

Throughout PRIDE Month, CTI will be featuring profiles of local LGBTQ+ leaders to celebrate #LowellLGBTQExcellence by learning about their experiences, perspectives, and the wisdom they share in our local communities.

CTI Celebrates Local LGBTQ+ Leader of Excellence ~ ANDY HOSTETLER

Nominated by Barbara Warren, Division Director of Housing and Homeless Services, CTI

Andy Hostetler is a Professor at UMass Lowell who has done an extensive amount of research on Aging.

• **What is your title/role/organization and/or involvement in the community?**

I am an Associate Professor of Psychology at UMass Lowell and am finishing up 6 years as Associate Chair of the Psychology Department. I am also the Chair of the Lowell Council on Aging/Senior Center Advisory Board, a Board member of the Pollard Memorial Library Foundation, a member of the Lowell City of Learning Steering Committee, and the long time President of the Lowell Lower Highlands Neighborhood Group (mostly inactive in recent years).

• **What does Pride Month Mean to you?**

This has changed over time. As a lifespan-developmental psychologist, I am fully aware the identity formation and maintenance are far from the only developmental tasks of adulthood. I was very politically active, in both AIDS and queer activism, as a young gay man, but have now mostly settled into a pretty boring, predictable domestic life with my partner of 19 years. Honestly, we barely pay attention to Pride month now, but this is at least partially an artifact of living in Massachusetts, where we feel welcome and included. I honestly did my part in fighting long and hard to make being queer something that doesn't need to be fought out on a daily basis.

• **What can the community do more of to recognize Pride during the year?**

The issue is not to recognize a single month, but rather to support LGBTQ+ rights across the course of the year. Trans rights are under attack right now, across the country, and the best thing allies can do is to support ALL rights and to fight the horrifying legislation being enacted in state after state.

• **What advice would you give to future generations of leaders in the community, especially those who identify as LGBTQ+?**

There is life beyond the initial formation and solidification of one's identity. Please fight against an oppressive, ageist approach to queer rights, and make sure to take a life-course perspective on being queer, including consultation with queer people over the age of 30! If you want to build a complete, fulfilling life as a queer person, you have to consider what happens and what's possible after youth has faded.

#LowellLGBTQplusExcellence #PRIDE #CommunityLeader #Leadership #DEIatCTI
#PRIDEMonth2023 #Appreciation #Grateful #CTIPride #PrideMonth