

# FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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## Mantella announces lifetime resource for alumni

*University's fifth president pledges five commitments during investiture address*

Philomena V. Mantella announced two initiatives that will strategically position Grand Valley into what she called a "breakout university" during her investiture address November 15 as the institution's fifth president.

Mantella detailed the Laker Lifetime Learning Account, money available to alumni to use for continuing education, and establishment of a talent epicenter, a physical space where companies, nonprofits, students and entrepreneurs will collaborate on ideas. She called both initiatives investments in the future during a time when the landscape of higher education is changing.

"The Laker Lifetime Learning Account will be available for Lakers to reduce costs and improve access to badges, certificates and advanced degrees at Grand Valley," she said, adding this program will begin in the spring. "The promise of our future demands these changes, investments and our collective fortitude. The commitments I've outlined today will ready Grand Valley, and those who partner with us, to create and shape our future as a 21st century education leader."



Photo by Rachael Mooney

Faculty and staff members process to the Fieldhouse near the Lubbers Student Services Center.

Hundreds of people attended the investiture ceremony in the Fieldhouse on the Allendale Campus, including representatives from colleges and universities around the country. Mantella was joined by her family, including her husband, Robert H. Avery, and her mother, Lucille.

Mantella assumed the presidency at Grand Valley July 1; she spent the last 18 years at Northeastern University as senior vice president of Enrollment and Student Life and the chief executive officer of the Lifelong Learning Network.

Mantella said Grand Valley must meet the changing, and challenging demands higher education faces. These include a declining Michigan high school population, higher education access and affordability, and a workforce talent gap.

She said the time to act is now and sent a call to the campus community to "Reach Higher Together," an initiative to lead change in higher education.

"Our state and our nation need Grand Valley to seize the new reality that allows a university in Michigan to be a 'breakout university' by asserting its entrepreneurial spirit, its history of being agile, fearlessly growing and changing to meet new demands, and being hungry to shape education to learning styles that are as numerous as individuals are different," she said.

To meet these demands, Mantella gave five commitments to the university community: evolving Grand Valley's liberal education foundation, creating an unparalleled educational model, expanding experiential learning, supporting more students at different stages of life, and investing in alumni through the lifetime learning account program.

"We commit to supporting more students at different stages of life, acknowledging their multiple roles and delivering when they want to learn, where they want to learn, and how they want to learn," she said. "This will require



Photo by Valerie Wojciechowski

President Philomena V. Mantella gives an investiture address November 15 in the Fieldhouse Arena as the university's fifth president.



Photo by Valerie Wojciechowski

President Emertius Thomas J. Haas presents a baton to Mantella during the investiture ceremony.

us to build a sophisticated infrastructure that leverages the power of place and the digital medium."

During the investiture ceremony, segments of the campus community offered greetings to Mantella. Kelly Dowker, executive vice president of Student Senate, said she has had several opportunities to work with Mantella and appreciates her forward-thinking vision.

"President Mantella is adamant about including student voices," Dowker said. "She is of enormous importance in higher education, not only in Michigan, but throughout the United States."

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# ACROSS CAMPUS

## Celebrating first-generation students



Photo by Sarah Anderson

President Philomena V. Mantella, center, stands with Nykia Gaines (third from right) and other staff members from TRIO programs during a November 8 event that celebrated the achievements of first-generation students. Mantella spoke about her own challenges and successes as the first in her family to attend college. The event was sponsored by TRIO STEM-Health Sciences, TRIO Student Support Services Classic and TRIO Teacher Preparation SSS.

## Second coat drive underway

The second GVSU Coat Drive is underway and organizers are seeking new or gently used winter coats to give to students in need.

Boxes for donations are placed throughout the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses. A list of locations is below.

- Brooks College Office of Integrative Learning and Advising, Lake Michigan Hall, room 133
- Campus Recreation, Fieldhouse, room D135
- CLAS Academic Advising Center, Mackinac Hall, room C-1-140
- Mary Idema Pew Library and Learning Commons, first floor

- Movement Science Department Office, Kindschi Hall of Science, room 4400-a
- Movement Science House, South D Apartments, lobby
- Steelcase Library, DeVos Center, building A

The drive is organized by the Brooks College Office of Integrative Learning and Advising, Movement Science Department and members of Iota Tau Alpha – Athletic Training Club. Coats are distributed to students in collaboration with Replenish, the student food pantry.

Last year 111 coats were collected. The drive will continue through the winter semester.

