



LEADERS OF  
CHANGE AWARDS

OAKLAND  
UNIVERSITY<sup>TM</sup>

# LEADERS OF CHANGE

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Honoring those who are advancing the goals of diversity,  
equity and inclusion at OU and in the community.



## WELCOME

**Britt Rios-Ellis**

*Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost*

## PRESENTATION OF THE LARRABEE AWARDS

**Grace Wojcik**

*Coordinator, Gender & Sexuality Center*

## PRESENTATION OF THE EMERSON AWARDS

**Glenn McIntosh**

*Senior Vice President for Student Affairs & Chief Diversity Officer*

## PRESENTATION OF THE GOOGASIAN AWARDS

**Anita Hicks**

*Associate Director of the Oakland Center*

**Joi Cunningham**

*Assistant Vice President, Academic Human Resources*

## GOOGASIAN AWARD ACCEPTANCE REMARKS

**Laura Dinsmoor - 2020 Winner**

*Special Instructor, School of Engineering and Computer Science*

**Michelle Piskulich - 2021 Winner**

*Senior Associate Provost, Academic Affairs*

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Glenn McIntosh**

*Senior Vice President for Student Affairs & Chief Diversity Officer*

## Timothy G. Larrabee Diversity Award

The Timothy G. Larrabee Diversity Award annually supports a new initiative, program or project designed to advance SOGI equality and inclusion on campus. This is in recognition of Dr. Larrabee and his many contributions to the SOGI Initiative and to the broader academic, cultural and community engagement goals of Oakland University and the surrounding community.

### Lacey Story - 2020 Winner

Lacey Story, a special lecturer in the Women and Gender Studies department, has taught the Intro to LGBTQ Studies course for the past five years. In doing such, she saw firsthand the importance of raising awareness and educating students about the LGBTQ+ community. To further this study, she developed a course, LGBTQ+ Lives through a Global Lens, that was offered as an Honor's College course last year. Given the need to address this topic on a global



level, she intends to modify and expand this course to be offered as an elective course in the LGBTQ+ Minor program. The creation of this course and its intent on raising awareness about LGBTQ+ through education is at the heart of the work that Dr. Larrabee started and sought to have continued through this award.

Through her course development, Lacey is welcoming the opportunity to examine global perspectives in regards LGBTQ+ identification and representation. This course will encourage students to view different perspectives on specific topics from other countries and cultures while using critical thinking skills that are grounded in feminist and queer theory. Through this course, students will gain a better understanding, education, and awareness of the LGBTQ+ community while advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion at Oakland University.

## Timothy G. Larrabee Diversity Award

### LGBTQIA ERG - 2021 Winner

The LGBTQIA Employee Resource Group piloted an informational Lunch and Learn Series during the 2020-2021 academic year. It involved many talented faculty, staff, and students with a wealth of knowledge surrounding the LGBTQIA community that was then shared with others around campus to help educate one another and better promote inclusion at OU.



With the support of the Larrabee Award, this series will be expanded in 2021-2022 to monthly meetings where LGBTQIA research being conducted within the OU community can be shared. The series will also provide opportunities for discussions on various documentaries, podcasts, books, and other scholarly work for those who are interested in learning more about the LGBTQIA community.

Educating employees of the university on LGBTQIA experiences is essential to creating a more inclusive campus environment for all faculty, staff, and students, and a continuation of the work that Dr. Larrabee started at OU.

## Monica E. Emerson Diversity Award

The Monica E. Emerson Diversity Award annually recognizes significant achievements, creative programming efforts or innovative diversity and inclusion concepts of faculty, staff, students, alumni and academic units in developing a culturally diverse, compassionate university community reflective of inclusive excellence.

