

The Office of Multicultural Affairs

Hello and welcome everyone. My name is Aruna, and I am a staff member in the Graduate School at Grand Valley State University. At Grand Valley, we do our very best to ensure that our graduate students have as many resources available to them as possible to help them succeed within their program. GVSU encourages the campus to embrace a social justice and intersectional identity approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion work. Therefore, campus has established four social justice center, Gayle R. Davis Center for Women and Gender Equity Center, Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Peter Secchia Military and Veteran Resources Center. Today we will be learning more about, Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) is committed to building a diverse and inclusive campus. Through its comprehensive programs and services, OMA fosters an appreciation and respect for the history, tradition, and culture of different ethnic groups, and empowers students to be active learners.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs collaborates with partners across the university and beyond to cultivate a campus community in which historically oppressed communities can succeed and thrive at GVSU. The office works to ensure that students, faculty, and staff can find a deep sense of belonging on campus. They advocate for the oppressed indigenous groups, and they are committed to unlearning settler colonial frameworks and learning wise practices that centers around Indigenous knowledge and culture. The center allocates resources, both financial and staff / student positions, for Indigenous programming, furthering Indigenous student support, fostering community partnerships, and developing intersectional events that cultivate Indigenous allyship. You can visit Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs located at 1 Campus Dr., 1240KC, Allendale or reach out to their office at 6163313195 or email oma@gvsu.edu.

OMA has many events and celebration for each of the communities. There are celebrations events for Asian American and Pacific Islander, Black history month, César E. Chávez Celebration, Hispanic Heritage, Native American Heritage Celebration and Pow wow. They also have Affinity orientation programs for new students at GVSU. They have Asian Students orientation, Laker Familia orientation, Black Excellence orientation and Maajtaada orientation where students can learn and understand more about university and its facilities. Students can be part of group and help the new students navigate university life. It's excellent opportunity to network and build friendships and strong community of your own.

They also have Laker connections where students from different community can study together. There is Asian Student Achievement Program, Black Excellence 365 program, Black Male Scholars program, Laker Familia program and Mno'Chigewin Native student success program. Another important program of OMA s the Anishinaabe Student Leadership Camp . It offers Native American/North American Indigenous high schools students an opportunity to build their future as leaders. This camp promotes cultural learning, preparation for college and a unique experience on GVSU's campus.

The office of multicultural affairs has many events and programs to offer to student. If you are interested, to learn more visit its website at www.gvsu.edu/oma/. Thank you for your time and hope you have enjoyed the podcast.