



# Johnson Center

at Grand Valley State University

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## Grand Valley names Frey Chair for Family Philanthropy Visiting Scholar

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - Grand Valley State University's Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy has named the first Frey Chair for Family Philanthropy Visiting Scholar.

Virginia Esposito, founding president of the National Center for Family Philanthropy (NCFP) in Washington, D.C., has been named to the three-year appointment. Esposito will continue in her leadership at NCFP while serving in her role as visiting scholar.

"This is a personally inspiring and interesting opportunity for me," said Esposito. "NCFP is the first and only family philanthropy center, and the Frey Chair for Family Philanthropy is the first and only chair for family philanthropy. Therefore, I see this as a great relationship in the making."

As visiting scholar, Esposito will be responsible for conducting two workshops to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. They will include a workshop for family foundations and a workshop for graduate and undergraduate students in philanthropy and nonprofit leadership.

"We are thrilled to have such a pioneer, as Ginny is in family philanthropy, be a part of the Grand Rapids philanthropic community," said Kathy A. Agard, executive director of the Johnson Center. "The Johnson Center and our supporters in West Michigan will all truly benefit from Ginny's expertise and leadership in the field of family philanthropy. The Frey family has once again created a marvelous opportunity for Grand Valley State University and the region with this significant appointment."

## BACKGROUND

Virginia (Ginny) Esposito writes and speaks on a broad variety of topics promoting philanthropic values, vision, and excellence across generations of donor families. She served as the editor of *Splendid Legacy: The Guide to Creating Your Family Foundation*

and editor of The Family Foundation Library. In addition to her work on resources for family donors, Ginny edited *Conscience & Community: The Legacy of Paul Ylvisaker*, a volume of writings and speeches of the late Paul Ylvisaker, foundation trustee, educator and former dean of the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University.

She serves on Independent Sector's Ethics and Accountability Committee and the Ethics Working Group of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Esposito is a former vice president of the Council on Foundations, where she founded the council's Program on Family Philanthropy. She has served on numerous philanthropic boards and advisory committees.

#### Johnson Center for Philanthropy

The Johnson Center for Philanthropy is a nonprofit academic center whose mission is to improve communities by the application of knowledge, which unleashes the power of nonprofits, foundations and individuals. For more information, visit their Web site at [www.johnsoncenter.org](http://www.johnsoncenter.org).

#### NCFP

The mission of the National Center for Family Philanthropy is to promote philanthropic values, vision and excellence across generations of donors and donor families. The NCFP is the only nonprofit resource dedicated exclusively to families who give and those that work with them. With extensive expertise in governance, grantmaking, planning, evaluation, and more, they are uniquely positioned to help emerging philanthropists and mature foundations and funds improve their work and expand their effectiveness.

Grand Valley State University attracts more than 24,400 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 77 undergraduate and 28 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from regional centers in Muskegon and Traverse City. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.