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Colleagues,

Welcome to the start of a new academic year, our 4th as the College of Education and Community Innovation! As we begin the year together, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for each of you. Your dedication, passion, and commitment to our students and institution are truly what makes us a remarkable place for learning and growth.

As you are steeped in finalizing plans for your courses or other student engagement for the semester, I'd like to point you to a resource from the Chronicle of Higher Education on [engaging with your students on your first day](#). I especially like the article's focus on strategies to connect with the students rather than course logistics. I know many of you already use the approaches mentioned and understand the profound impact of making connections on setting a foundation of belonging for our students. The CECI students page also has a wealth of curated [resources](#) to support students.



This academic year is one of leadership transitions within the college. I extend my gratitude to Dr. Scott Berlin, Dr. Patrick Gerkin, and Dr. Raymond Higbea who have served CECI as unit heads and have returned to their faculty roles this fall. Thank you, Scott, Pakky, and Raymond for your excellent service on behalf of your units and the college. I'm pleased to welcome Dr. Cray Mulder, Dr. Jacquelynn Doyon-Martin, and Dr. Neal Buckwalter as able successors to the unit head role. Cray, Jackie, and Neal have been strong leaders within the unit and the college, and I am looking forward to working with them in their new roles.

I also want to extend my gratitude to Dr. Paul Stansbie, who returns to his faculty role this fall, for his outstanding leadership to the college as associate dean. Paul's dedication, vision, and commitment to excellence have been instrumental in advancing our efforts as a college. If you haven't done so already, please take a look at Paul's

reflections in [last month's newsletter](#). Paul is succeeded by Dr. Chasity Bailey-Fakhoury who has established an excellent record of leadership in her unit, the college and university.

We're here to support you every step of the way. If you have any questions, ideas, or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, let's make this year a memorable one for our students and ourselves. I look forward to seeing you at our Fall 2024 College Kick-off Meeting which will be held on August 19, 2024, in SCB 1008.

Here's to a successful and inspiring year ahead!

~Sherril

## Celebrations

### Our Newest Staff Member in the CECI Dean's Office

**Dr. Chasity Bailey-Fakhoury** is our newest Associate Dean within the College of Education and Community Innovation. She is also an Associate Professor of Educational Foundations. Dr. Bailey-Fakhoury joined GVSU in 2013 after serving for 15 years as a Detroit Public Schools teacher. As a King-Chavez-Parks Future Faculty Fellow, Dr. Bailey-Fakhoury received her Ph.D. in sociology from Wayne State University, as well as her M.Ed. in Secondary Social Studies Education. She earned her B.A. in sociology from the University of Michigan. [More about Chasity.](#)



### GVSU Police Academy Celebrates 50 Years with the 53rd Graduating Class

Since 1974, the Grand Valley Police Academy has been training the next generation of police officers to serve in their communities. When the academy celebrated its 53rd graduating class of the Basic Police Academy Program on Thursday, it also commemorated its 50th anniversary. Read more in the [GVNext article](#).



## Recognitions

### Faculty/Staff, Alumni, and Students

**The School of Social Work**, has the following leadership changes beginning Fall 2024: **Robin Smith Colton** is the incoming MSW Director, **Emily Nichols** is the incoming BSW Director, and **Jamie Langlois** is the incoming Accreditation Coordinator.

**The West Michigan Teacher Collaborative (WMTC)** was featured in a GVNext article titled, "[CECI partnership developing next class of PK-12 teachers](#)". The article describes the work being done and what goals they hope to achieve moving forward.

**Doug Lipinski**, MPA '02, was selected as [West Texas A&M University's Vice President of Athletics](#). Currently, Lipinski serves as Grand Valley State University's deputy athletic director where he oversees external relations, marketing and promotions, communications, ticketing, digital marketing, multimedia, corporate sponsorships, annual givings, merchandise, and licensing. Lipinski has spent 22 years at GVSU.

**Rebecca Noricks**, MPA '07, was [selected as the Vice President of Communications at Dogwood Health Trust](#). Noricks began her position on July 30, 2024, and will be responsible for developing and implementing internal/external communication strategies. Noricks most recently served as a communications officer with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, where she led communications strategies in support of the foundation's mission and deep commitments to racial equity, community engagement, and leadership development.

**Brianna Romines**, PNA '03, was selected to be the Vice President of Affiliate Strategy at the Epilepsy Foundation of American. Brianna has been with The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan serving as president since 2016.

**Maria Rocha**, music education major and president of the Educators of Color Network, has been involved with REP4 the past four summers as a high school student, college mentor, and panelist. Rocha went to Washington D.C. with President Mantella, and Vice Presidents Bernal and Behler, to speak to Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona and Undersecretary James Kvaal about her story and REP4 experience. See photos below.



