Brandelyn Tosolt

Current NKU Position
Associate Professor, College of Education

Biographical Statement (350-word maximum)

What we do matters. First and foremost, I am an educator. I continue to believe that while it’s not a so-called ‘silver bullet,’ education – and specifically public education – remains our best tool to impact social equity. As a faculty member in the College of Education, I bring this lens into each of the classes I teach. I have taught at every level of students our institution serves, from general education courses and UNV 101 to supervising doctoral dissertations. Regardless of how the course is delivered, the size of the course, or the specific SLOs, my courses encourage students to develop as critical thinkers and advocates for equity.

The same sensibility permeates my scholarship, in which I work to amplify the perspectives of those the education system has chosen to ignore. I typically work collaboratively with other scholars, including emergent scholars who have graduated from our EdD in Educational Leadership program. It is important to me to engage with and mentor those who will be here when I no longer am.

My service is focused on increasing institutional equity; this work takes many forms. I have served as a collaborator and designated leader on multiple Inclusive Excellence initiatives, including as co-author of the 2018-2019 CPE Diversity Report, lead for the Strategic Framework Resource Team for Success by Design, co-PI for the 2014-2015 Campus Climate survey, and Inclusive Excellence Faculty Fellow. I have served in formal shared governance roles such as chairing 5 Graduate Honor Code appeals and co-chairing cases brought to the Peer Review Advisory Council, as well as serving on Graduate Council, the General Education committee of Faculty Senate, and the Complaint Advisory Committee. Finally, my commitment to NKU has resulted in being awarded the inaugural Inclusive Excellence Faculty Leadership award (2017), the Friend of Students Affairs Faculty award (2014 and 2018), the inaugural Faculty/Staff Advocate award presented by SAFE and the Office of LGBTQ Programs & Services (2015), and the Friend of African American Programs & Services (2015).

Why I want to serve as Faculty Advocate (350-word maximum)

We are living in interesting times, indeed. Whether the scope is global (climate change, emergent health crises, inequity), focused more specifically on higher education (consistent defunding of public education, challenges to classroom discourse, multiple approaches to teaching and learning), or we feel the impacts the most specifically in our personal lives (work-life balance, the impact of inflation on our budgets, wellness), we all need a little help sometimes. I would consider it an honor to be able to work alongside
colleagues from across campus to try to mitigate challenges and amplify victories. Many colleagues already confide in and see advice from me, perceiving that I will receive them with compassion and a willingness to advocate with them. As an NKU faculty member since 2008, I have worked in relationship with people at every level of our organization on a wide variety of issues. The central tenet of my work, though, is intentionality in increasing access and support to promote justice and equity. I welcome the opportunity to continue this work in a more formalized role as Faculty Advocate.

Webpage (none)