

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month

Employee Spotlight

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LGBTQ Resource Nurse

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What is your role at Johns Hopkins?

As the LGBTQ resource nurse at Sibley Memorial Hospital, I serve as a resource and advocate for LGBTQ patients and staff. I administer LGBTQ 101 presentations and trainings to new employees and departments, host “lunch and learns” on various LGBTQ topics and conduct community outreach, usually to older LGBTQ adults.

How long have you been with Johns Hopkins?

I have been here for three years.

Who or what helped you pursue your career path?

My mom is also a nurse and my dad a firefighter. My parents are driven, independent people who have always supported me in whatever I've done.

What do you think are the most pressing issues that members of the LGBTQ community face today?

LGBTQ rights have come a long way, but there is still so far to go. Breaking through cultural, religious and societal barriers is difficult, especially at this time in our country's history. Although we have federal marriage equality, it is still legal in many states to fire or evict us based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Transgender rights are finally getting the attention that is deserved; however, the fight is just beginning, and it's important for the entire LGBTQ community and allies to continue speaking up.

How does being a member of the LGBTQ community shape your work and experiences?

I am able to relate with patients in my community well because I know what it's like to face discrimination in the health

care system. Hearing experiences of friends and patients inspires me to want to educate medical professionals and ensure that other LGBTQ folks will have a better experience.

What LGBTQ historical figures and/or contemporary heroes do you find interesting or inspiring?

Edie Windsor is a tremendous hero and one of the main reasons the country has marriage equality. My wife and I got to meet Edie at a WNBA game, only a year before she died. Being able to personally thank her for her work—work that allowed us to legally marry—was one of the highlights of my life. Marsha P. Johnson is another hero of mine—a leader of the Stonewall riots of 1969, which sparked the fight for LGBTQ equality. I am also really inspired by Ellen DeGeneres, who lost her career after she came out in 1997 and came back even stronger and more successful by adhering to her values of compassion and authenticity.

What message do you have for the Johns Hopkins community about serving and supporting members of the LGBTQ community?

Hire, listen to and highlight all intersections of the LGBTQ community. Gender expansive individuals, persons of color and immigrants of the community bring fresh, innovative ideas and experiences that are incredibly valuable.

What mark do you hope to leave on Johns Hopkins, your community, the nation or the world?

The intersectionality of my activism encompasses compassion, understanding and equality. As a queer, feminist, vegan, social justice activist, I want to

inspire other people to stand up for all living beings.

What advice can you give other LGBTQ individuals pursuing medicine?

The medical field is a rewarding, versatile career where you can make a difference. We can create positive change from within. Folks who are safely able to be out can really impact those around them.

I am proud to be an out member of the LGBTQ community. As we are more and more visible as medical professionals, it helps restore the trust patients have in health care.

