KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Dafina-Lazarus (D-L) Stewart (pronouns: ze, zim, zir) is Professor of Higher Education and Student Affairs at Bowling Green State University. Ze is a scholar, educator, and activist focused on empowering and imagining futures that sustain and cultivate the learning, growth, and success of marginalized groups in U.S. higher education institutions. Dr. Stewart’s work is motivated by an ethic of love grounded in justice and informed by an intersectional framework that recognizes both the lived experiences of multiply marginalized individuals as well as the material effects of interlocking systems of oppression.

Over the course of zir 20-year career, ze has focused most intently on issues of race and ethnicity, sexuality, and gender, as well as religion, faith, and spirituality in zir research, teaching, and service to professional organizations and institutions across the nation. The author of over four dozen journal articles and book chapters, Dr. Stewart published an edited volume in 2011 on the work of multicultural student services in U.S. higher education titled, Multicultural Student Services: Building Bridges, Re-visioning Community (Stylus); coedited a New Directions for Student Services monograph in 2015 with Drs. Kris Renn and Blue Brazelton, Gender and Sexual Diversity in U.S. Higher Education: Contexts and Opportunities for LGBTQ College Students (Wiley); and has completed a book manuscript for Palgrave MacMillan that is a history of Black collegians attending a consortium of elite, private liberal arts colleges in the Great Lakes region between 1945 and 1965.

Dr. Stewart has also provided professional service and leadership to a number of scholarly and professional associations, most substantively through a variety of roles in ACPA—College Student Educators International, as well as for the Association for the Study of Higher Education, in which ze led the Council on Ethnic Participation for three years. As a speaker and consultant, Dr. Stewart has been invited to work with and speak to a range of institutions including small, private colleges and larger, public institutions from the northeast to the west coast.