

As a campus administrator, Dr. Rankin works on making Penn State an equitable, accessible, and inclusive campus. Not only does this work focus on sexuality and gender, but also on other historically oppressed and marginalized identities. This intersectional work is beginning to occur more on campuses today, but was very rare in the late 1990s.

Dr. Rankin is also a prolific researcher. In 2003, the [National Gay and Lesbian Task Force](#) published her groundbreaking campus climate report,

[Campus climate for sexual minorities: A national perspective](#)

. This document was used across the country by students, faculty, staff and alumni who were working to improve campus climate. For the first time, they had national data to share with campus administrators. This was only the beginning of Dr. Rankin's research. Since that time, she has filled major voids in research related to sexuality, gender, athletics, and Greek letter organizations in higher education. Dr. Rankin literally wrote the book on LGBT support services in higher education. In 2002, she co-authored the book,

[Our place on campus: Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender services and programs in higher education](#)

. Anyone doing research on sexuality and gender in higher education today is sure to have a bibliography full of Rankin citations.

It is not only Dr. Rankin's commitment to research that makes her distinguished in this profession, but it is also her willingness to share the process and findings. Dr. Rankin collaborates with many individuals across the country and quickly shares the information to ensure the profession has the most up-to-date data. This engages emerging researchers to ensure there is a researcher pipeline for the future. It also enables LGBT professionals to speak with data to campus administrators and decision makers.

She is in essence, an accomplished campus professional who has made a difference not only in the lives of those who personally know her, but for millions of others on a national and international level with her research and advocacy.

About the The Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals

The combined vision and mission of the Consortium is to achieve higher education environments in which lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni have equity in every respect. Our goals are to support colleagues and develop curriculum to professionally enhance this work; to seek climate improvement on campuses; and to advocate for policy change, program development, and establishment of LGBT Office/Centers.