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For Tucker, joining OU is a special event

By *Jennifer Charney*, OU Staff Writer

Lenise Tucker says it's a big job for her to take the place of former director of special events, Joy James Williams, who is now an OU events consultant, but she's up to the challenge.

Tucker, who started working at OU in December, brings impressive experience to her new position. Before Oakland, she was a special project assistant in the Office of Protocol for former Detroit Mayor Dennis W. Archer. In that position, she facilitated visits by federal government officials and coordinated more than 15 city agencies, such as police and fire departments. Her efforts supported large Detroit events including the Grand Prix and the Thanksgiving Day parade.

Before that position, Tucker worked for the Detroit Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau, developing tours and introducing convention-goers to attractions, restaurants and other hospitality of the community.

"We're very lucky to have Lenise on our team," said Susan Goepp, vice president for University Relations and executive director of the Oakland University Foundation.

Tucker said she pursued a position at OU because she's impressed by Oakland's growth, its vision for 2010, and its diversity initiatives.

"I also like the size of the campus," she said, explaining that she prefers universities like Oakland instead of larger institutions. "I like the feeling that the OU staff is like a family, too.

"I'm glad to be aboard. I look forward to providing events that put OU in a positive light."

Tucker graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from the University of Detroit Mercy. She plans to pursue a Master's of Business Administration degree at Oakland. Born and raised in Detroit, Tucker lives in the city's east side. When she's not working, she enjoys yoga and Tai Bo, the theater and reading books.

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SUMMARY

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