



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2018

**ATLANTA GAY AND LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES
2018 VANGUARD AWARD RECIPIENT**

The Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (AGLCC) is proud to announce Todd Sears, founder and principal of Out Leadership (a global LGBTQ business advisory organization), as the recipient of the 2018 Vanguard Award at their Annual Community Awards Dinner, to be held Friday, September 21, at the Marriott Marquis in downtown Atlanta.

The Vanguard Award is given to LGBT+ advocates visible on the National and/or Global stage who have pioneered new territory in the business community while advocating for inclusion, equality and greater access to opportunity for LGBT+ individuals.

"We are honored to present this year's award to Todd Sears," said Sandy Mollett, AGLCC President. "Todd is a globally regarded business leader, equality entrepreneur and Wall Street LGBT+ trailblazer. He has helped global companies and the world's most influential CEO's in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Australia catalyze new business opportunities, accelerate professional growth and talent development, and stand up for LGBT+ equality. Out Leadership engages 66 of the world's most influential companies and their leaders in the LGBT+ equality conversation -- emphasizing the economic importance of corporate Diversity & Inclusion -- Return on Equality™"

"The business case for LGBT+ inclusion remains stronger than ever, and forward-thinking, smart global businesses remain dedicated to their LGBT+ customers, employees, and leaders — despite the rapid pace of political change here in the United States around the world," said Todd Sears. "When I started Out Leadership, I believed, then as now, that business had the opportunity and the obligation to play a more important role in the global conversation of inclusion and equality for LGBT+ people. That remains our guiding premise, and we've seen it create enormous impact around the world. Receiving this honor from the prestigious Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, whose member companies and leaders have created what I call Return on Equality across the state of Georgia and beyond, is truly humbling. As a Southerner myself, it's a touching reason to come home, and I'm grateful."

About the Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

The AGLCC exists to drive economic success for the LGBT business community and our allies. To purchase tickets and for more information, please visit www.AtlantaGayChamber.org

About Out Leadership

Out Leadership is the global LGBT+ business network trusted by CEOs and multinational companies to drive Return on Equality®. A certified B Corp, we create executive events, talent accelerators, and strategic insights at the intersection of LGBT+ and business. For more information, please visit www.outleadership.com

###

Media Contact: Sheila Merritt
Corporate Partner Relationship Manager
678.358.6761
sheila.aglcc@gmail.com