that have positively impacted LGBTQ+ life and culture at Eastern.

## LGBTQ+ Campus Community Award Nomination Form

### *Nominee Information*

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for nominating this individual \_\_\_\_\_

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### *Nominator Information*

Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



# Academic Excellence Award: Nomination Form

## Award Description

The Academic Excellence Award recognizes one whose outstanding academic achievements and involvements at Eastern have contributed to the advocacy for inclusivity of LGBTQ+ Life and whose efforts have influenced positive change. Award nominations due by April 25, 2018.

## Criteria

Nominee's must:

- have a 3.5+ GPA;
- be a May 2018 graduating student;
- have demonstrated academic excellence, research and/or scholarship that contributed to LGBTQ+ life and culture at Eastern.

## LGBTQ+ Academic Excellence Award Nomination Form

### *Nominee Information*

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for nominating this individual \_\_\_\_\_

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### *Nominator Information*

Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**For additional information regarding the ceremony or the awards nomination process, please contact Nicole Potestivo, (860) 465-0015, potestivon@easternct.edu.**

