Westfield State University Amos-Franco Scholarship

Purpose

- The purpose of this scholarship is to provide funds to students who actively contribute to, support, promote and/or educate others about the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender community, demonstrated through one of more of the following: leadership, peer support, role modeling, coalition building with other multicultural groups, or research. Preference will be given to students who are active participants in the LGBT Community at large and have a financial need. All students, both undergraduate and graduate, are welcome and encouraged to apply.

History of the Amos-Franco Scholarship Fund

In 2004, one student set out to create a program at Westfield State that would combine theatre arts with social justice education for a unique learning experience for audiences and cast members alike. With the support of Residential Life and the mentorship of various staff in Residential Life, Tom Amos set off on a journey to not only educate Westfield State, but to give back to the institution that had given him so much. After directing 3 of the most significant performances giving a voice or telling the stories of the LGBT community to hit the stage at Westfield, Tom created a scholarship fund for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) students who were either disowned by their families and in need of financial support to continue their education, or students who exemplified the same will and determination that he once did to educate students and celebrate diversity at Westfield State University.

Along the way, Tom had the tremendous pleasure of working with one of the most dedicated and talented students to ever cross his path at Westfield State. James Franco, a freshman at the time, auditioned and was cast in Bent, one of the productions contributing to the scholarship fund.

James' passion and determination to raise money for the scholarship fund, while educating audiences about the message that Bent had to offer, was truly what the scholarship fund was all about. In December of that year, James was in a devastating car accident that cost him his life. Our hope is that James' passion will live on through this scholarship and give LGBT students currently at WSU, the opportunity to continue their education and to continue to tell James' story.
2015 Amos-Franco Scholarship Application

Student ID: Date:
Name:
Campus/Local Address:

Home Address:
City, State, Zip:
Telephone: Cell:
Major:
Minor:
GPA:
Date entered WSU: Expected graduation:
Campus email:

**Selection Criteria**
- Student(s) must:
  - Be a full time undergraduate or graduate student
  - Have an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher.
  - Preference will be given to students who actively contribute to, support, promote and/or educate others about the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender community, demonstrated through one of more of the following: leadership, peer support, role modeling, coalition building with other multicultural groups, or research.
  - Preference will be given to students that have demonstrated financial need.

**A complete scholarship application packet includes the following materials:**

- Narrative describing your active support and contributions to social justice issues in the areas of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people as specified in the selection criteria. Please attach additional pages as needed.
- Demonstrated commitment to stay at Westfield State University through graduation
- Explanation of financial need

*I certify that all the information I have given is true and accurate, and I give Westfield State University and the Westfield State University Foundation permission to release my name if I am awarded a scholarship unless indicated below.*

Please note: Information on scholarship recipients may be sent to respective hometown media and the campus newspaper. Please initial the box below if you **DO NOT** wish to have information released to the media and sign your name on the designated line below to complete your application.

(Initial here):__________ Do not release information to hometown media or the campus newspaper, if I am a recipient of the Amos-Franco Scholarship

Applicant’s Signature: ___________________________________________________________________________ Date: __________________________

- Return completed application form to **Kathi Bradford, Director of Alumni Relations**, Westfield State Fountain, Inc. P.O. Box 1630, 2 Broad St, Westfield, MA 01085 on or before **March 23, 2015**. Applications may be sent to kbradford@westfield.ma.edu