## Talking points card inserted

The 2019 university Talking Points cards are included in this issue of Forum.

The cards provide quick facts about Grand Valley and updated statistics. Departments can request more cards by calling University Communications at x12221.

## Foster program sees success

Since it was established in 2017, Fostering Laker Success has continued to help students who have experienced foster care adjust to college life and beyond.

Jessica Campbell, program coordinator and campus coach, said the program is designed to support students as they get acclimated to life on a college campus and beyond.

Participants in the program receive key guidance to life on and off campus, guided by seven life domains: basic needs, finances and employment, physical and mental health, cultural and personal identity, Grand Valley community experiences and supportive relationships, life skills and destination planning, and education.

Campbell said she believes that giving students who have been through foster care guidance on those core aspects of life will help them succeed academically.

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Grand Valley State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

## GVFACES

### Michelle Jokisch Polo, WGVU Public Media

Michelle Jokisch Polo, inclusion reporter for WGVU, was among the people honored by the state's Hispanic Latino Commission's as the "Top 25 LatinXs of Michigan."

In order to be considered for the award, nominations were sent to a committee who then selected the top 25. Jokisch Polo is unsure of who nominated her, but said she is glad to be recognized for her hard work at WGVU.

"I've always been really interested in doing work that is intentional and making people think thoroughly about the lives we lead," Jokisch Polo said.

Before working at WGVU, Jokisch Polo earned a bachelor's degree at Grand Valley and worked in the Title IX office. She said in the Title IX office she learned how important it is to be inclusive in conversations. She earned a master's degree in communications from Grand Valley in 2016.

And while she is grateful to be honored by the Hispanic Latino Commission, Jokisch Polo would love to see more people recognized in the future.

"I also think that there are so many Latino people in our community who are not recognized but are doing a lot of behind-the-

scenes work," she said. "It's important that we take note of who isn't being recognized, the people in our community who are doing this work day-to-day but no one is paying attention to them."

She was invited to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's house in Lansing in October in celebration of Hispanic Heritage month.

Jokisch Polo has always taken great pride in her work, but now she feels more responsibility than ever after receiving the award.

"It's in the forefront of my mind that I have a responsibility to make sure that I am covering themes and issues that impact those who are most marginalized in my community," she said.

Jokisch Polo is working on a series on economic access in the community. To share news tips, send an email at [jokiscmi@gvsu.edu](mailto:jokiscmi@gvsu.edu).



Michelle Jokisch Polo



## WHAT'S AHEAD

### CCPS to hold student research symposium

More than 100 students in the College of Community and Public Service will present their research and scholarship projects Wednesday, November 20, on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

The inaugural "Community-Engaged Student Research Symposium: Change is on You" will be held from noon-6 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

Students will feature research on a variety of topics, including changing community demographics, best practices in sustainability, climate change, global tourism, affordable housing, and rural poverty in Michigan.

"We are an engaged college because we take the skills and talents of our students, faculty and staff and we work on projects in the community," said George Grant, dean of CCPS. "We help to be a voice. We see ourselves as a college and a university, but we are part of the community and not separate from the community."

For more information visit [gvsu.edu/ccps](http://gvsu.edu/ccps).

### Interfaith Thanksgiving service celebrates 20th year

Staff members at the Kaufman Interfaith Institute invite the campus community to the 20th annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration.

The event is Monday, November 25, at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew, 301 Sheldon Ave. SE in Grand Rapids. The event is free, and

light refreshments featuring global dishes will be available.

Kyle Kooyers, associate director of the Kaufman Interfaith Institute, said the service has been a wonderful space for the Grand Rapids community to gather and worship together.

"While we come from different backgrounds and belief systems, there is something beautiful in experiencing the songs, scriptures, reflections, and dance that give voice to that shared gratitude for one another," Kooyers said.

Reflections from Ghazala Munir, co-founder of Interfaith Dialogue Association; and David Baak, executive pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, are planned in addition to global music and readings. Childcare will be provided.

A freewill offering will be taken to support God's Kitchen.

### Fall Arts Celebration concludes with holiday concert

A festive performance of songs of the holiday season concludes this year's Fall Arts Celebration.

The holiday celebration, "Beloved Songs of the Season," will fill Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain St. NE in Grand Rapids, December 2 starting at 7:30 p.m. The concert includes yuletide selections from British composers David Willcocks and John Rutter.

Audiences will hear Willcocks' brass choir settings of beloved carols as well as a classical holiday masterpiece, Rutter's "Gloria."



