

Empowering PRIDE: Archie Wride

The National Composites Centre has some incredible Equality, Diversity and Inclusion champions. In celebration of PRIDE, we check in with those helping people with common identities come together in a supportive, safe space, to share lived experiences and gain peer support to help raise awareness of issues for their community and how they can be better supported in the workplace.

Meet Archie

Associate Research Engineer & Chair, PRIDE+Allies Affinity Group

About PRIDE + Allies

The NCC's PRIDE + Allies network is for those with lived experience of the LGBT+ community, and those allies wishing to support and champion change.

PRIDE to me

PRIDE is the celebration of everything that makes me, me. It is a chance to express my true self and talk about LGBTQ+ topics with those around me. I think its a good time to reflect on how far we have all come in the journey to equality and recognise where we still have room to improve.



Allyship to me

Someone who can be a "safe space" for another who feels separated from the regular culture. I think it is someone who can identify themselves as supporting a cause, whatever that may be, and can be relied on for support by those involved. Meaningful support could be standing up during a work confrontation, wearing a rainbow badge, having pronouns on an email or just being open to conversations.

How the NCC supports my community

The NCC's culture is different. Where in previous roles my sexuality has been a topic of banter, or I have felt uncertain whether to even come out in certain environments, I can happily say I have never experienced this here. With the recent introduction of the affinity groups and their opportunity to propose change directly to senior leadership, I think it shows a real commitment towards building our culture to be the best it can possibility be for everyone.

Someone who inspires me

Dave Grohl. I was really into the Foo Fighters growing up and it was great to see someone who was at the peak of the music industry with a predominantly heterosexual and male-dominated fan base who was comfortable talking about issues around equality. He has showed a real personal side to himself outside of the rockstar job through LGBTQ+ activism throughout the 90's before it was as commonplace for celebrities to do so.