

Erin Babson Manager of operations, Pew Campus

Grand Valley alumna Erin Babson loves the variety in her job. As manager of operations for the Pew Campus, she oversees operations for the bus system and Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences. She is also involved in local neighborhood and business organizations surrounding the downtown campus.

Babson's background began in hotel hospitality. When a clerical position opened at Grand Valley, she jumped at the opportunity to expand her customer service experience in another direction.

"It's nice to be part of something that is always growing and getting more involved in the community," said Babson. "I'm always proud to tell people where I work and what I do."

Babson feels her work, which includes scheduling, planning budgets and marketing, makes a difference. That difference is most noticeable when it comes to the bus system.

"I really enjoy seeing it all come together. It's been amazing to see all the changes that have occurred

over the years. In 2000 and 2001, we had 175,000 riders for the entire year," she said. "And now we can beat that in a month."

Babson said she is surprised by how much she has come to love buses. "I honestly really enjoy the bus work. I like the people I get to work with. It keeps me motivated."



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Now working with the university's master planning group for parking, traffic and transportation, Babson will be up for a new challenge. As the bus system continues to grow, she will be looking down the road to figure out how to accommodate the upcoming changes.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge," said Babson. "I like the feeling when everyone chips in to get a large project done."

Babson is originally from Saginaw and graduated from Grand Valley with a degree in communications in 2002. She now resides in Lowell, where she and her husband have just finished building a new home.