Charin Davenport, who teaches writing and rhetoric at Oakland University, recently selected to serve on the National LGBTQ Task Force.

“Another role the Task Force will be working on is to address access to safe educational spaces, health care, what it means to be an ally, employment, and training Trans people to effectively communicate and participate in their local communities.”

“Another issue will be to amend the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act in Michigan, as well as local ordinances,” she said. “As it is now, Trans people have no civil rights protections in Michigan, except for those communities with human rights ordinances. Nowhere is this more evident than within the TPOC (Trans People of Color) community, where the intersections of race, education, poverty and gender identity exist.”

Grace Wojck, coordinator of OU’s Gender and Sexuality Center, called Davenport’s appointment to the National LGBTQ Task Force a “huge asset” to the university community.

“It further demonstrates how committed faculty and staff are to making the campus a more LGBTQ-inclusive place,” she said.

To learn more about the task force, visit www.thetaskforce.org.

For more information about OU’s LGBTQ-inclusive initiatives, visit www.oakland.edu/gsc.