

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

## JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

### GVSU IT YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear faculty and staff,

Now that we have closed the 2024 chapter and prepare for the opportunities ahead, I want to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable accomplishments and milestones we have achieved together this past year.

Guided by the principles of [Reach Higher 2025](#) and the university's [Digital Transformation Strategy](#), we made incredible strides in advancing technology, streamlining processes, and enhancing the experience for our community.

With heartfelt gratitude, I extend my thanks and congratulations to all of you who have worked with us with excitement, enthusiasm, patience, and grace. Your dedication, teamwork, and service-oriented approach have ensured GVSU remains a leader in leveraging technology to support education, research, and innovation.

Along the way, we also uncovered opportunities for additional improvements and look forward to addressing them together this year. Together, we continue to provide the critical technology and resources that enable the university's success today and lay the foundation for the future.

**Here are some of the key highlights from 2024:**

- **Laker Dock:** The Laker Dock, GVSU's new online hub, launched during freshman orientation and rolled out to all students in Fall 2024, providing access to university resources, events, announcements, services, and technology via desktop or app.
- **Zoom AI Companion:** In Fall 2024, Zoom AI Companion became available to all GVSU Zoom users by default. This tool provided AI-generated meeting summaries, chat threads, and suggested responses to enhance communication and productivity.
- **Workday Platform and Student Projects:** GVSU IT collaborated with departments and teams across the university to launch the Workday Platform in January 2024, streamlining HR and finance processes. Additionally, the Workday Student Project kicked off in July 2024, focusing on enhancing the student experience and modernizing academic operations.
- **Innovation + Research:** The [Atomic Object Technology Showcase](#) hosted over 16,000 visitors and acquired cutting-edge technologies including the Apple Vision Pro and a depth sensing volumetric video studio. Additionally, the [X>STUDIO](#) launched experimental projects including an AI-driven lecture content creation tool as well as Extended Reality (XR) immersive learning applications.

[These and other highlights from 2024 can be found on our website.](#)

New possibilities, exciting projects, and strengthened collaborations will drive our progress in 2025. As a division, we sincerely thank you for your continued support and partnership as we strive to serve the GVSU community with excellence, positive impact, and relevance.

Regards,

Miloš Topić, Ph.D.  
Vice President for IT & Chief Digital Officer

### GVSU IT CONTINUES WINDOWS 11 MIGRATION IN 2025

The transition to Microsoft Windows 11 has begun! GVSU IT is upgrading university-managed computers throughout the IT Division and other early testing groups, with the process scheduled to conclude by August 2025. This upgrade is critical to ensuring our systems remain secure and reliable ahead of Microsoft's end of support for Windows 10 on October 14, 2025.

**Migration Progress and What's Next**

The upgrade is being implemented in phases, allowing faculty and staff to select a convenient time or follow their assigned schedule. More information will be shared soon regarding the full deployment timeline. You can learn more about the project phases, key features, and what to expect in the article [Windows 11 Roadmap for GVSU](#).

*Please note: Effective immediately, all newly ordered machines will be equipped with Windows 11 as the default operating system.*

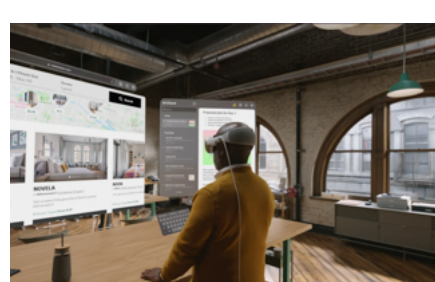
**What You Can Do Now:**

**Prepare for the Transition:** Ensure your files are backed up by following the guidelines in the article [The Importance of Proper Backup and Data Storage for GVSU Computer Users](#).

Review additional [Windows 11 knowledge base articles](#) in the Service Portal.

**Keep an eye out for future newsletters and targeted communications.**

As always, GVSU IT is here to support you through this upgrade. Thank you for your cooperation as we enhance our technology systems to better serve the GVSU community!



