# Transcript

00:00:03 Announcer

The Missouri State Journal, a weekly program keeping you in touch with Missouri State University.

00:00:10 Sofia Perez

LGBT History Month was founded in 1994 by Missouri High school teacher Rodney Wilson. It celebrated each October to recognize the history of the gay rights movement. Riley Brady is a graduate assistant for multicultural programs at Missouri State University. They join us today to speak about the importance of acknowledging LGBTQ plus history in the Ozarks. They also give details on upcoming events planned for the campus and community at large.

00:00:33 Riley Brady

I think it's really important to reflect on how far that we've come and also acknowledge that it's because of people in the past and what they've done that we're standing on their shoulders and then that can progress us further. And so, I would really hope in the future what we're doing now, people look back and are thankful for that and so, on goes the cycle. I also believe that representation is really important. It's really important not to feel silenced or feel invisible. And I think there's just a lot to be proud of during the AIDS epidemic. There wasn't a lot of support or research going on. And so that had to come from within the community. That's how the APO, AIDS project of the Ozarks, came about. Is there were a lot of people going back home, coming back to Springfield, to the Ozarks area and they had to create a place for resources and take care for them. And that's something that I think is really interesting. And that they're very proud of within their history and their start. The GLO Center has been around a very, very long time and continues to really be the main place for social hangouts and resources for those in the Ozarks. We got a transition closet, which, I think was a really big deal and it was first created in mind for those who are gender nonconforming. But it's really for anyone to come in. It's all donated clothes from the community, so professional clothes or casual clothes it changes out in the season and I think that’s been a really great way, even if it's just something small, a way to affirm people within the community.

00:02:08 Sofia Perez

Brady talks about the events planned for October to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month.

00:02:16 Riley Brady

One event that's coming up in October is something that we call ChaTea, like chat tea, and it's October 11 in the Multiculture Resource Center from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. The African Student Association wanted to partner with us for that event and so they are bringing African teas at those events. We typically have a bunch of international teas. We have snacks and cookies and information about each type of tea. And I think it's a really great casual social event. I've always thought that if I was someone who had never been in this space, that's probably the first event I would go to because if you don't want to stick out too much and want to explore this space or meet other people that might be like you, I think that's a great place to do that.

Another event that we have that I'm really excited for is our voting awareness event. It's October 17th from 2:00 to 3:30 in the MRC again, and that's also open to anybody. It's really to increase unbiased voter awareness. And so, we have our own campus Paws to the Polls there. And then we also have PROMO coming, which is Missouri's biggest LGBTQ+ advocates. And if you register to vote you can get some Croc charms.

And then our last event, we're having our first ever PRIDE Fair and that's we want everybody to come. It's October 27th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM and it's in the Plaster Student Union's atrium. So, kind of just out on the 2nd floor. I've been in contact with local businesses and they'll be there with their own free swag, but also talking about what they have done for the community. And then we're also going to have our own on campus, student LGBTQ plus orgs. I think it's just exciting to be able to say that that's a first on campus and hopefully that can be something that continues.

00:03:57 Sofia Perez

Brady emphasizes the importance of these events for the LGBTQ plus community.

00:04:02 Riley Brady

I think representation is so important, being able to see yourself reflected is a great experience. You know, I don't think anybody loves feeling invisible or like they shouldn't be talked about. And so I think that the PRIDE Fair is a great thing for anybody to come to and just be in that space and see what's going on and meet other people in the community and hear what they're doing. Meet our student orgs and see what they're up to for new students, it kind of just shows what the culture of campus is like. I think it's a safe place for people who aren't within the community to learn more.

00:04:35 Sofia Perez

Brady closes with what they want people outside of the LGBTQ plus community to know.

00:04:39 Riley Brady

I really want people to understand that we're just humans like anybody else we go to school are part of different groups and have families and experience life just like anybody else. It could be easy without any interactions with the community to have a negative picture painted, and that makes me really.

That it just shouldn't be that way. Just people like you and me not doing anything big or scary, just wanting to also live their lives.

00:05:09 Sofia Perez

That was Riley Brady, graduate assistant from multicultural programs at Missouri State University. For more information on resources and events for LGBT History Month, visit missouristate.edu and Sofia Perez for the Missouri State Journal.

00:05:22 Announcer

For more information, contact the Office of Strategic Communication at 417-836-6397, the Missouri State Journal is available online@ksu.org.