

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DIVISION**

OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



Cyber Security Month: Empowering Faculty, Staff, and Students to Stay Safe Online

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month. It serves as a crucial opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to learn about online safety, protect their personal information, and develop good digital hygiene practices.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month is not just another observance; it's a call to action. In an era where data breaches, phishing attacks, and cybercrimes are on the rise, everyone must understand the significance of safeguarding their online presence.

[Why Cyber Security Month Matters](#)

Reminder: Cyber Security Training Due October 31

All GVSU faculty and staff are required to complete cybersecurity training by October 31. The purpose of this initiative is to support and raise awareness of ways in which the university and personal data may be targeted by cyberattacks.

The training, which lasts approximately 15 minutes, can be accessed by visiting your Oka Dashboard (<https://my.gvsu.edu>) and finding the KnowBe4 application. In the event that you do not see the KnowBe4 application, you can search for it. Follow the prompts in the app to complete the training.

Currently, 33% of all faculty and staff have completed this essential training.

Innovation Insights:

Tech Week Grand Rapids and Confluence Festival highlight innovation

GVSU participated in Tech Week GR and the Confluence Festival with the goal of showcasing the university's innovative activities to the West Michigan community. The events included a Tech Talks event which highlighted IT's work in Cyber Security, an engineering and computing showcase that featured IT's work in Extended Reality, and a GR in XR event on the Blue Bridge, supported by the Innovation and Research team.

[See How GVSU IT Modeled Innovation and Emerging Technology](#)

Technology Acquisition Order Deadline: Dec 8, 2023

As we prepare for Workday implementation, please note that the deadline for Technology Acquisition orders is Friday, December 8th, 2023. There is a critical deadline for ensuring a smooth transition and making necessary preparations for the new system. If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact Technology Acquisition by email at techsupply@gvsu.edu.

Requests for Lab Software Due November 3

To prepare physical and virtual computer labs for the Winter semester, Academic Research Computing (ARC) is seeking software requests for [Windows](#), [Linux](#), and [Mac](#) lab computers. Academic units currently utilizing virtual machines in their curriculum are encouraged to request [changes and updates](#).

To ensure thorough testing for compatibility with other software packages and operating systems, we require these submissions for the Winter term **no later than November 3, 2023**. Given the holiday season and university shutdown timing in November and December, this ensures enough time for these processes.

You do not need to request the software package if it is already installed unless you wish to use an updated version. We can only support one version of any software package at a time in these environments.

If you have questions, please reach out to the Academic Research Computing Team arcit@gvsu.edu.

eLearning's Justin Melick Experiences International Staff Week at METU

In June 2023, Justin Melick, a member of IT's eLearning Team, participated in an international staff week at Middle Eastern Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Turkey. As part of this event, staff from 37 different institutions and 23 different countries collaborated and shared ideas about how institutions can better partner to provide meaningful international experiences to their students.



[Learn How Justin's Experience Benefits GVSU](#)

IT Training Specialist Equips GVSU to Effectively Use Technology

With the aim of developing and implementing technology training across the university, IT has recently added the position of IT Training Specialist. Steph Balaskas has filled this role, bringing with her experience in instructional design, training, learning strategies, and curriculum development. She will support areas such as Enterprise Applications, Academic Research and Computing, Enterprise Architecture, and IT Services.



At present, she is working on the development of Workday training modules and courses for [Microsoft Outlook and Microsoft Bookings](#). Beginning in the winter, Steph will be expanding training to include Microsoft Teams and OneDrive.



IT Team Member Highlight

John Klein - Associate Director and Program Manager, Project Management Office

In the 34 years John Klein has worked at GVSU, he has seen a great deal of change. In his role as Associate Director and Program Manager for the Project Management Office (PMO), he has also been instrumental in bringing about many changes to better the university.

John partners with departments and individuals across campus daily to plan and implement new audio-visual (AV) systems for upcoming construction and renovation projects. When asked what he finds most rewarding about his work, John commented, "I have had the opportunity to work with most departments across GVSU and gotten to know many people throughout the university over the years. I also experiment with and test the latest electronics."

John graduated with a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree from GVSU in 1988. He then began working in IT and obtained his Master of Science (MS) in 1999 and was additionally inducted as a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Outside of work, John enjoys a variety of hobbies. These include golf, video and VR gaming, and music. He's active in his church choir and the Schubert Male Chorus of Grand Rapids. He jokes that his home office is made up of half computers and half musical instruments! Congrats John!

Need IT Assistance?

Phone: (616) 331-2101 Email: it@gvsu.edu Service Portal: services.gvsu.edu