### Explore Apple AI & XR: Apple Day @ GVSU – January 21

Join us for Apple Day @ GVSU in the futurEDlab, focusing on groundbreaking technologies and the future of education.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, January 21, 2025 | 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** futurEDlab (CEC) | John G. Russell Leadership Center, 120 Front Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
[RSVP FORM](#): [Limited to 40 Attendees](#)

**SESSION 1 - Enhancing Education: XR Innovation with Apple Devices (10:30 a.m. – Noon)**  
Apple devices enable faculty and staff to improve their research and productivity, and offer students unparalleled learning experiences through simulation of intricate concepts and real-world scenarios. This session will explore the use of iPad and Apple Vision Pro for collaboration, design, and immersive simulation to accelerate learning, boost understanding, and enhance education. Time will be reserved for Q&A as well as hands on demonstrations with the Apple Vision Pro headset.

**SESSION 2 - Apple Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)**  
This session will focus on Apple Intelligence (AI) and its impact on productivity and education. Specifically, the following questions will be explored: What is Apple Intelligence and how is it ready for machine learning and AI workflows? How can developers bring their own AI models onto Apple platforms? How is Apple protecting user privacy with AI? Time will be reserved for Q&A.

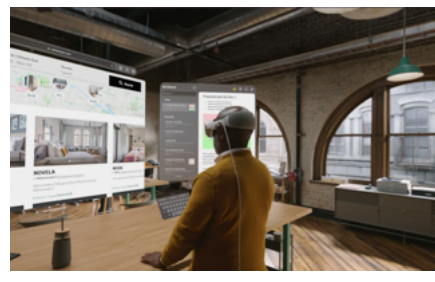
[Register for Apple Day @GVSU - Space is Limited!](#)



### Speed TEChing Event - January 24 Pew Campus & Zoom, 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Discover new ways to elevate your teaching at **Speed TEChing**, an exciting professional development event for faculty and staff. Explore innovative tools and strategies, expand your teaching toolkit, and connect with campus experts—all in one dynamic session. Choose between two dedicated spaces: one offering personalized, one-on-one support and the other featuring quick, interactive technology demonstrations designed to inspire and empower your teaching and learning practices.

[Learn More & Register for Speed TEChing!](#)



### Dell Technologies Guest Lecture February 4 Building an Innovation Mindset with Data and AI

Dell Technologies, our enterprise computing vendor, has presented us with a fantastic opportunity to facilitate an "innovation mindset" guest lecture, and we are excited to share the invitation with you.

The focus of this lecture is to explore opportunities for building an innovation culture around the future of education. Facilitated by Bill Schmarzo, Customer AI & Data Innovation Strategist, Dell Technologies

**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 | 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** futurEDlab (CEC) | John G. Russell Leadership Center, 120 Front Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Registration is required.

[Dell Technologies Event Details and Registraton](#)



### Security Corner: Understanding and Avoiding Quishing

In the ever-evolving world of cyber threats, another contender has emerged: Quishing. Combining elements of phishing and QR code exploitation, quishing is a growing concern for individuals and organizations alike. At GVSU, staying informed about these threats is vital to protecting our community's data and resources.

[Curious About Quishing? Learn More!](#)



### Meet Michael Gairson Academic Research Specialist

Michael Gairson is an Academic Research Specialist within Academic Research Computing. In this role, Michael acts as a vital liaison between students, staff, and the IT division, providing both technical and administrative support. From assisting with network logins to troubleshooting complex computer issues, he takes pride in bridging the gap between technology and the needs of individuals.

Michael began this role in March 2024, following his experience as an intern with GVSU's Information Security team in 2023. He holds an associate's degree in mathematics from Riverside Community College in California and a bachelor's degree in cyber security from GVSU. Before his academic pursuits, Michael served in the United States Navy for six years.

Outside of work, Michael enjoys exploring the world of electronics and expanding his home network. He recently discovered a passion for snowboarding and spends his summers mountain biking.

[Need IT Assistance?](#)

**Phone:** (616) 331-2101 **Email:** [it@gvsu.edu](mailto:it@gvsu.edu) **Service Portal:** [services.gvsu.edu](https://services.gvsu.edu)

