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## 4 impactful messages from LGBTQ advocates

Inspiring advocates talk about how and why they champion for change.



Whether it's done on a large scale, by speaking to classrooms and communities, or simply by communicating with those in your personal and professional circles, being a champion for the LGBTQ community can have a powerful impact.

For these four advocates, educating others on the importance of inclusivity has become a personal mission.

Here's what we can all learn from celebrating our differences.



## Jennifer Brown

Author and diversity and inclusion expert



**Many companies have come a long way when it comes to fostering an inclusive work environment. But for Jennifer Brown, her early years working in a corporate setting were fraught with fear of being rejected for who she really was.**

"My earlier years as a professional were about wrestling with what it meant to be underrepresented — or simply invisible — in the workplace as a member of the LGBTQ community," she said. "I came out when I was 22 and struggled to find examples of professionals who were like me in the roles I aspired to fill one day. Very few women, and even fewer openly gay professionals, seemed to be at the top."



**You need a voice for people's  
everyday struggles.**



Through her work as a diversity and inclusion expert, Brown has made it her mission to set a new tone for business and the world, creating a more inclusive reality for generations to come by helping organizations create the type of workplace in which people no longer feel pressure to downplay aspects of their identity.

Brown works with companies at every stage of their diversity journey to evaluate areas that need improvement and help set them up to foster a more inclusive work environment.

"You need a voice for people's everyday struggles," Brown said. "We represent that to leadership: We are there to fact-find and collect data, then campaign it up to decision-makers who can then do something about it. I use my voice in support of those who don't have a voice or don't have as much of a voice as I do in the rooms and in the companies that we consult in."

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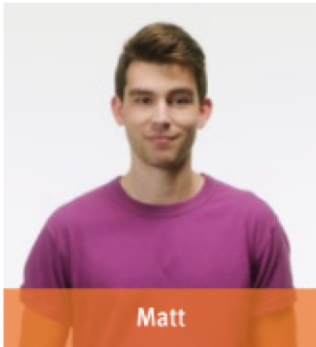


# The many faces of pride

We asked people to share what pride means to them – here are their stories.

Pride means something different to everyone.

We asked 37 people to tell us what they're proud of, how they express pride and why it's so important to them. Here's what they had to say about what they're proud to be – and how they share their pride with the world.



Matt



Jennifer



Lane



J-Line

PREV

NEXT



## Jennifer

"I'm proud to be a voice for others. I really needed the support of straight allies to find my voice, so that people supported me in celebrating me. At this point, I've been out for more than 20 years. I'm very safe in being out, I do it all the time, I'm very public."