

Advocating for the LGBTQA Voice in STEM and Tech Policy Conversations



Join the conversation!



oSTEM Conference

- @OUTinSTEM
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LGBTQA Policy Convo

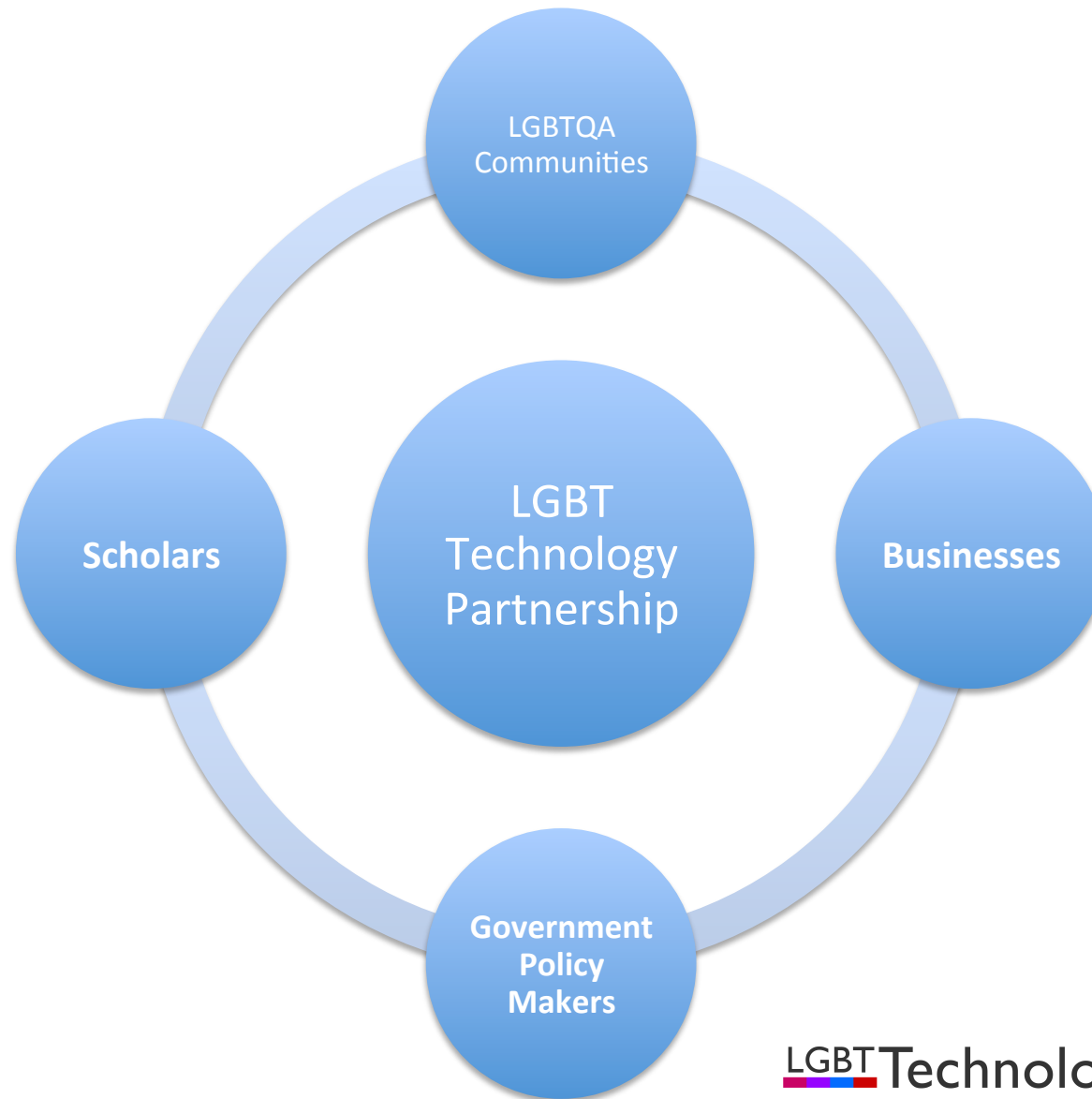
- #LGBT
- #LGBTTech
- #LGBTForum

Introductions

- Joe Kapp
- Chris Wood
- LGBT Technology Partnership
 - LGBTTech.org

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LGBT Technology Partnership



 **LGBT** TechnologyPartnership

What is Public Policy?

Wikipedia Definition:

- The principled guide to action taken by the administrative executive branches of the state with regard to a class of issues in a manner consistent with law and institutional customs.
- In general, the foundation is the pertinent national and substantial constitutional law and implementing legislation such as the US Federal code. Further substrates include both judicial interpretations and regulations which are generally authorized by legislation.