### **Dr. Chaunda Scott - 2020 Winner**

Dr. Chaunda Scott is an associate professor in the Department of Organization Leadership in the School of Education and Human Services. She recently led the development of a new graduate certificate in human diversity, inclusion and social justice and serves as the graduate program coordinator. Over 17 years ago, Dr. Scott developed the Diverse Voices Conference on the campus of Oakland University. This unique event, which is a catalyst of open dialog and expanded diversity education beyond the confines of the classroom, provides a platform for growth and healing in a safe space at the annual conference. She is an innovator and promotes diversity awareness through her devotion to her craft.



A few of her notable accomplishments include being granted the prestigious Fulbright Specialist Award in 2015, along with receiving the Educator of the Year Award from the Niagara Foundation-Michigan Chapter that same year for her diversity education work. She has also published several national and international scholarly articles, book chapters, a book review, and co-edited books. She is a recipient of the Academy of Human Resource Development's prominent Cutting Edge Research Award. In 2013, she was named as one of the Top 25 Education Professors in Michigan by Online Schools Michigan.

## Monica E. Emerson Diversity Award

### Joi Cunningham - 2021 Winner

Joi Cunningham is the assistant vice president in Academic Human Resources. She is a strong advocate and committed change agent in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts at Oakland University. Joi's insights, efforts and actions have not only promoted awareness of DEI across campus, they have helped to institutionalize a sustainable set of processes, practices and structures that will continue to yield fruit for Strategic Goal #4 for years to come. She demonstrates a commitment to DEI that extends beyond words into engaging action, and epitomizes the attributes of the Emerson Award.



Recently Joi has led the effort to hire faculty Diversity Fellows, the Provost Fellows for Diversity, the implementation of the Diversity Advocate program in Academic Affairs searches, the expansion of that program to the promotion and tenure process, and the establishment of the Faculty Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee of the University Senate. Joi serves on the DEI Council and was actively involved in the establishment of Diversity Goal #4 and the associated diversity strategic priorities. Joi was instrumental in the development of the Black Employee Resource Group in 2007 and continues to serve on the executive board. She also represents OU in the ACE Network of Michigan Women of Color Collaborative.



# LEADERS OF CHANGE

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## **Timothy G. Larrabee Diversity Award Past Recipients**

2017 - Out on Campus Initiative

2018 - Mark C. Navin

2020 - Lacey Story

2021 - LGBTQIA ERG

## **Monica E. Emerson Diversity Award Past Recipients**

2016 - Nicole Wells Stallworth

2017 - Anne Switzer Zacharias

2018 - Karen Sheridan

2020 - Chaunda Scott

2021 - Joi Cunningham

## **DIVERSITY AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEES**

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**Glenn McIntosh, Chair**

**Omar Brown-El**

**Joi Cunningham**

**Lori Marsh**

**Chad Martinez**



## Phyllis Law Googasian Award

The Phyllis Law Googasian Award, created in 1992 to honor Phyllis Law Googasian, trustee emerita, honors and recognizes women who have contributed to the advancement of women at Oakland University and beyond through distinguished leadership, scholarship, advocacy, mentoring, program development or other activities.

## Laura Dinsmoor - 2020 Winner

Special Instructor Laura Dinsmoor (MS, Systems Engineering, Oakland University, 1989) joined the School of Engineering and Computer Science in 2000 after working as a senior project manager at Fanuc Robotics North America. In that time, she has been a strong and tireless advocate for girls and women, particularly women students in computer science and information technology. Whether through her work with student organizations, national organizations, groups at OU, or in a one-on-one setting,



Laura aims to encourage girls and women to consider, pursue and persist in STEM careers, excite them about the opportunities, support them while they are doing so, expose them to new ideas and technologies and stand up/speak up for them and help empower them when they encounter difficulties.

A few of her many commitments include serving as the advisor to the OU chapter of ACM-W (the section of the Association for Computing Machinery dedicated to women); helping set up a new Women in Computing @ OU student organization; participating in Society of Women in Engineering activities, and organizing conferences targeted at women in computing. She has been extensively involved for years with the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Academic Alliance which is focused on promoting women in Computer Science.