A concert of holiday seasonal songs at Fountain Street Church December 2 concludes the 2019 Fall Arts Celebration.

The celebration is the perfect way to start the holiday season, said Danny Phipps, chair of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. The evening will also include a sing-along.

"Fountain Street Church, decorated for the holidays and coupled with the visual and aural effect of massed choirs and instrumentalists, will be a feast for the eyes and ears to everyone who attends," Phipps said. "This year the University Arts Chorale and Cantate will be joined in performance by the Hudsonville High School Varsity Voices, West Ottawa High School Vocalaires, and our special guests, the Jenison Elementary Honors Choir."

All Fall Arts Celebration events are free and open to the public.

For more information visit [gvsu.edu/fallarts](http://gvsu.edu/fallarts).

## ACROSS CAMPUS

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"For me, to see a student who was afraid to talk to a professor now being able to talk independently with the professor, or see a student who was hungry and without stable housing now eating regularly and living on campus, that's how we know the program is working," Campbell said.

Every student receives a mentor who can help with personal or academic issues. Additionally, all participants meet monthly for activities. In November, students will gather for a community dinner to learn about nutrition and how to make easy, healthy meals.

"We had two students who have said that if it wasn't for Fostering Laker Success, they were on their way of dropping out," Campbell said. "They just felt they didn't have the support. So those little anecdotes are really what fuel me to do the work."

Along with assisting students in foster care, students who have experienced homelessness are also welcome to join the program. Other universities have similar programs as permanent resources on campus, and Campbell hopes Grand Valley will do the same after the three-year grant has ended.

Grand Valley received a \$375,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to run the program. Campbell's office is housed in the Davis Center for Women and Gender Equity.

"I'm really excited for Grand Valley to take that next step to invest in the program and make it permanent, so students know there will always be something here for them," Campbell said.

More information on the program, including how to become a mentor, can be found online [gvsu.edu/cwge](http://gvsu.edu/cwge).



Jessica Campbell

### GVNext recap:

#### University celebrates veterans, additional advisor announced

Traci Trainer is one of the 338 military-connected students attending Grand Valley. She served in the Air Force from 1998-2002 and will graduate in April with a double major in social work and nonprofit and public administration.

She and other students, faculty and staff members who served or are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard were honored November 11 at the Ninth Annual Veterans Day Breakfast held in the Alumni House.

There are 735 military-connected students, faculty and staff members.

President Philomena V. Mantella thanked veterans for their service and sacrifice and announced the creation of a position to better support student veterans.

"We will continue to look for opportunities to shape our programs and strengthen support for our veterans," Mantella said. "Your duty and diligence make our university stronger and remind us that preserving and protecting our way of life is important."

For more campus news, visit [gvsu.edu/gvnext](http://gvsu.edu/gvnext).



Photo by Kendra Stanley-Mills

Belinda Coronado, left, shakes Pat Waring's hand during the Veterans Day Breakfast November 11 at the Alumni House.

# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## IN THE NEWS

**Sarah Beaubien**, University Libraries associate dean for curriculum, research, and user services, was interviewed by *American Libraries Magazine* for a story about events at university libraries to promote civic engagement among students.

## SKETCHES

**Anne McKay**, assistant professor of nursing, gave a presentation, “Postmenopausal Osteoporosis,” at the Michigan Geriatric Advance Practice Nurse Association meeting in Dearborn.

**Katherine Moran**, associate dean for graduate programs, KCON, and a colleague from the University of Detroit Mercy gave a presentation, “Understanding High Levels of Distress and Personality Characteristics among Nursing Students to Promote Risk Reduction and Health Promoting Behaviors for Success in Nursing School,” at the American Public Health Association Meeting and Expo in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Aaron Eddens**, assistant professor of area and global studies, received the Ralph Henry Gabriel Dissertation Prize from the American Studies Association for “‘Climate-Smart’ Seeds: Race, Science, and Security in the Global Green Revolution.”

**Beth Pasikowski**, grants and contracts specialist, Office of Sponsored Programs, earned Certified Research Administrator certification.

**Ben Vesper**, director of the Office of Research Compliance and Integrity, earned Certified IRB Professional certification.

**Jeanine Beasley**, professor of occupational science and therapy, gave a presentation, “Postoperative Management of MP and PIP Implant Resection Arthroplasty,” at the American Society of Hand Therapists meeting in Washington, D.C.

