



**In This Issue:**

Dean's Message  
GACC Events  
CECI KFB Bag-A-Thon  
Celebrations  
Recognitions  
Publications/Presentations  
Community Engagement  
Strategic Planning  
CECI UAC  
Faculty Grant Opportunity  
Share With Your Students  
University Governance  
College Governance  
CECI Happenings  
Upcoming Events  
Important Dates  
Resources



Colleagues,

This year, we have the opportunity to witness [a rare alignment of seven planets](#) in our solar system. This brought to mind the iconic image of the Earth taken by the Voyager 1 spacecraft on February 14, 1990, when it turned its camera back to earth and took a picture showing Earth as a single blue pixel in the great expanse of space - a [tiny blue dot](#). Carl Sagan wrote about this image "everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives" on this "mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam." It's a mind blowing, thought provoking, awesome thing to think of ourselves, each other and our planet in a backdrop of the size of the universe.

When we come to it  
We, this people, on this wayward, floating body  
Created on this earth, of this earth  
Have the power to fashion for this earth  
A climate where every man and every woman  
Can live freely without sanctimonious piety  
Without crippling fear

When we come to it  
We must confess that we are the possible  
We are the miraculous, the true wonder of this world  
That is when, and only when  
We come to it.



Excerpted from Maya Angelou's poem, "A Brave and Startling Truth."

This month, we celebrate [Black History Month](#), honoring the rich and enduring contributions of Black individuals throughout history. We also share the spirit of love and appreciation with Valentine's Day, reminding us to cherish one another and the connections that strengthen our community. Let's take this time to reflect, connect, and continue supporting each other in our journeys.

~Sherril Soman  
CECI Dean

## GACC Events

### Winter 2025's [Global Awareness Collaborative Colloquium: Japan](#)

#### [February 17 | 12:00 PM | University Club \(107D DEV\) | Pew Campus](#)

The Colloquium begins with associate professor of **Criminal Justice** Naoki Kanaboshi presenting, "**Adventure into the Japanese Criminal Justice System.**" He will discuss his research and his study-abroad experiences related to Japan. Lunch will feature a Japanese Rice Bowl, Wakame & Cucumber Salad, and Matcha Roll Cake. This will be followed at 1:00 PM by a trivia contest: "**Win Dr. Kanaboshi's Candy!**"

#### [February 19 | 7:30 PM | Louis Armstrong Theatre, Haas Center for Performing Arts | Allendale Campus](#)

The GVSU Symphony Orchestra conducted by Joel Schut will present two works as part of the GACC. Kōsaku Yamada's short (3.5 minute) **Overture in D**, composed in 1912, is considered the very first piece of Japanese orchestral music. The other, longer work is the world premiere of Tony Gu's **Anime Symphonic Suite**, a multi-media work highlighting the rich visual and sound tradition of Japanese Anime. The post-concert reception will feature Japanese Cheesecake, Warabi Mochi (rice cake), and Yokan (red bean jelly).

#### [March 17 | 6:00 PM | 203D DEV | Pew Campus](#)

Screening of Akira Kurosawa's *Ikiru* (score of 98% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes). Released in 1952, *Ikiru* translates to the phrase "to live." Kanji Watanabe is a career municipal bureaucrat, having risen to chief of Public Affairs, when he is diagnosed with terminal cancer. Thus begins his search for a purpose to his life.

#### [March 19 | 6:00 PM | Meijer Regency Dining Room \(102E DEV\) | Pew Campus](#)

Joel Zwart, GVSU Art Museum Curator of Exhibitions and Collections, will present "**The Art of Narrative in Japanese Prints,**" which serves as a primer for the works of Japanese ukiyo-e artists Utagawa Kunisada, Utagawa Hiroshige, and Utagawa Kuninaga on display in the Richard M. DeVos Center Wall Gallery (Building B) through July 2025.

The Closing Celebration will be at the Japanese Garden, **Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park** (date and time TBA).



## CECI KFB Bag-A-Thon



Wednesday, February 19  
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall  
(105E DEV)

Decorate sack supper bags for [Kids' Food Basket](#) with your CECI colleagues over appetizers and treats, all for a great cause!

Can't attend? Make a [monetary donation](#) instead!

(Please send donation receipts to Rita Cooper at [cooperr@gvsu.edu](mailto:cooperr@gvsu.edu) to have your donation counted toward your unit's contribution total.)

## Celebrations



The [16th Annual Michigan Social Work Virtual Bridges to Employment Conference](#), hosted by the School of Social Work and Career Center on February 4, 2025, was a great success!

By the numbers:

- 471 Registered individuals
- 332 Participated live
- 260 GVSU students
- 54 Community members

Other Students: 17 UM; 19 Eastern; 23 Spring Arbor; 33 Western

The conference provides essential information on licensing and employment for graduating social work students.

