Laverne Cox, award-winning actress, will be speaking at Minnesota State Mankato on Feb. 18 at 7:00 pm in the Taylor Center. Ms. Cox portrays an African American, transgender woman in the hit show *Orange is the New Black.* In real life, she an African American, transgender woman activist who promotes the understanding and rights of transgender people. As part of her national tour, “Ain’t I a Woman,” her campus lecture will focus on breaking barriers, women empowerment and trans* issues. In preparation for that talk, the faculty of MSU’s Gender & Women's Studies department is organizing a community discussion called, “Preparing for Laverne.” All are welcome to attend. It is recommended that prior to the discussion; everyone read “Transwoman Manifesto” by Julia Serano and watch Cox’s Logo TV video “The T Word.” Preparing for Laverne will be held at the Coffee Hag on Monday, Feb. 16, 5-7:00 p.m. For more information contact barbara.carson@mnsu.edu, (507) 389-2077.