## JESSE R. PEEL, MD

Ten years ago Dr. Marilyn Sheerer invited me to join Chancellor Ballard's Social Diversity Institute and I met a group of people in this great red state who are as passionate about diversity as I am. Then came the LGBT Resource Office which has grown to become a proud beacon of enlightenment, affirmation, and inclusiveness this vast sea of ignorance and bigotry. I am proud to stand with you during this time of great peril and uncertainty. We will no longer be silent. We will no longer be invisible. We're here! We're queer! Get used to it!

Dr. Peel's bequest to the LGBT Resource Office in June 2014 was the first gift of its kind to any school in the UNC system. When the Resource Office moves into its new home in the new Student Center in 2018, it will be named in his honor: the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBT Center.