

Joining the Board of Directors

The Midwest Institute for Sexuality and Gender Diversity’s mission is to empower students of diverse sexualities and genders to inspire sustainable change, lead higher education colleagues in relevant and inclusive practices, and advance knowledge of sexuality and gender through advocacy and expansive programming. Our board of directors is looking to add visionary board members passionate about this mission as the Institute grows and evolves.

Our board is not simply a “rubber-stamp” board. In addition to providing fiscal and policy oversight, board members actively participate in Institute initiatives. You’ll have a direct role in guiding the Institute’s strategies and tactics for connecting, educating, and empowering queer and trans+ students across the Midwest. You’ll work closely with the executive director and Institute staff on a variety of programs, including the Institute’s annual [Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Asexual College Conference](#) (MBLGTACC), America’s largest and oldest continuously-held conference for queer and trans+ college students, which is proudly student-run. You may also help conceive and shape new programs that continue to uplift the voices of systemically disadvantaged students and colleagues and support others engaged in anti-oppression work. We want individuals who are excited by the Institute’s vision and eager to contribute to it and consistently do the work required to achieve it.

Prior board experience is not necessary, but we are especially interested in individuals with experience in fundraising, activism and organizing, coalition building, and/or public relations and marketing. Established relationships or experiences with local queer and trans+ organizations are helpful. The Institute expects its board to share in its goal to build an organizational model for itself that is committed to transparency, accountability and continuous self-work.

Your role and responsibilities

- Understand and promote the Institute’s mission
- Engage in short- and long-term strategic planning
- Participate in fundraising activities and special events, including, but not limited to, recruiting sponsors, identifying and cultivating potential donors, and/or making an annual or monthly contribution according to individual circumstances
- Evaluate the overall performance of the Institute in achieving its mission, and evaluate the board’s own performance
- Adopt an annual budget and provide fiscal oversight
- Recruit, onboard, and develop board members
- Be familiar with the Institute’s programs, operations and policies, and adhere to those policies
- Adopt policies for the effective management of the Institute
- Hire and evaluate the performance of the executive director

Time commitment

Board members should expect to commit two hours per month to the Institute, including attending monthly board meetings. Additionally, board members are invited, but not required, to attend and provide support to MBLGTACC each year.

About the Institute

Founded in 2016, the Midwest Institute for Sexuality and Gender Diversity builds on the legacy of the [Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Asexual College Conference](#). The Institute seeks to capture the skills and knowledge promoted during the conference and amplify it to those who may have limited access to the conference, to college, and/or to queer and trans spaces. Through this work, the Institute seeks to create new opportunities and coalitions that will amplify and uplift the needs of queer and trans people in the Midwest.

[Learn more about the Institute's history and philosophy](#) →

Mission

We empower students of diverse sexualities and genders to inspire sustainable change; lead higher education colleagues in relevant and inclusive practices; and advance knowledge of sexuality and gender through advocacy and expansive programming.

Core values

Accessibility

We provide opportunities that are considerate of varying intellectual, physical, and financial capacities and levels of college readiness.

Accountability

We vow transparency in our processes, take ownership of our limitations and commit to continuous self-work. Through this modeling, we expect and challenge our colleagues and partners to do the same.

Advocacy

We uplift the voices of systemically disadvantaged students and colleagues as well as act as accomplices to all those participating in anti-oppression work.

Vision

We re-envision an educational climate that centers the needs and experiences of systemically disadvantaged students and affirms and encourages sexuality and gender diversity.

Community

Through intentional collaboration, we liaise for various social justice efforts to build sustainable coalitions and strengthen relationships across difference.

Education

We emphasize the importance of culturally relevant academic experiences and expanding understandings of students' integration into campus life.

Liberation

We situate ourselves in this work with determination to annihilate systemic barriers, combat deeply ingrained beliefs and practices that negatively impact our communities, and conduct our work with urgency toward an inevitable revolution.