## Publications/Presentations

**Paul Stansbie**, associate dean of the College of Education and Community Innovation, was recently featured in MoneyGeek where he gave his expert opinion in the article, "[Capital One Venture X Rewards Credit Card](#)."

**Leanne Kang**, associate professor in Literacy, Educational Foundations, and Technology, was quoted in an article for Chalkbeat Detroit. The article was titled, "[Still segregated and unequal: The reverberations of Milliken v. Bradley in Detroit 50 years later](#)."

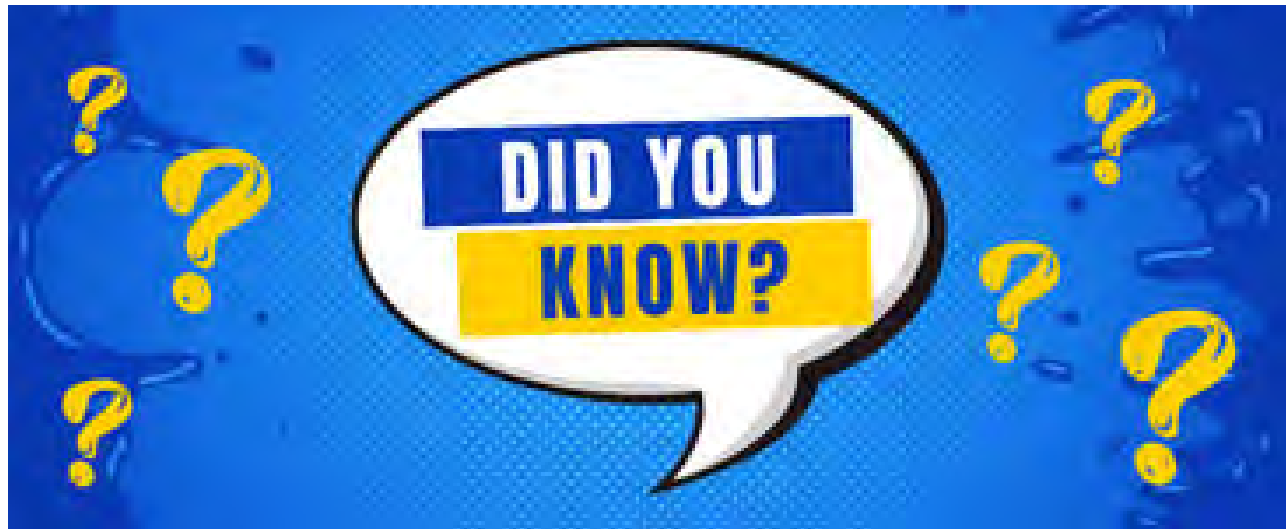
**David Vandersloot**, MPA '08 and director of Conference Planning and Hospitality Services at GVSU, led a panel discussion, "Campus Conference Centers: How Does Yours Match Up?" It was held at the Association of Collegiate Conference and Events Directors-International Conference in Providence, Rhode Island.

## Grant Recipients

**Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) BSW to MSW Grant Program**, GVSU School of Social Work has received a grant for over \$384,000 from the State of Michigan (MDHHS), to provide \$30,000.00 grants per individual to several students who have obtained a bachelor's degree and who have enrolled in our MSW accelerated, 1-year, Master of Social Work program. Those who receive this stipend will commit to a minimum of two years of public sector behavioral health work in the state, immediately following completion their degree in areas including community mental health, substance use disorder programs, crisis intervention, local crisis call centers, mobile crisis care, crisis stabilization, psychiatric emergency services, and rapid postcrisis care. The goal of the program is to increase the state's behavioral health workforce.



The [CECI Happenings](#) is an informational form that can be submitted by any faculty, staff, or student to promote an event, publication, etc. for our social platforms and newsletter.



## New CECI Flags

The CECI Dean's Office now has two flags for use! These can be used indoors or out and have the option for a four-legged stand or a spike.

We also have the following items for use:

- One black table runner
- One 6' blue tablecloth
- One 6' black tablecloth
- Three large CECI Engage, Enrich, Transform banners
- One small CECI Engage, Enrich, Transform banner
- One small banner listing our majors

Please contact [Rita](#) if you are interested in using these items for any upcoming events, conferences, etc.







# UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 12 by Noon** - Grades Due from Faculty - 2nd 6 and 12 Weeks
- August 19** - Fall Kick-Off Meeting - Professional Headshots - 8:00 a.m. | Breakfast - 8:00 a.m. | Meeting at 9:00 a.m. | Seidman 1008 Multipurpose Room
- August 20** - University Address - Pew Campus, DeVos Center Courtyard - 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- August 20** - Faculty & Staff Picnic - Pew Campus, Seidman Center - 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- August 22** - Fall 2024 Convocation - Fieldhouse Arena, - 7:00 p.m.
- August 26** - Fall 2024 Begins
- September 1- 2** - Labor Day Recess
- October 20 - 22** - Fall Break
- November 14** - CECI Fall Social - Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall - 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- November 27 - December 1** - Thanksgiving Recess
- December 7 - 14** - Examination Week
- December 7** - Classes End and Commencement
- December 14** - Semester Ends
- April 14** - Year-End Winter Meeting - Seidman 1008 Multipurpose Room

## Don't Miss CECI Palooza

The summer concert series is winding down, so don't miss this opportunity to grab your friends and family and enjoy a great summer concert! A few upcoming concerts:

**Tuesday, August 13 at 7:00 pm** - Rockford Rogue River Blues Series featuring the Soul Syndicate

**Wednesday, August 14 at 6:30 pm** - Coopersville Music on Main featuring PS Dump Your Boyfriend (party band)

**Thursday, August 15 at 7:00 pm** - Kentwood Summer Concert Series featuring Sarena Rae Band (R&B)

**Friday, August 16 at 5:00 pm** - Muskegon Parties in the Park, Hackley Park featuring the Magic Bus (Tribute to Woodstock)

**Monday, August 19 at 6:30 pm** - Grand Rapids Jazz in the Park featuring the Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra



**Full list of concerts**





## Seeking King-Chavez-Parks Future Faculty Fellow Alumni

The Division of Inclusion and Equity is hosting a luncheon for the King-Chavez-Parks (KCP) Future Faculty Fellowship (FFF) program on Wednesday, October 2. This event will gather current student fellows, faculty and staff KCP alumni, and key supporters to strengthen the program's network at GVSU. If you are alumni of the KCP FFF program, please contact Cameron Jones, KCP Campus Administrator, at [jonesca2@gvsu.edu](mailto:jonesca2@gvsu.edu) by Monday, August 19 to receive an invitation. Space is limited, but all current student fellows and program alumni will have a seat reserved.

More information about the KCP FFF program is [available online](#). Applications for the coming academic year are due in April 2025, but it's never too early for students to begin exploring options. If you know a student who would be a good fit for this fellowship, please consider discussing the opportunity with them. This program has awarded nearly \$100,000 in the last five years to students pursuing graduate study in a field where they are underrepresented, and \$35,000 is available for Academic Year 2024-25.

## Basic Life Support Courses



Registration is now available for Fall 2024 Basic Life Support certification courses. The courses, which are offered through the American Heart Association, are open to GVSU Students, Faculty/Staff, and the General Public. Courses are held in the Daniel and Pamela DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health, room 260, on the Health Campus in Downtown Grand Rapids.

[Click Here to Register](#)

# Important Dates

### FALL PERSONNEL ACTIONS

- August 26 - Fall Personnel Portfolios due to Unit Heads by 11:59 p.m.
- October 25 - Unit Head submits appropriate fall personnel documents to Dean
- October 31 - Dean forwards fall personnel documents to CPC
- November 15 - CPC submits fall personnel recommendations to Dean
- December 20 - Dean submits fall personnel recommendations to Provost
- January 31 - Provost makes fall personnel decisions and notifies all appropriate people

### SABBATICALS

- September 1 - Sabbatical Leave Proposals due no later than 11:59 p.m.
- September 23 - Revised sabbatical leave proposals are due
- September 30 - Unit sabbatical recommendations due
- November 15 - University Sabbatical Review Committee recommendations are due
- December 15 - College Dean sabbatical recommendation is due
- January 31 - Provost sabbatical decision is due

### FACULTY WORKLOAD PLANS (FWP)

- October 1 - Faculty Workload Plans due

## WINTER PERSONNEL ACTIONS

October - Candidates for winter personnel actions can apply in writing to the Dean.

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# Resources

- [Acronyms](#)
  - [CECI Connections Guide](#)
  - [CECI Newsletter Repository](#)
  - [Experts Guide](#)
  - [Organizational Chart](#)
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Thanks to all those who contributed to the August 2024 edition of CECI Connections:  
Dean Sherril Soman, Shawn Evans, Mei Mah, Leanne Kang, Scott Berlin, and Cray Mulder

If you have any questions or suggestions or want to share your newsworthy information with us,  
please use the link below.

[cecidean@gvsu.edu](mailto:cecidean@gvsu.edu) | (616) 331-6821 | [gvsu.edu/ceci](https://gvsu.edu/ceci)

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## Connect with us!



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