

Winter

NEWSLETTER

May 13, 2024 / Vol 4 / Issue 1

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SPOTLIGHT

Our 2024 Scholarship portal has opened until June 1. Read about the twelve 2023 Scholarship award winners on page 2!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



JUNE 1 - 2024 OTI Scholarships Deadline

ABOUT US

Out to Innovate is NOGLSTP doing business as “Out to Innovate.” We are a 501(c)(3) educational organization and professional society of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, asexual, queer (LGBTQ+) people, and allies employed or interested in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) fields. Out to Innovate empowers LGBTQ+ individuals in STEM by providing education, advocacy, professional development, networking, and peer support. Out to Innovate educates all communities regarding scientific, technological, and medical concerns of LGBTQ+ people.



INNOVATE

2023 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Out to Innovate would like to congratulate our 2023 Scholarship awardees. Our scholarship awards were from \$2000 to \$8000 from a variety of funding sources and are used for a range of purposes, including tuition, fees, conference registration, and publication support for both graduate and undergraduate students.

Out to Innovate Engineering & Technology (sponsored by Motorola Solutions Foundation) \$8000 for 1st place, \$3000 for 2nd place, \$2750 for community college transfers

Nathaniel Moreland, University of Washington (1st place)
Artem Arzyn, Stanford University (2nd place)
Jaiden Barthel, University of Minnesota
Nick O'Reilly, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Ozichi Chinedu, Rutgers University-Newark
Rory Rossi, Montana State University

Out to Innovate STM (supported by member donations) \$3000 for an awardee in the fields of science, technology, or mathematics

Frida Calvo Huerta, University of California, Berkeley
Meghana Hosahalli Shivananda Murthy, Arizona State University

Amy Ross Bioscience (supported by a sustaining grant from member Amy Ross) \$2000 for a student studying biosciences

Landon Porter, University of Texas at Austin

BHE Foundations CARES (sponsored by Berkshire Hathaway Energy) \$5000 for students studying engineering

Samantha Schmidt, Eastern Michigan University
Kayla Morris, Arizona State University
Maxwell Pisciotta, University of Pennsylvania

Below are quotes from some of the award winners:

"This scholarship was not just a financial reward,

rather encouragement and an opportunity to make a positive impact on my future and the world around me." **-Nathaniel Moreland**
"I am so grateful to have been awarded the Out to Innovate Engineering/Technology Scholarship after working hard to transfer to a four-year university from my community college. I'll strive to be a positive representative for LGBTQ+ people in STEM while pursuing my studies and afterwards in my professional endeavors. Thank you to Out to Innovate for seeing and promoting my potential!" **-Nick O'Reilly**

"This award not only supports my own research in biology, but also facilitates discovery by acknowledging the power of diversity in shaping scientific inquiry." **-Landon Porter**

"Paleontology has been my passion since before I can even remember. There has always been something about the history of life on Earth that fascinates me. This scholarship will allow me to pursue this dream. With this money, I will be able to attend my dream university and work towards bringing diversity into the field of paleontology. I am a queer trans man and I hope to one day inspire other trans people to pursue careers in STEM fields, especially the ones they are passionate about. This is just the beginning of my journey and this award helps me take another massive step forward in my career. I cannot thank you enough for this opportunity. It means the world to me." **-Rory E. Rossi**

THREE BOARD MEMBERS CONCLUDE SERVICE

The Out to Innovate Board would like to thank the following Board members for their service to the organization:

Rebecca Callahan joined Out to Innovate's Board in 2020. She chaired the Programs Committee, vital to our scholarship, fellowship, and recognition awards. Callahan has gone on to help establish the CHIPS for America office as their Director of Legislative Affairs.

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Kristen DeFife joined Out to Innovate as a Board member in 2022. DeFife served on both the Membership and Fundraising committees. DeFife has served in several leadership roles at Ajinomoto Bio-Pharma Services where she continues in an advisory role.

Luca Caputo became a Board Member in 2021. Caputo is a postdoctoral fellow at the Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute in San Diego, CA. As a Board member, Caputo helped launch the first two cycles of our mentorship program, initiated the Membership Committee, and helped Queer Science Society of San Diego become an official Out to Innovate affiliate.

SCIENCE ADVANCES ARTICLE: BISEXUAL BEHAVIOR GENETICALLY TIED TO RISK-TAKING, CONTROVERSIAL DNA ANALYSIS FINDS

A Science Advances paper published by S. Song and J. Zhang (DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.adj6958) looking at a DNA database of ~450,000 people in the United Kingdom suggests that self-reported bisexual behavior in men is associated with genes for higher risk-taking compared with men who indicated having only same-sex partners or women who indicated having partners of the same and opposite sex. The authors performed a linkage disequilibrium score regression based on a genome-wide analysis, which suggested the traits were genetically distinct patterns despite being heritable, in line with findings from other studies. Together with the findings that bisexual behavior in men was associated with higher risk-taking, the authors suggest that, from an evolutionary ecology standpoint, this allows for both bisexual and same-sex behavior traits to persist, despite lower reproductive fitness associated with same-sex behavior.

Co-author Jianzhi Zhang had this to say regarding the association between bisexual behavior and risk-taking, “[It] is an empirical observation. ... We hold no moral judgment on risk-taking and believe [it] has pros and cons (depending on the situation), as almost any trait.” The Science news article indicates that the study has received both pushback for its study design flaws and potential unethical uses, and praise for the value of its findings from researchers in the scientific community.

Read the full story here:

<https://www.science.org/content/article/bisexual-behavior-genetically-tied-risk-taking-controversial-dna-analysis-finds>

OPEN CALL FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

We are in the midst of a renewed attack on the LGBTQ+ community by lawmakers, one that uses rhetoric antithetical to science and targets a particularly vulnerable group: trans youth. If you or someone you know would like to get involved in Out to Innovate’s mission, we are always looking for help to organize and run our programs. We are an entirely volunteer-based organization and rely on your help to carry out our work.

Apply to become a Board member here:

<https://oti.memberclicks.net/volunteer-for-board-leadership>

The board meets once per month to discuss priorities and activities for Out To Innovate.

For additional volunteering opportunities reach out to any of Board members or committees here:

<https://www.outtoinnovate.org/contact>

THE UCLA WILLIAMS INSTITUTE RELEASES NEW REPORT ON SOGI DATA

In partnership with the University of Vermont's Queer and Trans People in Education and AAAS, the UCLA Williams Institute produced a recently published report "Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Data Collection by Higher Education Institutions in the U.S." The report examined sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data collection policies across all fifty states, and yielded four priority groups for improving SOGI data collection in addition to institutional-level changes:

1. States with laws protecting LGBTQ+ students and employees from discrimination
2. States with strong privacy protection laws for student and employee data
3. States with strong general privacy protection laws that would encompass SOGI data
4. States with no anti-LGBTQ laws, policies, or initiatives posing risks to LGBTQ students and employees if SOGI data were collected

Read more here:

<https://www.aaas.org/programs/catalyzing-data-infrastructure-support-lgbtq-inclusion>

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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MEMBER SERVICES

The Out to Innovate member services site allows for self-serve member update and automated renewal notices. Visit our website at: <https://www.outtoinnovate.org/join> and log in to explore or update your profile, or to renew your annual dues. Of course, you're welcome to renew or join the old-fashioned way with pen, paper, and check by filling out a download-able form from our website. We're happy to have your support any way you want to give it!

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