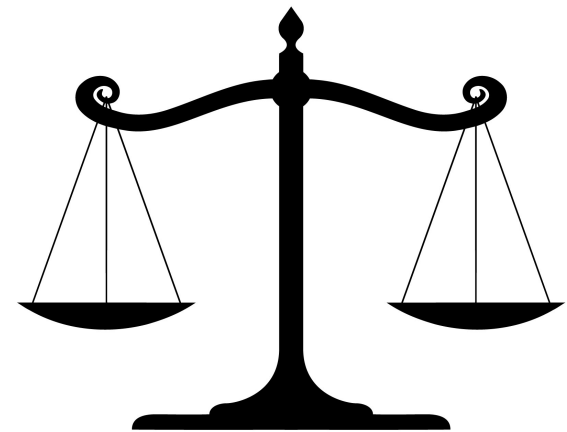
Working Definition

- Public Policy – To educate and influence branches of government at national, state and local levels about the important issues affecting the intersection of LGBTQA communities and technology.



Why has public policy been important for LGBTQA communities?

- Civil Rights Issues
- Social Justice Issues
- Allocation of Public Resources
 - E.g., Health & Safety Issues
- Tyranny of the Majority



Why expand public policy discussions?

- Technology
- International
- Privacy
- Security
- Reduce Geographic Barriers
- Research
- Government Funding

Should LGBTQA STEM professionals be
actively involved in public policy?

YES!

- LGBTQA STEM professionals should be actively involved in influencing public policy.
- Working daily in the fields that have the ability to affect outcomes.
- Influence policy funding decisions.
- Encourage research and technical communities to be more aware, diverse and inclusive.
- Ensure that LGBTQA issues are incorporated and considered as a matter of research projects.

How has LGBT Tech engaged?

- Broadband Plan
- Greater Awareness at FCC
- White House Conversations
- Huffington Post
- Discussions with Large Corporations
 - Time Warner Cable
 - Comcast
 - AT&T
 - Cisco
 - Facebook
 - Verizon

FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai Delivers Keynote

“Section 1 of the Act charges the FCC with, among other things, regulating “communication by wire and radio so as to make available . . . to all the people of the United States . . . a rapid, efficient, Nation-wide, and world-wide wire and radio communications service” And to me, “all the people of the United States” means just that: all the people.”

“My commitment to inclusive communications policies is partly a product of personal experience.”

Commissioner Pai quoted a dear friend of his from Parson's saying “...If I had access to others like me, I might have been an entirely different person today.”



“...a few statistics illustrate the importance of broadband to LGBT teenagers in the United States. Gay teens spend an average of five hours online each day, more than their straight counterparts. Gay teens are more than two-and-a-half times more likely to have met a close friend online. And they are much more likely than their straight counterparts to search the Internet for health information.”

Is there a need for international policy discussions around STEM and LGBTQA issues?

International policy issues for LGBTQA communities include:

- Censorships
- Repression
- Oppression
- Education
- Research
- Funding

Current Major Issues and Getting Involved

Areas of Interest for LGBTQA

Public Policy Conversations

Diversity

BIG LGBTQA DATA

eHealthcare

**Security &
Privacy**

Nonprofit Technologies

Broadband

**Telecom
Policy**

**CyberHate
Speech**

Cyberbullying

IP Transition

LGBTQA Teenagers & Seniors

Urban & Rural

S.T.E.M.

LGBT Communities

What are some of the current major issues?

- Lack of research and funding around LGBTQA
- LGBTQA inclusion in technical and scientific communities
- Real versus Anonymous Names
- Section 230 of the Computer Decency Act
- Broadband Resources for Rural Communities
- Access and Resources for LGBTQA Youth

Government Agencies Engagement

- National Telecommunications & Information Administration
- Federal Communications Commission
- National Institute Standards and Technology
- National Science Foundation
- National Institutes of Health
- Federal Drug Administration
- United States Department of Agriculture
- Health and Human Services
- Other National, State and Local Government Entities

How can you make a difference?

- Talk with national, state and local officials about your area of interest.
- Engage Colleagues & Co-Worker
- Engage with organizations working on public policy.
- Volunteer
- Advisory Councils

Connect with LGBT Tech!



@LGBTTech

Facebook.com/LGBTTechPartnership

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Questions

- How could you engage in public policy conversations for your field of study?
- What research would you want to see?
- Are there areas where there are intersections between your field of study and LGBT STEM issues?
- What other public policy issues do you think may arise with the increased use of various technologies?