**Special thanks to the planning committee:** Dayna Phillips, Jamie Langlois, Scott Berlin, Natalee Williams, Emily Nisper, and Kaylie Ykema; and to the School of Social Work Faculty who presented and assisted with the conference: Cray Mulder, Scott Berlin, Jamie Langlois, Katie Scheuerle, and Joshua Bishop. This is all possible because of the commitment of GVSU faculty and staff to ensuring student success in the classroom and in their future careers.

**EDI 317 Family Panel Event:** On Wednesday, February 5, Dr. Christine Kenney, associate professor of early childhood education in the **Department of Teaching and Learning** hosted a signature event for students in all sections of **EDI 317, Collaborating with Families and Professionals**, in consultation with adjunct instructors Ashley Copperstone and Beth Hipshier-Goodrich. The students heard from three families, including Beca Valezquez-Publes, Dr. Barb Lubic, and Dr. Samuel Saldivar, who represented a variety of family structures and cultures. The panelists gave the students a glimpse into their families and then went on to speak and answer questions about their experiences in educational settings. Students were encouraged to think about how to be inclusive, accommodating, strengths-based, and the importance of just believing families and children when they share their stories and needs.



Many thanks to all the panelists and instructors for organizing such an impactful and authentic experience, and to the students who came with open minds and open hearts!



# Recognitions

## Faculty/Staff, Alumni, and Students

Todd Workman, CJ '06, MPA '11, a Michigan State Police Officer, was featured in the recent Netflix documentary series, [\*Into the Fire: The Lost Daughter\*](#). Workman served as the lead detective on the cold case, which occurred in Holland, MI.

---

# Publications/Presentations



Dr. Christina M. Ponzio, assistant professor in the **Literacy, Educational Foundations, and Technology Department**, was the featured speaker as a part of a session co-sponsored and presented by the Disciplinary Literacy Task Force of the GELN and the Michigan Assessment Consortium: "[Disciplinary Literacy and Student-Centered Assessment in the Secondary English Language Arts Classroom](#)." She also recently published an article in the *Michigan Reading Journal*, co-authored with educators from Melvindale-Northern Allen Park Schools, titled, "[Reclaiming and celebrating our names: Storytelling-as connection through an elementary-middle school partnership](#)."

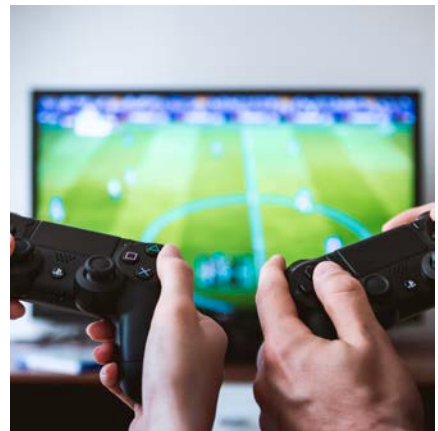
---

# Community Engagement

## Criminal Justice Interns Assist with At-Risk Youth Through E-Sports and Youth Boxing Program

Student interns in the **Criminal Justice program** have been assisting the **Kent County Juvenile Surveillance Program** with a new E-sports collaboration between the **Kent County Circuit Court** and the **Youth Justice E-sports League**. The program focuses on positive interaction with mentors, a series of guest speakers, and opportunities to learn critical life skills (i.e. banking, taxes, etc.), followed by the opportunity to then play E-sports with their mentors. [Full Fox 17 Online story](#).

Additional Criminal Justice interns are assisting with a new Youth Boxing program, which also support at-risk youth in the community. **Laura Marsh, Internship Coordinator for SCCJLS**, secures these, among several other unique internship opportunities each semester for students. Her connections continue to provide irreplaceable learning opportunities for criminal justice and legal studies students in the community.



# Strategic Plan

During February, please comment on proposed strategic planning objectives developed by the various working groups last semester. You can find them in Blackboard Organizations in the "[Discussion](#)" section of "College of Education and Community Innovation Ultra." You may post comments anonymously. In March, after Spring Break, the working groups will review your comments and make edits to the proposals. The adoption referendum will be in April.

## From CECI UAC

### New CECI Connect Podcast Episode Available



The latest episode of *CECI Connect* is [Mental Health and Learning with Katie Perschbacher](#). Download others by checking out [the CECI Undergraduate Advising Team's Podbean dashboard](#) or find the podcast wherever you listen.

New episodes coming throughout the semester.

## Faculty Grant Opportunity

### The Kutsche Office of Local History Community Collaboration Grant

Kutsche Office of Local History  
Community Collaboration Grant  
2024-2025 Call for Proposals



Biannual grants for GVSU instructors doing  
community-centered work in West Michigan

Apply at  
[www.gvsu.edu/kutsche/ccg](http://www.gvsu.edu/kutsche/ccg)

The **Kutsche Office of Local History** is still accepting applications for their [Community Collaboration Grant](#). This granting cycle provides **up to \$11,000 total** to Grand Valley State University instructors working on projects that help build connections between the university and community. It also seeks to provide meaningful experiential opportunities for students, providing additional wages to help up to two student assistants learn the practice of history and the ethics of engaging with public history work.

