



Dear Clarion University family and friends,

I am very happy to share with you the continued efforts the Office of Social Equity, with support from all parts of the campus community, has made toward our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

In spring 2018, we hosted the Second Annual Lavender Graduation to acknowledge those Clarion University students who identify as LGBT+ and/or allies. We worked to be listed with Campus Pride as an LGBT Friendly School. Nearly every department assisted in the application process, and we are happy to announce that we were awarded four out of five stars, giving us status as a Premier Campus.

We also wanted to have a little fun, and we kicked off our Equity Egg Scavenger Hunt last fall. We hid Equity Eggs, rocks painted with positive messages, on Clarion campus for students to find and post on social media. We also created Equity Egg Hidden Pictures for our online students. The eggs were hidden on Venango campus in the spring.

Together, we promote an environment of civility and common understanding. Through that work, Clarion University truly is a wonderful place to live, learn and grow.

Amy Salsgiver, director
Social Equity

LAVENDER *graduation*

The Presidential Commission on LGBT+ Concerns, with support from the Office of the President and the Office of Social Equity, hosted the Second Annual Lavender Graduation last spring. Fifteen graduates participated in the event, which was held in the community room at Reinhard Villages. The keynote speaker was Tyler Titus, the first openly transgender male to be elected to office in Pennsylvania. Interim Chancellor Karen Whitney assisted Social Equity director Amy Salsgiver in presenting the cords and pins for the ceremony. This important event allows for greater understanding and appreciation of diversity and inclusion.



Front row (from left) are Maxwell Dibble, Coralie Compere, Morgan Woodin, Emily Felcht, Noelle Fretts; and second row, Andrew Skubisz, Franklin Markle, Brady Karg, Bradley Brummitt.



The Offices of the Provost, Social Equity, Health and Wellness, Public Safety and Disability Support Services collaborated to create a Medical Emergency Classroom Procedure. All classrooms on the Clarion and Venango campuses and the Pittsburgh site were supplied with posters. To request posters, please contact Amy Salsgiver at asalsgiver@clarion.edu.

Dakota Roberts ('18) grew up in Pittsburgh as one of two African American students in his elementary and middle school classes. He wasn't always able to relate to the majority of his classmates, and they weren't always able to relate to him.

"I felt it was my job to educate and bring awareness about other cultures," Roberts said.

As a student at Clarion University, he continued to embrace that role.

"I was the multicultural chair on the University Activities Board, and I brought in people from different cultures to educate not only the campus, but the community as well," he said.

He believes that exposure to different cultures is important because of the growing diversity in our daily lives.

"Our country, workplaces and schools increasingly consist of various cultural, racial and ethnic groups. We can learn from one another, but first we must have a level of understanding about each other," Roberts said. "America is a melting pot, and we have to learn to blend together."

Roberts' degree is in liberal studies with a concentration in women and gender studies and a minor in history. He kept his academic plate full, but he made time in his schedule to increase cultural awareness at the university. In addition to UAB, he was involved with Black Student Union, V-Day Project and Queens. His projects include Cultural Week, Miss CU Pageant and Fashion Show.

"Clarion activities have made me more awake to the outside world. They have brought enlightenment about different traditions and customs, and I have gained many friends from around the world," he said. "The activities have also helped me to become more organized, more social and better with time management."

In addition to personal enrichment, he sees involvement as a plus to his career.

"I bring a more diverse viewpoint to the table to help people work with different individuals, no matter what their background is."



Equity Eggs created by student Billianna Kovacs

equity EGG HUNT

Social Equity and the Presidential Commission on LGBT+ Concerns coordinated the Social Media Clarion University Equity Egg Hunt for Clarion Campus and Venango Campus and the Clarion Online Hidden Picture Equity Egg contests. The on-campus events consisted of painted rocks with messages of equity, diversity and inclusion which were hidden on Clarion campus in fall 2017 and on Venango campus in spring 2018. The hidden picture contest was held in fall 2017. Participants were encouraged to find the eggs, post a picture to social media with a hashtag and then re-hide the egg. Those who found the eggs were entered into a drawing, and three winners were selected for each contest. Freshman Billianna Kovacs designed and created the eggs and the hidden pictures used for the online contest.

CLARION PRIDE

Clarion University earned four out of five stars on the Campus Pride Index, an overall indicator of institutional commitment to LGBTQ-inclusive policy, program and practice. Clarion is the only State System school to be listed as a Premier Campus.



SERVICE TO OTHERS NEEDS TO BE *contagious*

Paul Klenowski's mother, an emergency room nurse who regularly saw people at their worst, taught him: Always do the right thing, and always be positive, and it will always come full circle.

His father, an English teacher who lived a life of service, decorated his classroom with inspirational quotes. As a child, Klenowski was mesmerized by the quotes. One that has stuck with him is: "Many men go fishing all their lives without realizing it's not the fish they're after."

His home state – West Virginia – has the kind of people, he said, "who will stop and help you change a tire. We don't have a whole hell of a lot, but what we have, we share."

Klenowski is the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Community Award, and he credits those influences for shaping him into the person he is.

"The idea of helping others is part of who I am," he said. "I was raised by my family and learned from my teachers, professors, coaches the idea of sacrifice, of helping others. Who is in need? What can I do to help?"

It doesn't have to be a sweeping change.

"If you impact one person's life, you've made a difference."

In his criminal justice classes, he tries to instill the idea of serving others. He said law enforcement is much like nursing and teaching in that you're helping others, preparing others, serving others.

"They'll be seeing people, a lot of times, at their worst – a kid getting in trouble, someone overdosing," he said.

He tells his students to take that extra step, to follow up with these people – help them get into treatment or back on their feet.

"Turn on the news and it's absolute chaos. I can't change what's going on, but what I can do on an individual level and local level is help the people close to me," Klenowski said. "That's what I pass on to my students: What can I do here, in the given time?"

A key to serving others is not expecting anything in return.

One of his favorite examples is a troop of African-American Girl Scouts from Youngstown, who, in the summer of 2016 decided to donate money they had been saving for a trip to a water park to victims of devastating flooding in West Virginia. The girls had never been to a swimming pool, but they saw what was going on in West Virginia and wanted to help.

"With all the money they saved, they took a van with 305,000 miles on it, went to the most ravaged area of the flood, made contact with a church and presented a check to the pastor. Then they stayed several days, cleaning houses and handing out food. They said it was just the right thing to do," Klenowski said.

Touched, Klenowski contacted the troop and arranged to meet the scouts and buy ice cream for them while they shared details of their trip. He bought passes to Waldameer Park in Erie for the girls and gave each one spending money, and he provided gas money to the troop leaders.

"They had to act, then I had to act. There was the ripple effect," he said. "One young girl, a couple of months before, had lost everything in a house fire. So many people came to help her and her mom – she knew she had to help others. It can become contagious in a positive way. We need it to be more contagious."



COURAGEOUS. *confident.* CLARION.

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