



SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
Director, LGBT Center
LGBT Center

July 2017

Dear Parents and Families,

Greetings from the LGBT Center! My name is Hope Denese Freeman, and I am the new Director here as of March 2017. If you haven't yet made it to the LGBT Center during a visit to Tufts, I invite you to stop by [Bolles House on College Avenue](#) on the Medford/Somerville campus.

The 2017-2018 academic year will be my first full year at Tufts, and I could not be more excited about working with the incoming class of 2021. I have a background working in the non-profit sector, collaborating with community-based organizations in Boston and providing technical assistance to state-wide agencies in Massachusetts. My previous work focused on how adults can better advocate for LGBTQ students and also teach students to advocate for themselves. First and foremost, I am a youth worker, which means I prioritize student needs and find ways to make sure all students feel safe and supported on campus.

Tufts University was recently ranked within the 50 Best Colleges for LGBTQ students by [College Choice](#). We earned our ranking because of our institutional support and access to campus resources, our [Non-Discrimination Policy](#), and a student health insurance plan that includes [trans health benefits](#). This year, we are also pleased to be implementing our Preferred Name Policy, which allows students to use the name that best represent their gender identity and sense of self. There are [instructions online](#) to show students how to update their name in Tufts' Student Information System (SIS).

Here at the LGBT Center we value community support, education, and advocacy. Our values are rooted in both racial and social justice. We take our role as a resource center very seriously: maintaining the safety of the LGBTQ community on this campus is our priority. We also pride ourselves on being an active and visible resource to all students, faculty, staff, and alums. Please visit [our new website](#) for links to groups, events, housing options, and a map of the single-stall and all-gender restrooms on the Medford/Somerville campus.

The LGBT Center is part of the [Group of Six](#) at Tufts, which includes the Africana Center, Latino Center, Women's Center, Asian American Center, and International Center. This group works collaboratively throughout the year and prides itself on an intersectional approach to identity, one that helps ensure that our students' whole selves are recognized, supported, and celebrated. The LGBT community is not monolithic: we know that we cannot claim our sexuality without acknowledging our intersecting identities and how they all play a collective role in the pursuit of true social and racial justice.

If you have any questions about the LGBT Center, programming, events, or just want to say hello, please feel free to email us at lgbt@tufts.edu.

I'm looking forward to meeting your student in the fall!

Warmly,

**Hope Denese Freeman, Director
LGBT Center at Tufts University
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers**