

February 24, 2019

First, I'm not asking you for money... yet! So, please hear me out.

I am asking if you would consider designating your next gift to a new fund that my husband, Chris McCarrick, and I are establishing at Pitt-Bradford. The fund is a first for our campus. I hope you'll be a part of it.

Chris and I are working to support programs and activities for Pitt-Bradford's Pride Alliance. The Pride Alliance, as you know, is the university's LGBTQ+ organization. We know you are an open-minded ally and might support our special effort.

The fund will allow the group to host more events on campus, permit club officers to attend conferences and have the resources to book speakers, open exhibits, among other activities. Right now, the Pride Alliance has no funding beyond what it gets as a university club. These students need more. Here's why.

While my experience at Pitt-Bradford was great, I know from talking to lesbian, gay and trans students over the years that LGBTQ+ faculty generally have it easier than many of these younger people.

Yes, it's gotten better for LGBTQ+ students since I was their age - we've made great strides. But it's still not easy for many of them, especially in rural America. And now that I'm back in Pittsburgh, and I see the kind of support students have here, even in a mid-sized city like Pittsburgh, I'm amazed at what our LGBTQ+ students in Bradford still really need.

We can make Pitt-Bradford even more welcoming and for students who have different roads to travel than most of their classmates. (To be clear, this fund is not for scholarships, thus, students don't have to individually *be* out or *come* out get support through the club.)

The minimum to establish an endowed fund is \$10,000. Chris and I put \$1,000 in to start. We also recently updated our wills and have targeted a substantial amount for the fund. But I don't want to wait until I'm dead to have the fund established or the group receive the much-needed support! Do you? (I hope not!)

But there's another reason we'd like to start up now. We've named the fund to honor a recent alumnus, Tyler Morris (CIS, 2018). Many you know Tyler. If you don't, you should.

Tyler was in my class near the end of my stay in Bradford. He is a bright member of the LGBTQ+ community and remains an alumni adviser of the Pride Alliance. Also, Tyler suffers from myasthenia gravis, a chronic autoimmune neuromuscular disease. He's been an advocate for both people with MG and the LGBTQ+ community for as long as I've known him.

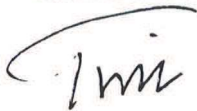
Tyler's medical challenges kept him at Pitt-Bradford longer than some other students pursuing a major in computer information systems and technology and a minor in digital graphic design; but during those years, he also served as vice president and then president of the organization that evolved, with the help of his leadership, into The Pride Alliance. I watched his work with gratitude. If there were braver or nicer students at Pitt-Bradford, I didn't meet them. Tyler has guts, grit and good humor. And he's smart as well. Chris and I admire him. We don't want him to wait until he's as old as we are now to see his fund offer opportunities.

We are eager, then, to get to the \$10K requirement, establish the fund, name it for Tyler and begin to offer more support for the students at Pitt Bradford.

So, please: I'm asking you to consider the Tyler D. Morris LGBTQ+ Fund among your options for giving. If you're of the mind to make a gift to the fund this year, a reply form and envelope have been provided for you. If this is not a good time or you've already made your gift to Pitt-Bradford this year, I'm asking you to consider designating your next gift to the Tyler D. Morris LGBTQ+ Fund.

Thank you for hearing me out. Peruse the enclosed fact sheet for more information. I look forward to reporting back when we've raised the initial \$10K and have set up the Tyler D. Morris LGBTQ+ Fund. If you have questions or just what to reconnect, I'm still at

Hail to Pitt ... Bradford!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim' with a stylized flourish above it.

Tim Ziaukas
Professor Emeritus of Public Relations
University of Pittsburgh at Bradford