

OutFront Minnesota announced LGBT Equality Award winners

Written by
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OutFront Minnesota recently honored three award winners who champion lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality.

The Gala celebrated the historic achievements made in our state in the past year and inspired our supporters to keep the momentum going! The Legacy, Innovator and Visionary Awards recognized the accomplishments of community members who are advancing the movement for LGBT equality in Minnesota. The awards were presented at the Walker Art Center during the stage program at OutFront's Annual Gala.

Roxanne Anderson was honored with the organization's Legacy Award for demonstrated long-term commitment to equality for LGBT Minnesotans. Anderson is a community activist who has been working in social service in the LGBT community for the past 15 years. Currently, she is the director of the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition and the Exchange where she helps run the shot clinic and needle exchange program. Anderson is also the co-owner of Café Southside and co-founder and director of RARE Productions, a multimedia arts and entertainment company focusing on producing and promoting LGBT artists of color. Anderson has been very effective in the development of culturally appropriate community events and implementation of successful, outcome measured harm reduction programming.

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Alec Fischer received OutFront's Innovator Award for using new and innovative strategies to organize and engage community members to advance equality for LGBT Minnesotans.

When Fischer was 17, he created "Minnesota Nice?" a documentary about bullying. For the past two years, he has been traveling across the Midwest giving bullying prevention and anti-discrimination presentations to schools and communities. Fischer is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota, majoring in political science and communications and hopes his work as an activist and as a filmmaker will inspire others to stand up and make a difference in their communities.

Barb McColgan was awarded the Visionary Award for making a significant impact in helping OutFront Minnesota advance its mission and vision.

McColgan, a longtime resident of Brainerd, became politically active in 2011 after she attended OutFront Minnesota's Lobby Day with her son. When she learned of the proposed constitutional amendment that would have permanently limited the freedom to marry for her son and many Minnesotans, she started volunteering with Minnesotans United and became active in the "Vote No" campaign and eventually stepped in to lead the Brainerd team when the need arose.

She continued her commitment this year by working to ensure the passage of the marriage equality bill, which was signed into law by Governor Dayton on May 14.

The theme for OutFront Minnesota's Annual Gala was Momentum: Movement. People. Power.

OutFront Minnesota is the state's leading LGBT organization, delivering programs and services to Minnesota's LGBT and allied communities in the areas of community organizing, public policy, anti-violence and crime victim services, law and education and training.