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**AVERY BELYEU, TRAILBLAZING NEW CEO OF THE MONTROSE CENTER, NAMED IN OUT MAGAZINE'S
2024 OUT100 LIST**

October 18, 2024, 10:00 AM Central Time

HOUSTON, TX - The Montrose Center is proud to announce that its recently appointed chief executive officer, Avery Belyeu, has been [named to Out Magazine's prestigious OUT100 list for 2024](#). This recognition celebrates Belyeu's groundbreaking leadership as the first openly transgender CEO of a large LGBTQ+ center in the United States and her noteworthy contributions to LGBTQ+ civil rights, suicide prevention and crisis intervention throughout her distinguished career.

The OUT100, Out Magazine's annual list of the most influential LGBTQ+ individuals, recognizes leaders who have made substantial contributions across various fields and advanced LGBTQ+ visibility and equality. Belyeu's inclusion acknowledges her significant cause-related work and leadership for the LGBTQ+ community for more than a decade and a half. Belyeu joins other prominent LGBTQ+ leaders on this year's list including Olympian Tom Daley, Nina West of *Rupaul's Drag Race* fame, Oscar-winning actress Jodie Foster, super stylist Law Roach, and many others.

"I am honored to be included in this year's OUT100 list along with so many other incredible pillars of our community," said Belyeu. "I am humbled by this recognition and excited that this will spotlight the remarkable work we are doing at the Montrose Center."

In the eight months since her appointment as CEO of the Montrose Center, Belyeu has already achieved many milestones, including overseeing the organization's most successful annual gala to date, raising an unprecedented \$400,000 for vital services. Under her leadership, the Center has reinforced its position as one of the Houston's most influential LGBTQ+ nonprofits, with initiatives including the launch of a Community Advisory Board and renewed partnerships with grassroots organizations throughout Houston. These achievements build upon her extensive accomplishments at Lambda Legal and The Trevor Project, where she established the organization's education department and developed upstream prevention programs.

“Avery is a rock star and deserves this honor,” said Gary Wood, president of the board of directors. “We knew she was special when we asked her to lead the Center and she is already exceeding our expectations in elevating the Center’s regional impact and national profile. We are so proud of her success.”

In addition to her vast experience, Belyeu's recognition in the OUT100 represents an important milestone in advancing transgender visibility in nonprofit leadership. As the first openly transgender woman to lead one of the nation's largest LGBTQ+ centers, her appointment challenges traditional barriers and showcases trans individuals in executive roles. Her success at the Montrose Center demonstrates that transgender leaders can effectively serve and represent the entire LGBTQ+ community while bringing unique insights and experiences to their leadership roles.

"As an openly Trans-identifying CEO myself, I've often faced skepticism about my ability to lead organizations effectively," said Atlantis Narcisse, founder and CEO of Save Our Sisters United, Inc. "Avery's inclusion in the OUT100 and her accomplishments as CEO of the Montrose Center are powerful rebuttals to those doubts. She is helping to open more doors and change old narratives, showing that as Trans women, our unique experiences are assets, not obstacles, in serving the diverse needs of the LGBTQ+ community."

Belyeu’s inclusion in the OUT100 celebrates her trailblazing leadership and reinforces the Montrose Center's position as a vital force in advancing LGBTQ+ health, wellness, and equality in Houston and beyond. The full OUT100 list for 2024 can be found at <https://www.out.com/out100>.

Images and full biography of Avery Belyeu can be found at: https://montrosecenter-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/dcato_montrosecenter_org/Eo5zoe4cW1JPhMfQBQ7HoxwBNh9EW8fQwxqJNb1MpP95Sg?e=th8alg

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About the Montrose Center

Established in 1978 as a safe place for LGBTQ+ Houstonians to receive quality, affirming mental health services, the Montrose Center has emerged as one of the nation's leading full-service LGBTQ centers. As the community's needs have evolved over the last 45 years, services have expanded to include: youth and senior services, substance use disorder treatment, gender-affirming care, support and advocacy for survivors of violent crimes, and HIV prevention and care. The Montrose Center sits at the center of Houston's LGBTQ+ community and serves as a gathering place for LGBTQ+ organizations and activities. In 2021, the Center opened a second campus, the Law Harrington Senior Living Center, which is home to more than 114 seniors and is the nation's largest LGBTQ-affirming, affordable senior living center. The Montrose Center is a United Way Agency. Visit <https://www.montrosecenter.org>.

About the OUT100

The OUT100 is an annual list published by Out Magazine, recognizing 100 of the most influential LGBTQ+ people in various fields. It typically includes artists, activists, politicians, entertainers, and other public figures who have made

significant contributions to LGBTQ+ visibility and rights. The list celebrates achievements across diverse sectors such as media, politics, sports, and culture, highlighting both established icons and emerging voices within the LGBTQ+ community. First published in 1994, the OUT100 has become a notable barometer of LGBTQ+ progress and representation in society.