

## MILTON E. FORD

## LGBT RESOURCE



## A message from DL, Director of the Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center:

As Pride Month comes to a close, I want to take a moment to say thank you. Thank you to everyone who showed up, spoke out, held space, danced, mourned, organized, resisted, and celebrated. June is always powerful, but it's not the whole story.

Pride is all year. Queer and trans people exist, and resist, every single day. Our stories didn't begin on June 1st, and they don't end on July 1st. So let's carry that energy forward.

And as we carry it, let's also be honest with ourselves.

Being queer and/or trans doesn't exempt us from doing inner work. We must be open to explore our place in community, recognizing the harms that occur in such tight knit spaces and remaining accountable to each other.

If we say we are a community, we must commit to building one worth being a part of. That means care rooted in values, not convenience. It means believing survivors. It means making room for complexity. It means noticing when we use the tactics of systems that were never meant to protect us.

So yes, Happy Pride, always. AND, let's be brave enough to continue fostering a community that we are proud of, year round.

As we look toward the new academic year, I'm holding hope for more connection, deeper accountability, and continued joy in our shared work. The Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center is ready to walk alongside you and that's just the start.

In love and struggle,

DL McKinney, Director (they/he)





