

# Kansas State LGBTQ+ Leadership Conference

# April 22, 2022

## Sessions and Presenters

### 8:00 - 11:00 am

#### Registration Check-in

**Morris Family Multicultural Student Center**

**Ground Floor - DREAM Zone**

Registered attendees can check in and receive their conference bag with conference information and multiple take-aways.

Continental style snacks and drinks provided by K-State JPs - Union Station.

### 9:15 - 9:50 am

#### Welcome

**Forum Hall - K-State Student Union Ground Floor**

#### Embracing Your Leadership

**Dr. Brandon Haddock** (Spicy/They)

Coordinator - LGBT Resource Center

Dr. Haddock is currently the Coordinator of the Kansas State University LGBT Resource Center and Student Services Coordinator in Diversity and Multicultural Student Affairs. With over 25 years of leadership, education, and advocacy work within the LGBTQ+ community, Dr. Haddock brings a historical perspective of lived experience and academic knowledge to their message of recognizing and embracing the leadership capabilities in each of us.

# Kansas State LGBTQ+ Leadership Conference

## Sessions and Presenters

**10:00 - 10:50 am**  
**Block 1 : Session 1**

**ONEOK Room**  
**Morris Family Multicultural Student Center**

**Centering Queer Voices in the Archive:  
Reckoning with Historical Absence and Silence**

**Irina Rogova - Ryan Leimkuehler - Challen Wright**  
**Kansas State University Hale Libraries**

For centuries, historians have used archival records to conduct research and construct retellings of human history. Our shared collective memory and history impacts our current landscape, from law to politics to how we interact with one another. But are archival holdings the bastions of truth and knowledge that they have been purported to be? In this presentation, we will begin by addressing the formation of modern western archival practice and how this process has excluded and silenced the experiences of individuals across marginalized communities, with a focus on LGBTQ+ communities. Then we will expand on how archivists today, both in the profession and on Kansas State University's campus, are addressing the gaps and silences in their archival holdings through community archiving, oral histories, inclusive description practices, and more. We will conclude by sharing how individuals and groups can approach their own materials as archival collections, either partnering with institutions to share their histories or creating independent archives of their own. In conjunction with the presentation, representatives from the Morse Department of Special Collections and the Sunderland Foundation Innovation Lab will set up a mobile archiving station at the conference in order to assist attendees with digitizing their own materials. Attendees are encouraged to bring photographs or other ephemera to be digitized to contribute to the Morse Department's collection around the 2022 Kansas LGBTQ+ Leadership Conference. The mobile archiving station will also gather stories from attendees (via audio and/or video recording or photography) about their experiences, prompted by the question "What does it mean to be part of the LGBTQ+ community in Kansas in 2022?"

# Kansas State LGBTQ+ Leadership Conference

## Sessions and Presenters

**10:00 - 10:50 am**  
**Block 1 : Session 2**

**Room 205**  
**Morris Family Multicultural Student Center**

### **Finding Your Fit in STEM**

**Dr. Amy Betz and Dr. Craig Wanklyn**

**Kansas State University**  
**College of Engineering**

STEM fields, particularly in engineering, have a history of being exclusionary. However, diversity in STEM fields continues to grow in importance as we need human capital and new ideas to solve the immense problems of the 21st century. This includes but is not limited to climate change, infectious diseases, safe and affordable housing, and access to clean water. Many students think that there is a specific personality or identity that is better suited for STEM careers. This is simply not true. Being authentic as a scientist or engineer is extremely important to change this perception. In this session, two engineers will discuss how to leverage your unique perspective and identity in STEM fields. This session will also cover barriers and challenges LGBTQ+ students encounter as well as tools to navigate or dismantle these barriers. Finding you fit in STEM is about setting students up for success, allowing them to make a greater impact on the world.

# Kansas State LGBTQ+ Leadership Conference

## Sessions and Presenters

**10:00 - 10:50 am**  
**Block 1 : Session 3**

**Wildcat Chamber**  
**Kansas State University Student Union - 1st Floor**

### **Queering History:**

**Leading from the shoulders of giants.**

**Adam Carr**

**Kansas State University**

**Program/Project Administrator**

**Diversity and Multicultural Student Affairs**

This session will focus on the history and development of the LGBTQ rights movement in the United States. Adam Carr will review the historical significance of Pride Month, events such as the Stonewall Riots, and landmark Supreme Court cases that have advanced the equity and resilience of minority sexualities and gender identities.

