

Sarah Encinias

From: Barwick, Katie L. <katie@ou.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 9:33 PM
To: Sarah Encinias
Subject: EXTERNAL EMAIL : Human Rights Award Nomination for Kay Ham

Sarah and Commission members,

I would like to nominate Kay Ham for her continuous support of Human Rights in the Norman Community. She has worked tirelessly advocating for social justice in the Norman and OU communities. She is an amazing woman that works tirelessly for people with disabilities and people that needed an advocate.

I believe she would be an excellent candidate for the 2020 Human Rights award.

I have been a faculty member in the Human Relations department, Women and Gender Studies Department and the College of Liberal Studies since the 1980's. These are the University departments that Kay also worked with. She has been teaching in Human Relations & with the College of Liberal Studies since 2005. I served with Kay in department meetings, creating course development and on numerous university committees. She is a great team player and quite knowledgeable on many social and human rights issues that are taught in these departments.

Kay has been an active member and officer with The Norman Xenia Institute for Social Justice. The Xenia Institute provides education on social justice issues that affect the community. I understand she has been chairperson of the Xenia Institute. She has been a leader and active participant in dialogue on high-density housing development, bullying, and other human rights issues.

Kay has been instrumental in making the Pflag Norman Chapter a great resource for Norman. She provides support, education and help for family members. She is also a member of the Cleveland County disABILITY Coalition from 2013 to the present. The Coalition strives to improve the lives and to advocate for persons with disabilities, and to educate the public, and collaborate with agencies in matters that specifically impact persons with disabilities with respect to transportation, housing, employment, safety, and other concerns.

Kay also has also started an agency that promotes Conflict resolution services. The agency provides community members and families with skills needed to manage anger and conflict.

Kay has been instrumental in organizing and perpetuating the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Interfaith Breakfast on MLK day. This has been a central place for faith leaders from disparate traditions to gather and affirm their fellowship. She has been the chair of the Norman Human Rights Commission, which facilitates investigations into rights infringements.

All of the groups and organizations that Kay is involved with take a great deal of time and I know Kay has made many sacrifices for the Norman community. Her leadership is an inspiration, she has fostered cooperation, inspired students, and created learning experiences.

She has helped make Norman a strong caring community, promoting Norman's strong sense of being an inclusive city by helping others obtain a higher quality of life, and these are the reasons I believe Kay would make an excellent recipient of the 2020 Human Rights Award.

Dr. Katie Barwick Snell
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