

East Tennessee State University

## Digital Commons @ East Tennessee State University

---

ETSU Faculty Works

Faculty Works

---

12-1-2022

### Meet Jonathan Wilson, Diversity Champion

Jonathan Wilson

East Tennessee State University, wilsonjr3@etsu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.etsu.edu/etsu-works-2>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

#### Citation Information

Wilson, Jonathan, "Meet Jonathan Wilson, Diversity Champion" (2022). *ETSU Faculty Works*. 759.  
<https://dc.etsu.edu/etsu-works-2/759>

This Editorial is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Works at Digital Commons @ East Tennessee State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in ETSU Faculty Works by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ East Tennessee State University. For more information, please contact [digilib@etsu.edu](mailto:digilib@etsu.edu).

## Meet Jonathan Wilson, Diversity Champion

Jonathan Wilson is the Outreach & Distance Library Services Coordinator/Assistant Professor at the Charles C. Sherrod Library.

*The purpose of the Office of Equity and Inclusion is to maintain a close relationship with the faculty and staff to guarantee that our institutional culture, practices, and processes ensure a mode of interaction that will counteract, neutralize, and progressively overcome regressive and resistant patterns of discrimination that still persist in the higher education workplace and our region.*

*The role of the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council is to provide a safe place for people to voice their opinions or concerns, as well as to collaborate and share experiences and ideas. This atmosphere will help build a better and stronger alliance and will help foster a culture of inclusion. The Advisory Council should visit uncomfortable issues that happen in our surrounding communities and on our campus. We must all work together and strive for equality, especially in rural areas such as the one in which we live. We are on the right path but have many more challenges to face. I believe that this Advisory Council has made an enormous positive change over the past few years and only see it getting better. We will succeed if we can do it together.*

*Diversity means that we are all unique and different in numerous ways and that uniqueness is perfectly fine. We all need to understand that it is ok to be different because if we were all the same it would be boring. To me, diversity means accepting and understanding that each of us is different in terms of gender, religion, social standing, politics, or sexual orientation. We must all agree that it is ok to be who you are and recognize, accept, and respect those differences. We need to celebrate who we are as human beings and be happy with ourselves.*

*At the Sherrod Library, we employ around 100 student workers from APS to FWS to Graduate Assistants. We employ student workers from all over the world with various backgrounds and diverse populations. This*



*allows us to learn about different cultures and to learn to be accepting. Our goal is to lead by example and these students are vital for daily operations at Sherrod Library.*

*I contribute a great deal to help enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion at ETSU. It is about educating and helping the ETSU community on how to be accepting of others and to look at all of the unique qualities that we each have. Gaining more awareness of DEI topics is an important step.*

*The Sherrod Library has implemented the Diverse Characters Book Club, where students receive a free copy of the book. We meet twice in the semester to discuss it. We usually like to choose books that have diverse backgrounds and talk about different unique cultures. We recently launched an LGBTQIA+ lib guide (<https://libraries.etsu.edu/lgbtqia>) with a variety of resources from print, government information, and other resources. We have a DEI committee with the ETSU Libraries and Archives of Appalachia, where we focus on things like making our collections more diverse and offering activities that promote DEI in the library. As ETSU faculty, I feel that we are moving in the right direction now more than ever. If we continue putting in the effort to make the campus and community inviting and inclusive to diverse populations, it will continue to become a better place for everyone.*

*~ Jonathan Wilson*

**Office of Equity and Inclusion**  
 109 Burgin E. Dossett Hall  
 P.O. Box 70705  
 Johnson City, TN 37614  
 P 423-439-4445  
 F 423-439-4543

**Webpage:** <https://www.etsu.edu/equity/>  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/etsuequity/>  
**Instagram and Twitter -** [etsu\\_equity](#)

**We would like to  
 hear from you.**

If you have an announcement, event, accomplishment, etc. you would like to have published in the newsletter send them to Kim Maturo at [maturo@etsu.edu](mailto:maturo@etsu.edu).

To add a name to our mailing list, please email Kim Maturo at [maturo@etsu.edu](mailto:maturo@etsu.edu).