



SEPTEMBER 2024

Fall Semester is in full swing!

Welcome to our new monthly newsletter to keep LGBT FSA members updated on our events, opportunities to get involved, and issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community at GVSU.

In addition to sending the newsletter out via email, we'll also post the newsletters on our website each month.

In this issue:

- Advocacy Spotlight: LGBT FSA Townhall
- Get Involved: Queer Connections mentors needed!
- Fall LGBT FSA Events
 - Fall LGBT FSA Co-Sponsored Events
- Tentative Winter 2025 Event Calendar
- Campus Events of Interest
- Join the Out List
- Submit an idea for the LGBT FSA Newsletter

CHECK OUT THE LGBT FSA WEBSITE!
OR EMAIL US AT LGBTFSA@GVSU.EDU

ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT

On behalf of the LGBT FSA Steering Committee, you're invited to our annual townhall event on **Wednesday, September 18, 2024 from 11am-1pm on Zoom**.

The annual **LGBT FSA Townhall** is an opportunity for the LGBTQ+ faculty and staff community to hear from the FSA Steering Committee on updates related to LGBTQ+ advocacy on campus and for the steering committee to hear from you, the membership, about your priorities for campus advocacy.

The rough agenda for the townhall event is as follows:

- Welcome and Introduction of LGBT FSA Steering Committee Members
- Recap of last semester's attempts to add a Chick-fil-a on campus
 - What happened last semester
 - Where the issue stands now
 - Open Q&A from members about Chick-fil-a situation
- Where should we be putting our advocacy efforts?
 - What has the FSA focused on in the past?
 - Open response time from members - do you agree with this focus? Are there other areas/issues you would like to see us addressing?
- How you can get involved with the FSA and LGBTQ+ Advocacy on campus

You can read more about the [LGBT FSA's past/current advocacy focus areas in this document](#).

The Zoom link will be shared with the LGBT FSA email list the day before the event. To allow for more open & honest conversation, this session will **not** be recorded. However, we will include a recap in the October newsletter.

If you can't make it live, feel free to email us with your input or schedule a conversation with a member of the LGBT FSA Steering Committee to discuss. Send an email at lgbtfsa@gvsu.edu to connect with us!



Queer Connections Mentoring Program

Mentors needed!

No experience necessary!

The LGBT FSA is seeking LGBTQIA+ faculty, staff, and graduate students to participate in **Queer Connections, GVSU's LGBTQIA mentorship program**. Queer Connections is open to all members of the university community but is specifically designed to match LGBTQIA+ undergraduate students with OUT faculty, staff, or graduate students.

Working with the Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center, mentors will be matched with LGBTQIA-identified students. Mentoring pairs will meet regularly over a six-month period during which time they will build connections, explore resources, and work toward collaboratively-constructed goals.

Interested in being a mentor? Please complete an interest form by Friday, Sept. 27, 2024. Not quite ready to commit? Check out our mentor FAQs or contact Kendra Ollis (olliske@gvsu.edu) for more info.

More information about the program can be found on the Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center Queer Connections page.



GVSU LGBT FSA



FALL 2024 EVENTS

**JOIN THE LGBT FSA FOR OUR FALL EVENTS!
REGISTRATION LINKS COMING SOON
ON WORKDAY**

AUG 28

Wednesday

RAINBOW SOCIAL

Thanks to everyone who stopped by to say hello!

SEPT 18

Wednesday

LGBT FSA TOWN HALL

11:30 AM - 01:00 PM on Zoom

SEPT 24

Tuesday

LGBT FSA HAPPY HOUR

05:30 PM - 07:30 PM @ Trail Point Brewing

OCT 16

Wednesday

GAME NIGHT

05:30 PM - 07:00 PM @ Kirkhof

**RSVP LINKS WILL BE ADDED TO THE
LGBT FSA WEBSITE SOON!**

 GVSU.EDU/LGBTFACSTAFF

 LGBTFSA@GVSU.EDU



Community Read of **Rising** by Graci Harkema

Co-sponsored with GVSU's Women's Commission, Positive Black Women, and Black Faculty Staff Association



Graci Harkema is an international diversity, equity, and inclusion speaker and author, specializing in inclusive leadership and implicit bias training for Fortune 500, small businesses, and non-profit organizations throughout the globe.

