

For Immediate Release
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New Course Offerings from The Grantmaking School

The Grantmaking School, part of Grand Valley State University's Johnson Center for Philanthropy, has recently launched an exciting new course: Grant Financial Analysis (GFA). The inaugural course was successfully convened in Atlanta, Georgia on August 5-6, hosted by the Southeastern Council of Foundations (SECF) and held at the Georgia Center for Nonprofits.

The course, designed for private, corporate, community, and family foundation grantmakers, incorporates financial analysis knowledge and tools into the grantmaker toolbox and allows them to conduct a comprehensive analysis of nonprofit organizations and the proposals they submit for funding. Grantmakers learn effective approaches for examining financial statements, budgets, audits, and the form 990, among other items. Ultimately, the course helps grantmakers develop much broader and deeper analysis of program and financial information to give decision-makers a stronger sense of the potential for success or failure of individual grant proposals.

"From our research of foundation executives and thorough literature review, we know that successful leaders have one consistent trait: they know their way around the finances of their organizations," says E. Miles Wilson, Director of the Grantmaking School. "Foundations and nonprofits are filled with smart staff who have many important skills – program design, policy, writing, and public speaking. Oftentimes, it's the finances – the math of running an organization– where they are lacking."

The two-day course is a comprehensive engagement that includes case studies, project analysis, and peer-to-peer interaction. "I can personally assure that anyone who completes our Grant Financial Analysis course will come out a stronger, wiser, and more effective grantmaker for their foundation."

"Thanks to your energy, knowledge, and positive attitude toward the subject, you all made something as "scary" and daunting as financial analysis very enjoyable,"
Jennifer Wells, Program Officer, Community Foundation of Central Georgia.

Grant Financial Analysis adds to The Grantmaking School's highly acclaimed courses: Advanced Proposal Analysis and Advanced Grant Portfolio Management. A course on evaluation for program staff is currently in development

Another exciting development for The Grantmaking School is the debut of Customized Grantmaker Education (CGE) in 2010. These "house calls" offer foundations personalized coursework for foundation program officers and executives, while working within the organization's grantmaking framework and theory of change. "With CGE's we have the ability to drill down into what individual foundations are dealing with day-to-day in the field," says Wilson. "I see this as a unique professional development that doesn't just strengthen one or two staff members, but brings along the entire grantmaking team and leverages the likelihood of real impact on the foundation's overall grantmaking agenda."

If you are interested in The Grantmaking School courses or a customized course for your foundation, please contact our offices at 616-331-7585 or email tgs@gvsu.edu.

To see a list of upcoming courses, visit www.grantmakingschool.org.

The Grantmaking School is the first university-based program for teaching the techniques and ethics of grantmaking specifically to foundation grantmaking professionals. Every member of its faculty is a current or former foundation program officer or CEO, ensuring a practical orientation in the curriculum.

The Grantmaking School is part of the Johnson Center for Philanthropy, an academic center of Grand Valley State University. Grand Valley State University is one of the fastest-growing public universities in the United States

The Grantmaking School

Advancing impact through professional education



Johnson Center

at Grand Valley State University

encompassing more than 100 academic programs leading to degrees in more than 75 major areas on three campuses, with enrollment of more than 24,000 students. The Johnson Center for Philanthropy is dedicated to strengthening the social sector and in turn transforming communities.