**Danielle DeMuth**, associate professor of women, gender, and sexuality studies, gave a presentation, “The Impact of Pulp Fiction on Reception of the 20th Century Lesbian Novel: The Cases of *The Well of Loneliness* and *We Too Are Drifting*,” at the Reception Study Society biennial conference at Brigham Young University.

**Betsy Williams**, liaison librarian, has been awarded Librarian of the Year by the Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association.

**Daisy Fredricks**, assistant professor of education, was co-author of an article, “Experts at Being Novices: What New Teachers Can Add to Practice-based Teacher Education Efforts,” published in *Action in Teacher Education*.

**Matthew Crippen**, visiting professor of philosophy, was the author of open-access articles, “Contours of Cairo Revolt: Semiology and Political Affordances in Street Discourses” and “Aesthetics and Action: Situations, Emotional Perception and the Kuleshov Effect,” and submitted a final manuscript, *Mind Ecologies: Body, Brain, and World*, to be published by Columbia University Press.

**Paul Plotkowski**, dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, gave a presentation on diversity initiatives at a Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers conference.

**Aaron Turner**, development manager at WGVU Public Media, received the Benjamin Franklin Award for Outstanding Fundraising Professional from the Association of Fundraising Professionals West Michigan Chapter.

**Joel Stillerman**, professor of sociology, was a visiting scholar at the history department of the Catholic University of Chile. He gave two presentations, “Educational and Labor Market Trajectories of the Middle Classes in Santiago, Chile” and “Invisible Vulnerability among the Affluent.”

Philosophy faculty members **Peimin Ni** and **Stephen Rowe** were co-authors of an article, “How is a Human Future Possible?” published in the Forum by Guangming Ribao Press. Ni presented the article at the Songshan Forum in Taipei, Taiwan.

**Denise Goerisch**, assistant professor of liberal studies; **Jae Basiliere**, assistant professor of women, gender, and sexuality studies; **Ashley Rosener**, librarian; **Kimberly McKee**, assistant professor of liberal studies; **Jodee Hunt**, professor of biology; and **Tonya M. Parker**, associate professor of movement science, were co-authors of an article, “Mentoring With: Reimagining Mentoring across the University,” published in *Gender, Place, & Culture*.

**Nathan Kemler**, interim director of Galleries and Collections, and **Matt Schultz**, digital curation librarian, gave a presentation, “Leading a Digital Revolution: Community Initiatives for Collection Accessibility and Preservation for Increased Engagement and Sustainability,” at the joint Association of Midwest Museums and Michigan Museums Association annual conference.

## Mantella outlines commitments to university during investiture address

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President Emeritus Thomas J. Haas, Grand Valley’s fourth president, handed Mantella a baton that had been passed to him by former President Mark A. Murray.

“Leading a public university is a noble calling and representing my colleagues, we look forward to this next chapter,” Haas said. “We have confidence that you are the right individual to lead our grand university. The seed planted in 1960 is adapting to its ever-changing environment and is now growing and shaping people for the next 100 years and beyond.”

Four campus community members offered video greetings during the “Reach Higher Together” portion of the ceremony. They were Lavar Green-Jackson, representing current students; Sarah Daniels, ’09, representing alumni; Shawn Bultsma, representing faculty members; and Eric Payne, ’86, alumnus and Grand Rapids Police Dept. police chief, representing community.

Mantella was emotional when speaking about her family. She said she learned about bold moves from her father, whom she called “the original experiential learner in the family.” He left work as a laborer to start his own business.

“Through sheer grit, and many failures, he made the most of everything and everyone he

encountered,” Mantella said. “My dad showed me how to work hard, follow my passions, and turn my lessons into leadership gold.”

### Mantella unites educators to activate change

Mantella brought together education leaders from across the country and region, including representatives from Google, Coca-Cola and Sony Music Entertainment, to discuss how to transform education models to better serve students.

The first-of-its-kind education summit in Michigan, held November 13 at the Alumni House, was part of a series of inauguration events and the president’s initiative, Reach Higher Together.

Mantella charged the group to focus on what elements of education need to change and what is required for success.

More than 100 people attended including superintendents, faculty, and deans from various organizations, including public schools, charter schools, education technology, funders of education innovation and capital investment.



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Members of Euphoria perform ‘Feeling Good’ at the investiture ceremony.

“We need to think unbounded about our future and question traditional education models in order to serve agile learners in the 21st century workforce,” Mantella said.

### Reach Higher Together

Mantella’s Reach Higher Together initiative aims to activate the entire community to lead change in higher education.

Find out more about Reach Higher Together at [gvsu.edu/president](http://gvsu.edu/president).