Created in 1991, the Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Equity is an advisory group to the President of Penn State. The Commission serves to improve the climate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer members of the Penn State community by examining current policies and practices, addressing issues, and initiating and promoting programs that result in a more equitable and supportive environment.

KEY INITIATIVES FOR 2015–16

Celebrate the Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Equity’s Twenty-fifth Anniversary
- A celebratory gala event was held on Thursday, April 21, highlighting the progress of the LGBTQ community at Penn State, nationally, and internationally.
- Support programs throughout the year that reflect the Commission’s twenty-five years of progress.

Fund and Support LGBTQ Scholarship and Programs
- An academic symposium was held in conjunction with the Commission’s twenty-fifth anniversary gala, providing opportunities for scholars working in all areas of LGBTQ and gender identity research to highlight their work.
- In conjunction with the registrar, work to identify relevant course work across the Penn State system, amplify what is already happening, and identify areas of needed growth.
- Support course offerings for the Sexuality and Gender Studies Minor.
- Benchmark resources at peer institutions to support LGBTQ-themed teaching and scholarship.
- Encourage development of tenure-track faculty positions focused on LGBTQ research and scholarship.

Promote LGBTQ Health Care and Restroom Access Policies
- Advance policy to establish restroom access according to an individual’s gender identity.
- Promote and support University health care services for transgender staff and faculty.

Support LGBTQ Contacts and Resources at all Campuses
- Work with the Office of Student Affairs and other Penn State offices to identify, train, and connect individuals to help implement the recommendation by the Faculty Senate Committee on Educational Equity and Campus Environment (EECE) that there be liaisons on each campus to provide support and resources for LGBTQ persons and issues.

Build Community and Support for LGBTQ Students
- Develop informational materials to distribute during Move-In Weekend, student recruitment events, and New Student Orientation.
- Partner with the Office of Admissions to change the undergraduate application to add a transgender option for gender identity and the opportunity to request information about LGBTQ resources.
Advance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Penn State
- Partner with CORED and CFW to host an annual promotion and tenure symposium to address issues important to early tenure-line faculty from underrepresented groups.

Enhance Community Building and Interaction for LGBTQ Students, Faculty, and Staff
- Strategically expand the use of social media platforms to allow community members to interact with each other more frequently and engage in meaningful dialogue.

Improve Support for LGBTQ Employees
- Organize informational sessions and materials on the changes to University benefits.
- Organize informational sessions and materials on retirement planning.
- Promote Safe Zone Training for all faculty and staff.