

GLBT Pride/Twin Cities



Pride Release Press

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Date: 11 December 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Linnea Stenson Named 2004 Pride Grand Marshal Grand Marshal's Ball to be held February 7

MINNEAPOLIS, MN - GLBT Pride/Twin Cities is pleased to announce that University of Minnesota GLBT Programs founder Dr. Linnea Stenson has been selected as the 2004 Pride Grand Marshal. The annual Grand Marshal's Ball will be held on Saturday, February 7 at the Mall of America to honor her and the other Pride Award winners for 2004.

Dr. Stenson was recently named Dean of Academic Affairs at Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) and immediately prior to that was the Founding Program Director of the Steven J. Schochet Center for GLBT Studies at the University of Minnesota from January 2000 to September 2003.

Dr. Stenson's contributions to the Twin Cities and larger GLBT community are significant and lasting. In 1990, she was a guiding force in organizing community volunteers to establish a safe community space for GLBT youth and their friends. Through her leadership and vision, District 202 opened its doors to the community in December 1992 and has served GLBT youth ever since. Dr. Stenson left the District 202 Board in 1993 only to be sought out for another term beginning in 2001.

From 1989 to 1998, she was professor of English and Women's & Gender Studies at Macalester College in Saint Paul, where she established a dynamic GLBT studies program. Her scholarship, passion, easy-going nature, and ability to develop a meaningful rapport with students made her extremely popular with both students and colleagues.

Beginning in 1997, she began working with faculty & staff at the University of Minnesota to establish a GLBT studies program there that would be interdisciplinary, community-based, and focused on the integration of GLBT lives and history into the curriculum, as well as ensure its preservation. She joined them in January 2000 as an employee of the GLBT Programs Office and formally transitioned to full-time Program Director of the Steven J. Schochet Center for GLBT Studies in July 2000.

Pride President Jim Kelley said, "All of the nominees exemplify the qualities of a Grand Marshal and I wish that we could have honored them all. It's very exciting to be recognizing Linnea Stenson as Grand Marshal. She has

labored very quietly for many years to make a wonderful and lasting impact on our community, with projects like District 202 and the Schochet Center.”

The annual Grand Marshal’s Ball will be held on Saturday, February 7 at the Great Lakes Ballroom at the Mall of America to honor Dr. Stenson and our other Pride Award winners. The event will begin at 6:30 with a silent auction, followed by a keynote speech, followed by entertainment and dancing. A dinner buffet will be provided, along with a cash bar. Donations will be accepted at the door.

The Great Lakes Ballroom is located in the southwest corner of Camp Snoopy in the center of the Mall of America in Bloomington.

President Jim Kelley said, “I am looking forward to honoring our Grand Marshal and all of the award winners at the Grand Marshal's Ball. Our Community Outreach Director, Melanie Ostrowski, is putting together an exciting event, including a silent action, the presentation of our honorees and dancing. I'm very excited about having a festive event in the dead of winter. It's always nice to have a reason to dress up and go out.”

Celebrating its 32nd year in 2004, GLBT Pride/Twin Cities, the organizer of the Twin Cities Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender (GLBT) Pride Celebration, began in 1972 with a small group of activists meeting for a picnic in Minneapolis’ Loring Park and a short march down Nicollet Mall. Over the intervening years, the Twin Cities Pride Celebration has grown to be the largest GLBT Pride in the region and 3rd largest in the United States, with an estimated combined attendance in excess of 400,000 people at seven events. GLBT Pride/Twin Cities is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization.

It is the mission of GLBT Pride/Twin Cities to commemorate and celebrate our diverse heritage, to inspire the achievement of equality and challenge discrimination.

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