Go-To Guide for Students who identify as Transgender or Genderqueer

Dear Student,

We want to make sure gender minority students are well supported at Calvin College. Please connect with us so we can help with practical matters and make our community more welcoming for you and others.

The Basics

Your main contact people are:

- Sexuality Series Director: Julia Smith jcs33@calvin.edu
- Assistant Dean for Residence Life: Becki Simpson rll9@calvin.edu

Their offices are in the Student Life office in Spoelhof Center. Julia or Becki can help you get connected and discuss how to access the following services, as appropriate:

- Gender-inclusive bathrooms. See the map on the SAGA webpage or request a list from Julia.
- Name change in some college databases and on your ID card. The registrar’s office will have a process in place for name changes by fall 2015. (Note: the college is required to use your legal name in some circumstances, and cannot guarantee that mail with your preferred name will not be sent home).
- Housing options.
- Notification to professors concerning your gender identity, name, and pronouns.

Support

There are several places where you can find support on campus:

- Sexuality and Gender Awareness is a student group for LGBT+ students that meets weekly.
- Broene Counseling Center LGBT Discussion Group
- Counselors in the Broene Counseling Center
- Chaplains in Campus Ministries
- If you’re interested in doing peer-education work, come to SAGA to learn more about being an LGBT+ peer educator.
- See Becki, Julia, or Dan Vandersteen (dv23@calvin.edu) at Broene Counseling Center to discuss mentoring or finding other trans students for peer support.

Health Care

Health Services professionals at Calvin will respect your preferred name and pronouns. Director Dr. Laura Champion has previous clinical experience serving transgender patients and is happy to meet with you to discuss your situation. To schedule an appointment or to leave a message for Dr. Champion, call the triage nurse at 526-6187 x2.

Other

If concerns or misunderstandings should arise in athletics, theater, jobs or other any other aspect of campus life, please discuss the situation with Julia, Becki, or Dan. They will work with you to address your concerns.