



# TRANS COLLABORATIONS

Accountable Research & Resources



Allura Ralston receiving her award

## Congratulations Allura!

Allura Ralston, a graduate student working with Trans Collaborations, won the UNL Department of Psychology David Levine Diversity Enhancement Award for the 2018-2019 academic year. The Levine Award acknowledges students' research contributions concerning diverse populations. Allura was the lead author on a manuscript entitled *Fulfilling the Promise of Mental Health Technology to Reduce Public Health Disparities: Review and Research Agenda*. This paper focuses on the ways in which technology can be leveraged to reduce mental health disparities for underserved people.

## Lincoln PFLAG Community Conversation

Trans Collaborations participated in a community conversation at the Lincoln PFLAG meeting in May. This was an opportunity for us to discuss our mission and ongoing and past research and outreach projects with members of the TGD communities and allies. We handed out copies of the Trans Collaborations Clinical Check-In (TC3) for any providers who were there or for clients to share with their therapist. We shared our website and highlighted the resources and research products available there. The folks who attended had very positive reactions and asked great questions. It is a core part of our mission to make sure we communicate back out to the community what our research has found and engage in conversation about the needs of the TGD communities. We appreciate PFLAG hosting us and look forward to going back to share updates in the future.



## Camp BOLD - How can you help?

Trans Collaborations organizes and facilitates a camp for transgender and gender-diverse children and their families. Although we are able to obtain some support from various foundations to support Camp BOLD, we need your help to keep it going and expand to more families. Last year we hosted 5 families and this year we would love to have 10 families participate with your help.

★ Donating is easy! ★

Simply visit [go.unl.edu/transcollaborations](http://go.unl.edu/transcollaborations) and look for the Donate button!

## Star City Pride - Lincoln

On Friday and Saturday, July 7th and 8th, community board members and researchers from Trans Collaborations had a booth at Star City Pride in Lincoln. The booth was a popular stop for people of all ages. We shared information about our work in the community, signed up people for the newsletter, and had a button making station. Star City Pride attendees made over 300 personalized buttons – including inspirational affirming messages, self-portraits, and even a rainbow T-rex. We also had pronoun buttons available without charge. We look forward to being there next year! Happy Pride!



Graduate Students Natalie Holt and Allura Ralston

## Trans Collaborations Third National Board Meeting

On May 20th, Trans Collaborations had our third National Board Meeting in Lincoln. We are so appreciative of our Board members and collaborators who take time out of their busy schedules to meet together to review progress and consider next steps in our research program. The Board members provide a variety of perspectives that truly make our work better. Our Board attendees were Shelley Craig, Ph.D. (University of Toronto), Ashley Austin, Ph.D. (Barry University), and Jamie Feldman, M.D. (University of Minnesota). John Pachankis, Ph.D. (Yale University) and Jay Irwin, Ph.D. (University of Nebraska Omaha) planned to attend but were unable to do so.

As usual, several members of our Local Community Board joined the meeting. Our collaborators, Jae Puckett, Ph.D. (Michigan State University) and Ray Tucker, Ph.D. (Louisiana State University) came in a day early for some team building as we move towards a clinical trial that will offer affirmative treatment for anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation in Lincoln as well as their two sites. Sim Butler, Ph.D, who has lead our patient advocacy workshops, and his graduate student, Sarah Price, also joined us at the Board meeting.

The Nebraska Team was well represented by Richard Morcarski (University of Nebraska at Kearney), Debra Hope, Ph.D. (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Heather Barnes (Trans Collaborations Project Manager) and UNL graduate students including Allura Ralston, Zach Huit, Natalie Holt, and Alex Farquhar-Leicester. Together we planned two large federal grants and did some brainstorming for a 5-10 year vision for Trans Collaborations. Travel and other costs for the two days came from our NIMH R21 and Systems Science Team Building Award – see below for details.

**Trans Collaborations is a community-based partnership between transgender and gender diverse people (TGD) and academic researchers. Trans Collaborations began in 2014 out of a desire to improve health care services for TGD people in the Central Great Plains. It works to establish a network of researchers and communities focused on creating accountable research and resources for TGD communities in resource-limited areas.**

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