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‘Queer of the Year’ celebrated for their work and commitment towards inclusive activism for the LGBTQ+ student community on campus.

Grace Armstrong, Vice President Welfare at Northumbria Students Union, has been revealed as ‘Queer of the Year’ at the 2nd annual Queer Student Awards, hosted by The Branding Man at Whitworth Locke – Civic Quarter in Manchester.

Judged by a panel of educators, employers, queer influencers, and recruitment experts, the 2022 Queer Student Awards, held during Pride month, provide a safe and inclusive space for schools, colleges, universities, employers, and young LGBTQ+ people to proudly celebrate the stories that lie behind the rainbow. 14 category winners - including ‘Queer of the Year’ Grace Armstrong, Vice President Welfare at Northumbria Students Union - were announced during a hybrid event at Whitworth Locke, Civic Quarter in Manchester on Thursday 23rd June. They had been awarded ‘Activist of the Year’ earlier in the evening.

Their work and commitment towards inclusive activism focused on supporting and increasing the visibility of LGBTQ+ students on campus at Northumbria University. Judges were impressed by their incredible achievements which included introducing sustainable pronoun badges, running a period poverty campaign, creating a reading section in the library for students and fighting for funding for the local community and national LGBTQ+ charities.

“The awards shine light on the achievements of students, apprentices, interns, graduates, and freelancers who identify with the LGBTQ+ community and recognise the individuals and organisations who proactively support them. When it comes to activism it can be easy to say you are an activist. When judging all the young LGBTQ+ people category winners as a group, the judges felt unanimously that Grace had shown commitment to inclusive activism in every way one can, and that they were a shining example to those around them,” said QSA founder Steve Keith.

“Being ‘Queer of the Year’ means the world to me. I have never thought it necessary to be commended for the things I have done as I believe I am just doing my job and what I believe is right. I think even being shortlisted and considered as ‘Queer of the Year’ is an absolute honour and I hope a lot of people realise that even the little things they do can change someone's life and give them visibility they never knew they could have”, said Grace Armstrong.

The event was hosted by writer, speaker, content creator and author Ben Pechey, with a moving keynote delivered by Trans In The City founder Bobbi Pickard, and entertainment provided by South Asian drag queen powerhouses Lady Bushra and Asifa Lahore. Category sponsors for 2022 include Not Going To Uni, ICAEW, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, AstraZeneca, gradconsult, uptree, archtype, University of West London, Royal Navy, Clifford Chance and Clyde & Co. 10% of profits from the event will be donated to LGBT inclusion charity, Diversity Role Models.

Learn more about the Queer Student Awards and read about all of the amazing work being done by the winners celebrated, at thequeerstudentawards.co.uk.

Contact Steve Keith steve@thebrandingman.co.uk for further comment.

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