



## Dr. Jesse R. Peel

Originally from Everetts, North Carolina, Dr. Jesse R. Peel graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he attended medical school. He then completed his residency in psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania. A resident of Atlanta since 1976, Jesse was at the forefront of HIV/AIDS advocacy efforts and served as a founding member of several activist groups.

J. Woolard Peel, Jesse's father, believed that East Carolina University represented the future of eastern North Carolina. Jesse's philanthropic engagement with ECU dates back to 1986. His landmark gift in 2014 established what is now the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center, the largest center of its kind in the UNC System.

The Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center sees more than 7,000 visits each academic year. Fundraising efforts support the LGBTQ Priority Fund, which provides scholarships and professional development opportunities for students. Center programs include a film series, a speaker series and annual events such as National Coming Out Day, Transgender Day of Remembrance and World AIDS Day.



**THE DR. JESSE R. PEEL LGBTQ CENTER**  
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS | 2011-2021

Wednesday, January 27, 2021



## Welcome

**Mark Rasdorf, MA, NCC**

Senior Associate Director, Intercultural Affairs

Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center

**Jessica Melowski, MS, LMFT**

Assistant Director, Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center

## Keynote

**Dr. Marilyn Sheerer**

Professor, Watson College of Education

University of North Carolina Wilmington

Presentation of the  
**Dr. Jesse R. Peel  
LGBTQ Advocacy Award**

## Closing

**Dr. Erik Kneubuehl**

Associate Vice Chancellor,

Student Involvement and Leadership

## Dr. Marilyn Sheerer



Dr. Marilyn Sheerer served as provost and vice chancellor of the University of North Carolina Wilmington from 2015 until 2020. She was provost of East Carolina University<sup>®</sup> from 2007 until August 2014. Prior to that, she was dean of the ECU College of Education for eight years. Before ECU, she was a department chair at Edinboro University in Pennsylvania and Northern Illinois University. Dr. Sheerer was instrumental in helping to found what was then the LGBT Resource Office at ECU in 2011.

### Presentation of the **Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Advocacy Award**

Dr. Jesse Peel, a native son of North Carolina, has worked for more than four decades to champion the rights, the dignity and the lives of the LGBTQ community. This award, established in 2020, honors the legacy and spirit of Jesse's work and recognizes a faculty, staff or community member whose passion and dedication equal that of our namesake.

### **The Department of Sociology, East Carolina University**



Founded in the 1960s by Dr. Melvin J. Williams, the ECU Department of Sociology is committed to the understanding of and respect for human diversity across races, nationalities, religions, ethnicities, ages, genders, sexualities, regions, languages, and physical and mental abilities.

Sociology faculty represent a diverse array of research specialties and methods with work that spans domestic and international subjects, from food insecurity in eastern North Carolina to transitions in the international automobile manufacturing industry.

Current faculty are researching the LGBTQ movement and religion, the conditions at the U.S.-Mexico border, the policing of protests, effects of economic austerity measures in Lithuania, American sexual relationships, the digital divide, and collective memory of Princeville, North Carolina.