# Kansas State LGBTQ+ Leadership Conference

## Sessions and Presenters

**11:00 - 11:50 am**

**KEYNOTE**

**Forum Hall - K-State Student Union**

### **Leadership in Adversity**

**Keynote**

Dr. Tori Gleason

**Introduction**

Dr. Brandon Haddock

Coordinator - LGBT Resource Center

Dr. Gleason is certified by the American Chiropractic Board of Sports Physicians. She earned her chiropractic degree from Palmer College of Chiropractic and then went on to earn her sports diplomate. She's currently in the Master of Public Health program at the University of Kansas School of Medicine Wichita campus with a clinical focus on rural health access and health equity for LGBTQ+ populations. In addition to working with high school and college athletes, her clinical focus is on transgender and gender-expansive patient populations. She has been in hospital governance and leadership for the last ten years with CenturaHealth – Goodland Regional Medical Center (GRMC) to build a sustainable network of organizations. She has a passion for serving in the diversity, equity, and inclusion space with GRMC, the Masonic Cancer Alliance, and The University of Kansas Cancer Center to develop and facilitate activities and programs to improve the quality of care for the health system. She leads the effort in fostering diversity, inclusion, social justice, anti-discrimination, and accessibility to support in teaching, research, and practice.

# Kansas State LGBTQ+ Leadership Conference

## Sessions and Presenters

**1:00 - 1:50 pm**  
**Block 2 : Session 4**

**Wildcat Chamber**  
**Kansas State University Student Union - 1st Floor**

### **I Am Very Tired of Cisnormativity**

**Sam Sharpe**  
**Kansas State University**  
**Division of Biology**

Bio: Sam Sharpe is a PhD candidate in the Division of Biology at Kansas State University. As a graduate student, they have given presentations at local and national conferences on plant evolutionary ecology, increasing inclusion in STEM education, and understanding biological variation in sex and gender. They are a passionate advocate for the importance of scientific literacy, science communication, and the capacity of biology to empower self-understanding of diverse identities.

Abstract: Cisnormativity is extremely pervasive and oppressive, creating myriad problems not only for trans people, but for everyone. The violent impact of cisnormativity on the lives and bodies of intersex people is especially significant and frequently ignored. The presentation will also discuss how cisnormativity is a product of eugenics and white supremacy. It will go on to explore how cisnormativity is connected to other forms of oppression, including racism, ableism, medical discrimination, and anti-fat bias. I will end the presentation by describing specific examples of cisnormativity at K-State, and how they make life worse for everyone, especially trans and intersex students, faculty, and staff, and provide ideas for how they can be ameliorated.

# Kansas State LGBTQ+ Leadership Conference

## Sessions and Presenters

**1:00 - 1:50 pm**  
**Block 2 : Session 5**

**Room 207**  
**Second Floor - East Wing**  
**K-State Student Union**

**Two-Spirit:**  
**Indigenous Queerness**  
**Past and Present**

**Dr. Lisa Tatonetti and Dr. Brandon Haddock**

**Department of English**  
**Kansas State University**

Lisa Tatonetti is a Florida native who lives in a fabulous 1920s house that's in ongoing need of renovation with Samson the wonder cat. While she will always miss the ocean, she has been enchanted by the tallgrass, wildflowers, and deer of the Konza prairie. If you come visit campus in the spring, she may drag you along to a 5am viewing of the elusive Prairie chicken--be warned.

Lisa studies and teaches the texts and contexts of Queer Indigenous literatures. She is co-editor of *Sovereign Erotics: A Collection of Contemporary Two-Spirit Literature* (University of Arizona Press, 2011) and author of *The Queerness of Native American Literature* (University of Minnesota Press, 2014). In addition to her work in these areas, she focuses on Multiethnic American literatures, 20th-21st century North American literature, and is a proud member of the Cultural Studies track.

# Kansas State LGBTQ+ Leadership Conference

## Sessions and Presenters

**1:00 - 1:50 pm**  
**Block 2 : Session 6**

**ONEOK Room**  
**Morris Family Multicultural Center**

### **The Inclusive Library: How Libraries Can Support LGBTQ+ Students**

**Elizabeth Downing-Turner**  
**Digital Curation Librarian**  
**Fort Hays State University**

Bio: As the Digital Curation librarian at Fort Hays State University I have focused on creating an inclusive environment that is reflected in our collections as well as the services we offer to faculty and students. I highly value accessibility to information and believe that libraries are for everyone. Creating safe and inclusive spaces is integral to maintaining accessibility for all.

Abstract: Libraries are one of the most diverse spaces on a university campus because they cater to all students across all disciplines. In order to truly serve our students, libraries must be aware of the ways in which they can support LGBTQ+ students through their policies, services, and spaces. Students who use the library during their time in school have higher rates of achievement than those who do not. By creating inclusive spaces where LGBTQ+ students feel safe and valued, libraries can contribute to the success of this student population and create visibility which in turn can positively affect the campus climate as a whole. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the current state of the literature regarding libraries and LGBTQ+ students and give examples of how Forsyth Library is taking small steps towards creating a more LGBTQ+ friendly library.



