

New & Noteworthy
An Update on Initiatives in Support of Transgender, Bisexual, Lesbian, and Gay
Faculty, Staff and Students
Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of Michigan
July 2006

Since the last update in January 2006, numerous University offices have continued to take steps to ensure that all members of our community feel welcomed, supported and respected, including our transgender, lesbian, gay, and bisexual members of the University community.

In accordance with Communicators' Forum guidelines, many UM offices have updated their publications to incorporate the most recent version of the University's non-discrimination statement to include discrimination based on gender identity and gender expression.

In addition, the Office of Institutional Equity, as an integral part of its ongoing commitment, is working with other offices on campus to contact members of the Communicators' Forum to further promote this reference to University protections that are in place with respect to gender identity and gender expression. Beginning fall 2006, the Office of Institutional Equity plans to roll out its new Campus Commitment educational program, which includes educational components addressing discrimination on the basis of gender identity and gender expression.

Plans are being explored to build a "preferred name" feature into the Enterprises Directory System. This feature, which would help facilitate the use of one's preferred name in various University computer systems, would be helpful to many members of our campus community, including transgender members.

A commitment of central funds has been made for developing a set of tools that central and individual units can use for education, communication and training on TBLG matters. At this time, specific plans are still being explored.

In June 2006, the Office of Institutional Equity sponsored two interactive and educational workshops entitled "Providing Service to Our Transgender Community" for the University's Human Resource community. One session was held on central campus and the other on north campus to accommodate work schedules. The workshops included the following topics: a discussion on the aspects and concerns unique to the transgender community; and issues related to gender transition (from the perspective of the person transitioning and the persons who work with the person transitioning). There was also a question and answer session.

On August 1, 2006, the LGBTQA Office will launch a newly designed website, which will include a set of resources about gender identify and gender expression, including

resources for transgender members of the UM community. This event is part of the Office's ongoing commitment to provide a rich array of online information to the community.

Watch here for future newsworthy items.