She's also a GVSU grad!

Session 1: Ch. 1-3 Discussion

Wed. 9/25 7:30-9:00am

Kirkhof 2266

Coffee & breakfast snacks

Session 2: Ch. 4-7 Discussion

Tues. 10/15 11:30am-1:00pm

Bicycle Factory 330

Beverages & snacks (BYO Lunch)

Session 3: Ch. 8-11 Discussion

Tues. 11/19 3:30-5:00pm

Seidman Center Forum A

Beverages & snacks

[Check the event website](#) for more info and to RSVP to any/all sessions!



GVSU LGBT FSA



WINTER 2025 EVENTS

WE KNOW MANY OF YOU LIKE TO PLAN AHEAD, SO HERE ARE THE TENTATIVE DATES FOR OUR WINTER 2025 EVENTS

FEB 5
Wednesday

LGBT FSA HAPPY HOUR
05:30 PM - 07:30 PM @ New Holland - GR

MAR 20
Thursday

GAME NIGHT
05:30 PM - 07:00 PM Location TBD

APR 29
Tuesday

END OF YEAR PICNIC
11:00 AM - 01:30 PM Kirkhof/Library North Lawn

???
Someday

WHAT OTHER EVENTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

MEMBER SURVEY COMING IN THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



The events below are not affiliated with the LGBT FSA, but may be of interest to FSA members. Click the links below to learn more about each event.

[Inclusion and Equity Institute Workshops](#)

See website for topics, dates, and times. Shameless plug for the session on [Creative Wellness](#) facilitated by LGBT FSA Communications Coordinator, AJ Young.

[GVSU Teach-In: Power, Privilege and Difficult Dialogues](#)

Wednesday, Nov. 13 (Pew Campus)

Thursday, Nov. 14 (Allendale Campus)

Have an event you'd like us to highlight? [Submit it here!](#)



JOIN THE LGBT FSA STEERING COMMITTEE



**Your Name
Here**
Treasurer/Recorder
No experience necessary!

The LGBT FSA steering committee currently has an open seat and is in need of a candidate to fill it! The open position is for a treasurer/recorder, whose responsibilities include:

- Taking minutes at steering committee meetings and getting them to the communications officer to post on the website
- Helping the chair draw up agendas for and attending regular monthly meetings
- Keeping track of the FSA funds (Inclusion and Equity does most of the work, so this is not at all difficult)
- Assisting with the yearly budget request (the chair helps out a lot with this, so don't worry if you've never done it before)
- Pitching in on shared projects like the newsletter, coordinating events, etc.

The time commitment is generally just a few hours a month. Benefits include:

- Getting to work with the other awesome folks on the steering committee
- Meeting and forming relationships with other people in the community across campus
- Being more involved with advocacy work on campus
- Setting future directions for the FSA, including events, areas of focus for advocacy work, etc.

If you're interested, drop us a line at lgbtfsa@gvsu.edu. We'd be glad to answer questions and discuss responsibilities in more detail.

Join the Out List!

The LGBT FSA and LGBT Resource Center maintain an Out List of LGBTQ+ faculty & staff at GVSU.

You can use this list to find and connect with queer colleagues across campus.

Participation is completely optional. **Click here to add your name to the list!**

In next month's newsletter...

- Member Survey
- Recap of LGBT FSA Townhall event
- and more!!

Did a friend send you this?

Email lgbtfsa@gvsu.edu to sign up for the LGBT Faculty & Staff Association email list!



Have an idea for our newsletter?

Please share it with us!

Check out our [idea submission guidelines](#) & [submission form](#)!