



ARIES POWELL



**Center for Trans and Queer
Advocacy**





Name: Aries Powell

Pronouns: They/Them

University Division: Division of Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion

Job Title: Associate Director of the Center for
Trans and Queer Advocacy

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610-436-3146

LGBTQ+ Identity: Genderfluid, Gender Non-
conforming, Lesbian, Nonbinary, Queer

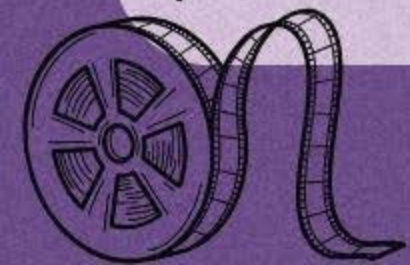
Degrees Held: Bachelor of Arts in Sociology,
Wake Forest University, class of 2019

Masters of Arts in Women's, Gender, and
Sexuality Studies, UNC Greensboro, class of 2021





BIO: I am a first generation student from Wilmington, DE. Growing up I spent a lot of time reading, writing, and working in the arts and I feel that foundation has continued to define who I am. I see things through a creative lens, thinking about possibilities and change always. I think this is what led me to study sociology and women and gender studies. Working as an LGBTQ+ center peer educator at Wake Forest University I found that DEI work was my passion and that I especially love teaching and working with young people. That is what led me to pursue positions like the one I occupy now. In my free time I love drag brunches with friends, playing video games with my loving partner, and ignoring my 2 needy cats.

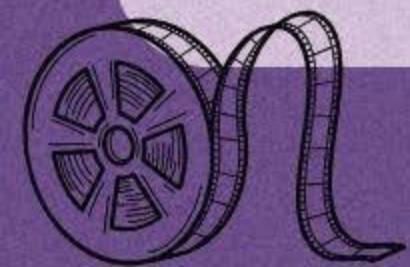




Roles Held Elsewhere: Communications Lead, Support Group for African American Affairs; SONG Black Queer Leadership Cohort 2018-2019

Best Moments In WCUPA Experience: I have loved the opportunity to meet so many LGBTQIA+ faculty and staff, and allies, in my time here. This is a large community and it can become easy to feel isolated and alone but our community has welcomed me with open arms and always made me feel

Advice You Have For Your Younger Self: If I could speak to my younger self I would say to stop repressing those gay thoughts and be who you are (for your priiiiiiiiiiiiiide). I know being openly gay in high school wouldn't have been a picnic but so many of my struggles had to do with how much I was hiding from everyone around me. I would rather have been free.





Fun Fact: I am addicted to romance novels! My Kindle Unlimited would shock you!

Role your LGBTQIA+ identity played in your life:

My LGBTQIA+ identity has been part of my life even before I knew about it. I was always a fierce advocate for LGBTQIA+ rights when I was in middle and high school, and lots of kids made fun of me for being a secret lesbian (which I denied, but they were right, oops!). Ultimately fully embracing my queerness in college allowed me to come into my own in wonderful ways -- embracing myself meant embracing vulnerability, the full range of my emotions, my pain, and my friends. I wasn't really myself before and being myself has allowed me to love myself and others in ways I would not access before -- and I am so grateful.