## Sessions and Presenters

2:00 - 2:50 pm

Block 3 : Session 7

ONEOK Room

Morris Family Multicultural Center

**Sex List: Queer Form in Carmen Maria**

**Machado's "Inventory"**

**Hunter Scott**

College of English

Kansas State University

Bio: Hunter is a graduate student and instructor at Kansas State University where he activates diversity, equity, and inclusion through his teaching of composition, literature, film, and gender, women, and sexuality studies in addition to his service on diversity and intercultural committees. His research focuses on intersectionality and queer liberation. For his Master's project, Hunter performs queer archival work by returning to the 1983 HIV/AIDS safe sex manual "How to Have Sex in an Epidemic: One Approach" in order to examine the intimate affordances of lists and creativity.

Abstract: Developing Eco's theorization of lists as an enumerative and paradoxical form that troubles categories of the finite/infinite and practical/poetic, I argue that lists can be a queer medium of connection and physical intimacy. I apply this queer reading of lists to Carmen Maria Machado's "Inventory", an anaphoric short story in which a narrator recounts her polysexual autobiography while a deadly pandemic blossoms around her. To understand the queerness of "Inventory," we must not be content to merely observe its homoerotic and sexually explicit content; rather, we must also engage its formal construction to perceive the short story as a queer list. As a queer medium conveying queer content, I follow McLuhan's claim that "the medium is the message," ultimately arguing that by continuing to have and list sex during an epidemic, the narrator of "Inventory" insists upon the necessity of queer intimacy and connection even in the face of death.

# Kansas State LGBTQ+ Leadership Conference

## Sessions and Presenters

**2:00 - 2:50 pm**  
**Block 3 : Session 8**

**Room 205**  
**Morris Family Multicultural Center**

**Meeting in the Middle:**

**Finding Your Voice in Queer Kansas**

**Katie Dixon and Clinton Shane Bradley**

**Olathe Kansas**

Bio: I am a mom, a financial advisor and I ran for state house in 2020 in Olathe, KS as an openly LGBTQ person. I lost by 200 votes out of 10,000 votes cast! I am currently continuing my public policy work in many ways. I am a sitting member of the Mid America LGBT Chamber's public policy committee. We are using this platform to help lawmakers in MO and KS understand and appreciate the LGBTQ community in these states to increase access and reduce barriers. I think diversity and inclusion are economic issues. I am passionate about helping both individuals and businesses understand and adapt to our changing demographic. Our diversity is a strength. This is the truth by which I live my life, lobby and run my business

Abstract: "The economy" is often thought of as an illusive, mysterious unreachable thing. This panel will provide deeper understanding of the economy and how YOU influence it. This panel explores how individuals have found their voice and comfort in the workplace, obstacles they've faced, and their vision for the future. The other part of this panel will also explore the larger implications the LGBTQ community has on the economy and workforces in Kansas and Missouri. Marginalized communities may often feel disenfranchised, but this panel will help you understand our voices are at the table and we belong in places decisions are being made! Marginalized communities may often feel disenfranchised, but this panel will help you understand our voices are at the table and we belong in places decisions are being made!

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## Sessions and Presenters

**2:00 - 2:50 pm**  
**Block 3 : Session 9**

**Wildcat Chamber**  
**K-State Student Union - 1st Floor**

### **Navigating Student Leadership: Leading in Student Organizations**

**Panel Discussion with Members of the K-State  
Sexuality and Gender Alliance, Gender Collective,  
and oSTEM**

**Departmental Student Organizations - LGBT Resource Center**

**3:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Closing Reflection**  
**Wildcat Chamber - K-State Student Union**

**Call to Action:**

**You ARE the Leaders of OUR Future!**

**Dr. Debra Bolton**

**Director - Intercultural Learning and Student Success**  
**Kansas State University**

**Breaking the Silence (15 mins)**

**Will Rapp**  
**GLSEN KANSAS**

# Kansas State LGBTQ+ Leadership Conference

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What does that mean? That we value our people. We're firmly committed to engaging in the conversations necessary to make our team members feel safe, valued and respected, and truly listening so we can better understand how to serve our communities.

We say that Commerce is here to help you focus on what matters most. But at the end of the day, what matters most isn't so different for most people. It's feeling like you matter. It's feeling safe in the space you're in. We want to listen to what you're telling us matters most, so we can continue to take action and make Commerce a better place for everyone who comes through our doors.

"Commerce believes that our people are our most valuable resource and our greatest competitive advantage. Our commitment to fostering an inclusive culture where team members are valued for their diverse talents and perspectives is vital to the engagement, innovation and productivity that position us to anticipate and proactively adapt to our customers' changing needs. By honoring this commitment in how we work together and how we do business, we enable team members to reach their full potential, and in doing so maximize shareholder value."

-Sara Foster, Executive Vice President for  
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-Greg Garland, Chairman and CEO

