

Recently, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville Pride Center was vandalized—a criminal and offensive act. The College of Nursing strongly supports the LGBTQIA+ students, faculty, and staff at UTK who look to the Pride Center as a source of strength, hope, and community. The UTK College of Nursing upholds the American Academy of Nursing’s Position Statement on Health Care for Sexual Minority and Gender Diverse Populations¹, excerpted here:

“...LGBTQ people currently experience social and cultural discrimination as well as health care disparities, including inadequate access to high-quality, comprehensive, culturally sensitive, dignified and respectful health care; stigma and discrimination in health care settings; legal barriers to equal protection under the law; and lack of sufficiently educated and culturally sensitive health care professionals who can meet their unique needs... In accordance with its mission to influence the adoption of effective health care policies and processes, the American Academy of Nursing opposes any discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in health care and in society as a whole. AAN supports advocacy and establishment of policies and initiatives that enhance the health of LGBTQ people.”

We unite with others in the University of Tennessee-Knoxville community in wholehearted agreement and commitment to diversity and inclusion that VOL MEANS ALL.

¹American Academy of Nursing (2012). *Position Statement on Health Care for Sexual Minority and Gender Diverse Populations* <http://www.aannet.org/assets/lgbtq%20overachstatement%20final%207%2011%2012.pdf>