Her nominators write “She is also a strong advocate of the importance of exposing young girls to STEM careers and getting them excited about science and computing. This is evident through her work with outreach activities to K-12 students, summer camps, organizing activities at OU and elsewhere for girl scouts, First Robotics, etc. ... It is actually amazing that she manages to find the time to get involved in so many activities, while teaching several large classes and serving on several committees at OU and in professional societies. Laura is a great role model and advocate for girl and women students at OU and beyond.”

## Phyllis Law Googasian Award

### Michelle Piskulich - 2021 Winner

Senior Associate Provost Michelle Piskulich (Ph.D. Political Science, Binghamton University, 1992) joined Oakland University in 1988 and has assumed a number of leadership positions including Acting Director of Women's Studies, Director of the Master of Public Administration Program, Chair of the Political Science Department, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and most recently she served as Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Nationally she is active in the Network of



Schools of Public Policy, Administration, and Affairs (NASPAA) where she served on the task force that wrote the current standards for Public Administration accreditation, as the chair of the Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA) and most recently as a member of the executive council and President of NASPAA.

During this time and these positions, she has been dedicated to advancing the status of women across campus including serving on the Women's Studies Executive Committee, Women's History Month Committee, the Work-Life Balance Task Force, the Women's Employee Resource Group (WERG), the ACE Network Conference Planning Committee, and the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Council's conference Planning Committee. In addition, she also served as an institutional representative to the Michigan ACE Network from 2010 to 2019, organized Equal Pay Day events and helped embed the annual OU Googasian Award Luncheon.

Nominators noted that in all of these positions, she has engaged in active mentoring, professional development, and decisive and compassionate leadership. Mariela Hristova, Associate Professor and former Interim Dean of Kresge Library writes, "Michelle Piskulich has guided and advocated for women in leadership positions within OU for years. .... In every interaction, she has strengthened my understanding of how my actions fit within the larger mission of our institution and has provided the extra motivation to think and act with courage." Nominator Rebecca Cheezum, Associate Professor and Chair of Public and Environmental Wellness writes, "Dr. Piskulich provides an example of the kind of leader that I want to be. ...I believe the university is lucky to have her as a leader and is better because of her."

## **Phyllis Law Googasian Award Past Recipients**

1992 Phyllis Law Googasian	2007 Dyanne Tracy
1993 Margo King	2008 Jean Ann Miller
1994 Catherine Rush and Lizabeth Barclay	2009 Barbara Hamilton
1995 Jackie Loughheed	2010 Dawn Pickard
1996 Jacqueline Scherer	2011 Sandra Packard
1998 Suzanne Frankie	2012 Laila Guessous
1999 Joan Rosen	2013 Jo Reger
2000 Mary Otto	2014 Holly Kerstner
2001 Natalie Cole and Martha Zingo	2015 Phyllis Rooney
2002 Mary Beth Snyder	2016 Valerie Palmer-Mehta
2003 Fatma Mili	2017 Beth Talbert
2004 Fay Hansen	2018 Laura Schartman
2005 Andrea Eis	2019 Stephanie J. Lee
2006 Kathleen Healy Moore	2020 Laura Dinsmoor
	2021 Michelle Piskulich

## **THE GOOGASIAN AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEES**

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**Jo Reger, Chair  
Liz Barclay  
Jennifer Heisler  
Mary Beth Snyder**

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

**President Pescovitz** for her support of the work of the OU-Michigan ACE Network, the **Office of the Provost** for its support of the OU-Michigan ACE Network Initiatives, and the **Division of Student Affairs and Diversity** for their support in recognizing leaders of change.

## OU - MICHIGAN ACE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Peggy Cooke

Sally Daniel

Petra Knoche

Ami Harbin

Jennifer Heisler

Anita Hicks (MI-ACE, Institutional Rep)

Stephanie J. Lee (MI-ACE, Executive Board Member)

Joi Cunningham (MI-ACE, Institutional Rep)

Michelle Piskulich

Jo Reger

Beth Talbert

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