**Spring applications are due by March 14, 2025.**

## Share With Your Students

### First Year Advising Hold

#### What is the First Year Advising Hold?

All students in their **first year** at Grand Valley State University are required to meet with an academic advisor before registering for classes for the upcoming academic year. This includes both freshman and any transfer students in their

first year at GVSU. This hold does not go into effect until after the first week of classes in the Winter semester. Registration opens in late March, so we would encourage students to meet with their advisor before their registration date to have the advising hold lifted.

#### How do I get my First Year Advising Hold Lifted?

- Meet with an Advisor in a one-on-one advising session.
- Sessions are 30-minute long one-on-one appointments.

Signing up for a one-on-one Advising appointment can be done by calling our office at 616-331-6890, or through [Navigate360](#) with your GVSU network ID and password.

---

## 29th Annual Student Scholars Day Conference (SSD)

### "Redefining Boundaries: AI and the Evolution of Science, Tech, and Culture"

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship and the Student Scholars Day Faculty Committee invite students to participate in the [29th Annual Student Scholars Day conference](#). In addition to the diverse disciplines of scholarly interest, the committee encourages students to explore the practical, economic, social, and ethical questions of Artificial Intelligence (AI).



All GVSU students (undergraduate and graduate) are encouraged to present their scholarly and creative work at the conference on Wednesday April 9, 2025. [Registration is open until February 21, 2025, at 11:45 PM.](#)

---

## University Governance

[CECI University Committees](#)

[Representation Slidedeck](#)

[Representation List](#)

---

## College Governance

[CECI Governance Committees](#)

[Governance Website](#)

[Representation List](#)

---

### Faculty Council

All committee meetings are from **9:00 AM - 10:00 AM** via **Zoom** and are open to all CECI faculty.

#### [Remaining Winter 2025 Meetings:](#)

Wednesday, February 19  
Wednesday, March 19  
Wednesday, April 16

### College Advisory and Communication Committee

**CACC** is finalizing the College Awards with information coming out soon.

#### [Remaining Winter 2025 Meetings:](#)

Wednesday, February 19  
Wednesday, March 19  
Wednesday, April 16

---

## CECI HAPPENINGS

**CECI Happenings** is an informational form that can be submitted by any faculty, staff, or student to promote an event, publication, etc. that they would like shared to CECI social media platforms and/or the newsletter.



February 18 - [Faculty Awards Convocation](#) | 4:00 PM | Loosemore Auditorium  
 February 19 - [Big Byte Webinar](#) | 3:00 PM (Zoom), 4:00 PM (Committee Meeting)  
 March 19 - [Big Byte Webinar](#) | 2:30 PM (Zoom), 3:30 PM (Committee Meeting)  
 April 14 - Year-End Winter Meeting - Seidman 1008 Multipurpose Room

## Important Dates

### WINTER PERSONNEL ACTIONS

**January 8** - Winter Personnel Portfolios due to Unit Heads  
**February 23** - Unit Heads submit appropriate winter personnel documents to Dean  
**February 29** - Dean forwards winter personnel documents to CPC  
**March 29** - CPC submits winter personnel recommendations to Dean  
**April 19** - Dean submits winter personnel recommendations to Provost  
**June 1** - Provost makes winter personnel decisions and notifies all appropriate people

### ANNUAL SCHEDULE

2025-2026 Annual Schedule - Remaining Important Dates				
Semester	Phase	To	Available	Edits Complete By
SS25	Schedule Viewable (Course Changes)	Live/Viewable to Students	12/9/2024	
SS25	Schedule Viewable (Course Changes)	Planner Available	3/1/2025	
<b>SS25</b>	<b>Advanced Registration (Course Changes)</b>	<b>Registration Live</b>	<b>3/17/2025</b>	
F25,W26	Final Round - QC & Roomless	Records	2/10/2025	2/28/2025
F25,W26	Schedule Viewable (Course Changes)	Planner Available	3/1/2025	
<b>F25,W26</b>	<b>Advanced Registration (Course Changes)</b>	<b>Registration Live</b>	<b>3/17/2025</b>	

## Resources

[Acronyms](#)

[CECI Connections Guide](#)

[CECI Newsletter Repository](#)

[Experts Guide](#)

[Organizational Chart](#)

[Student Flowchart](#)

**Thanks to all those who contributed to the February 2025 edition of *CECI Connections*:**

Sherril Soman, Mark Hoffman, Chasity Bailey-Fakhoury, Jacquelyn Doyon-Martin, Jamie Langlois, Breeann Mann, and Melanie Rabine.

Please send items to share in future editions of CECI Connections to Victoria A. Stubbs at [stubbsvi@gvsu.edu](mailto:stubbsvi@gvsu.edu).

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

Connect with us!



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INNOVATION

**ENGAGE. ENRICH. TRANSFORM.**

*Discover the rewarding majors in GVSU's College of Education and Community Innovation.*

401 West Fulton St.  
202C DeVos Center  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

[Unsubscribe from future emails](#)