

Morehead State University in the New Millennium: Persisting Through Tough Times and Protecting Individual Rights

Hard Times for Education

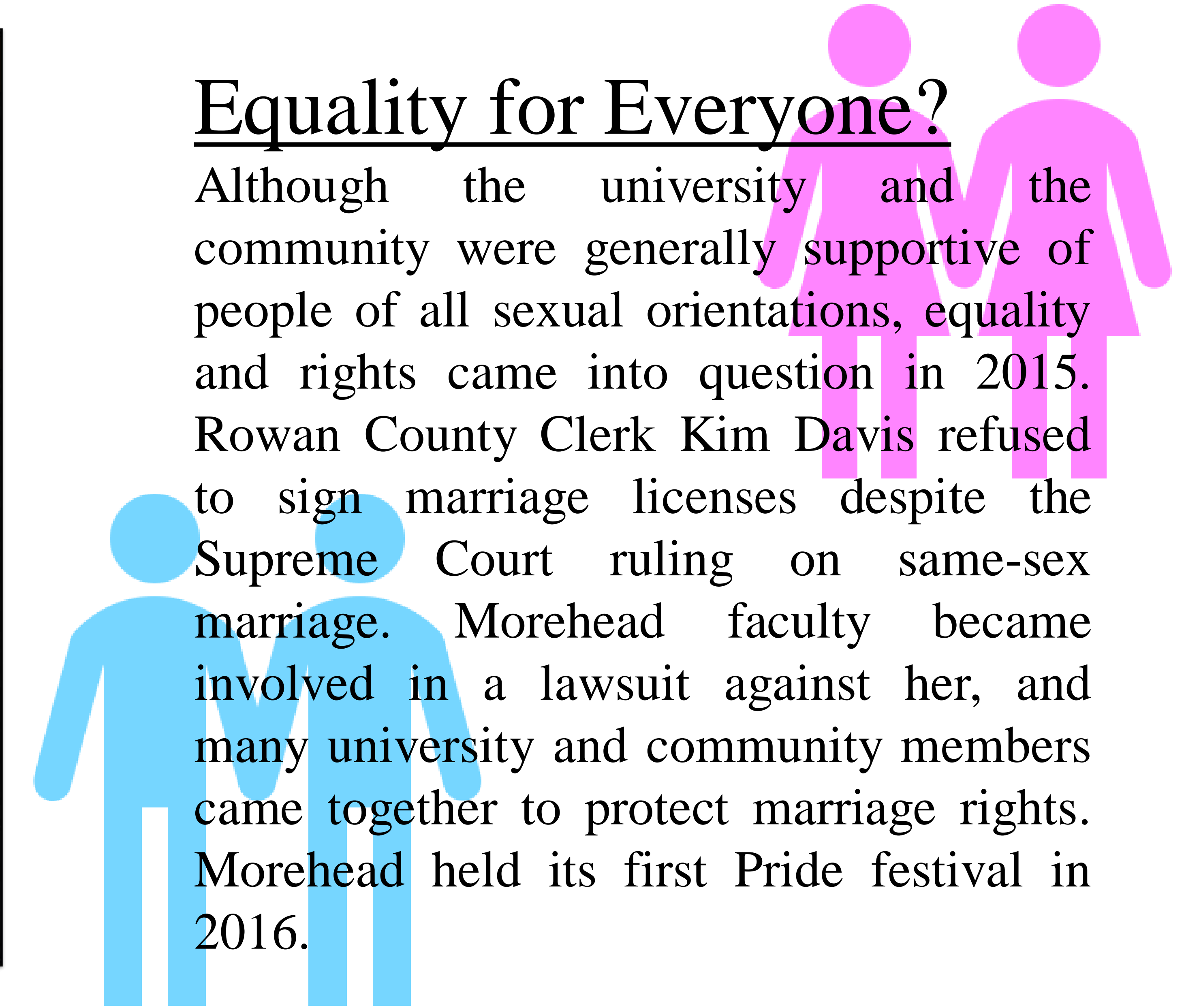
The 2000s have been characterized by a steady decrease in funding for higher education. Morehead was hit particularly hard and frequently received less funding from the state than other Kentucky schools of comparable size. Despite the decrease in funds, Morehead still saw the development of new programs and enrollment growth, which peaked at 11,358 in 2013. However, the effects of the decline of coal mining in eastern Kentucky coupled with rising tuition rates and a major, nation wide decrease in funding caused enrollment to lower again.

Fighting through the lack of funds, the campus still saw the addition of a few key buildings during this time including the Student Recreation Center, the Center for Health, Education, and Research, and the Space Science Center.



Equality for Everyone?

Although the university and the community were generally supportive of people of all sexual orientations, equality and rights came into question in 2015. Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis refused to sign marriage licenses despite the Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage. Morehead faculty became involved in a lawsuit against her, and many university and community members came together to protect marriage rights. Morehead held its first Pride festival in 2016.



Violation of Rights?

Following a trend of national concern over the health effects of smoking, Morehead began placing restrictions on tobacco in 2005. After a brief and shallow evaluation of student opinions about the campus's smoking policy, tobacco was completely banned in 2011. This upset many, and students rallied for change. Although it took time, the university restored smokers' rights and designated two smoking areas in 2013.

