

2023 FACULTY ADVOCATE ELECTION



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 every facet of my work.

I have taught at every level of students our institution serves, from general education courses and UNV 101 through 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)

At my core, I am a Detroit Public Schools teacher. I know how to find the cracks in systems and use them to create possibilities. I know how to make do when politicians underfund schools. And organizing for justice is as natural as breathing.

I've recently had to question much of what I believed to be true – about democracy, about fairness, about productivity, about myself. I've been challenged to learn to advocate for myself with the strength and passion I bring to advocating for others.

I have learned how to construct and hold boundaries, even in the face of powerful pushback. Being honest about my limitations has brought me a type of peace, even when my vulnerability has been met with inflexibility. While this growth hasn't necessarily made me more popular, it has made me stronger, more resilient, and more committed to using what I have in service of justice.

The past few years have been particularly difficult ones for all of us, but especially for contingent faculty, Black and Brown faculty, trans* and female faculty, and faculty whose work is under attack. Individually and collectively, we need to recalibrate; to step away from the frenetic pace. We need to support one another in finding an approach to work and life that sustains us, one another, and our students.

I became a teacher to help students transform their lives, and in doing so, to transform society. I came to NKU in 2008 because I perceived it was an institution committed to its people, student success, and the region.

I still believe we are that place.

I'm still committed to making it that place.

If you are, too, please consider electing me as Faculty Advocate.

Webpage (none)