Hosted by
Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence
Community Service Learning Center
Division of Inclusion and Equity
Office for Community Engagement
Robert and Mary Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center
University Libraries
Women’s Center
A Message from the Director for Community Engagement

The Partnership Showcase celebrates the collaborative work of our faculty, staff, and students with their community partners in the context of teaching, learning, and research. In community settings, our partners generously offer their experiential knowledge, skills, wisdom, and other expertise. As a result, GVSU students have the opportunity to apply classroom theories and concepts to real-world challenges in health, education, business, and more. Students practice teamwork, communication, and problem solving, preparing them to contribute and lead in a world where collaboration and cross-sector efforts are quickly becoming the norm.

Together, we strive for projects that benefit our community partners. Sometimes it’s simply contributing student volunteer hours toward a necessary chore. Other times the outcome is some new product or tool. Even as novices in their fields, students may recommend strategy, develop financial resources, or bring fresh thinking to an organization.

But make no mistake, community-based teaching and learning is hard work. It raises the bar for students, demands more from faculty and staff, and eats into the precious time of our community partners. It is deeply relational and collaborative, often thrusting us into areas outside of our expertise and comfort zone. Invariably in these encounters, those of us from the university learn more than we teach and receive more than we give.

Please celebrate with us today and explore the partnerships displayed around the room. In addition, you are warmly invited to join in this messy, challenging, and satisfying work that makes a difference in our communities and prepares our students for their roles as future professionals and engaged citizens.

Sincerely,

Ruth Stegeman
Director for Community Engagement
Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies

The Hungry Games: Tackling Wicked Food Problems at Black River Public School through a New, Experiential Project Term Course

Faculty/Staff: Danielle Lake* and Anne Marie Fauvel*, Liberal Studies; Tona Ambrose*, Charter Schools Office

Students: Craig Coolman, Jamie Groendyk, and Michelle Haapala*, Curriculum Artisans student team; Meghan Kupresi*, Michael Garnaat, and Tim Deter, The Hungry Games student team

Community Partner: Angela Aumaugher, Black River Public School

In the winter of 2014, a team of students from Lib 322, Wicked Problems of Sustainability, identified the offered food systems and its impact on children as a wicked problem. To explore the issue, they initiated a community partnership at Black River Public School and posited the development of an interdisciplinary, experiential project term course designed by students in Lib 342, Food Matters. This new Black River course, The Hungry Games, will be piloted this spring to engage middle school students in experiential learning in order to foster understanding and empower agency in response to our current food system.

Portrait of My Community: A Collaborative Youth Leadership Initiative

Faculty/Staff: Melanie Shell-Weiss* and Courtney Sherwood, Kutsche Office of Local History; Melissa Baker-Boosamra*, Community Service Learning Center; Paul Wittenbraker, Art and Design; Joel Wendland, Liberal Studies

Students: Ashley Fisher, Honors College; Jakia Fuller*, Kutsche Office of Local History

Community Partners: Monica Zavala*, Steffanie Rosalez, Sue Garza, and Marjorie Kuipers, Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities; The Cook Library Scholars (31 GRPS students, grades K-8); Cook Arts Center Teen Staff (6 GRPS students, grades 9-12); Christopher Tzep, Hispanic Center of Western Michigan

When most people think about history they imagine only the past. However, one dynamic group of young people is using history to shape their future. Over the past year GVSU's Kutsche Office of Local History, Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities (GAAH) and the Grand Rapids Public Library have teamed up through GAAH's Cook Library Scholars program to document the history of Grand Rapids' Grandville Avenue community, creating the city's first Latino-focused archive. Comprised of 31 K-8th graders, most from immigrant families, the Cook Library Scholars Program is an after-school opportunity for youth that provides academic support, family engagement opportunities, and teaches leadership skills.

Liberal Studies Accelerated Leadership Program and Challenge Scholars Program

Faculty/Staff: Judy Whipps*, Justin Pettibone*, Erica Curry VanEe*, and Danielle Lake, Liberal Studies

Students: Grace Johnson*, Kathy Rohlman*, and Julie Keller*, GVSU Liberal Studies Accelerated Leadership Program

Community Partners: Cris Kutzli and Ben Oliver, Challenge Scholars, Grand Rapids Community Foundation; Gwen Heatley and Troy Wilbon, Harrison Park; Sergio Cira-Reyes, Sibley Elementary; Sarah Campbell, Steepletown; Ben Johnson, Habitat for Humanity; Kurt Reppart, The Other Way Ministries

*Designates presenters
In the new cohort-based Liberal Studies Accelerated Leadership Program, community engagement is essential to the learning experience in each five-week course. The adult students engage in projects related to creating a college-going culture in Northwest Grand Rapids, in conjunction with the Grand Rapids Community Foundation Challenge Scholars program. In “Introduction to Liberal Education” students facilitated informational interviews at these organizations. In “Leadership for Social Change,” students prepared action plans and took one step toward creating a college-going culture. “Diversity in the United States” completed Oral History projects. It is anticipated that this work will continue throughout the 19-month program.

Developing a Self-Sustaining Neighborhood: Empowering Residents and Improving Decision Making through Community Partnerships

Faculty/Staff: Norman Christopher*, Office of Sustainability Practices; Cynthia McCurren, College of Nursing; Elaine Collins, College of Education; Anne Hiskes, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies

Community Partners: Valencia Cooper* and Jessica Theis*, Seeds of Promise; Ron Jimmerson*, Seeds of Promise Advisory Board; Grand Rapids Public Schools; City of Grand Rapids

The Office of Sustainability Practices is one of the founding members of Seeds of Promise, a scalable, transformational, and self-sustaining approach to neighborhood development. Local neighborhoods include the Burton and Division Street area, Garfield Park Neighborhood Association, Dickinson Academy (K-8 school), and Southeast Community Association areas. Known as Host Neighbors, twenty-six local residents have been trained in leadership, governance, administration, and personal skills and are empowered to make decisions that improve their neighborhoods through the impact teams that have been established. GVSU participates on the health and education impact teams and supports the work through membership on the board of directors.

College of Community and Public Service

Engaging to Improve Health: Sharing the Wealth of Greens

Faculty/Staff: Lisa Sisson* and Victoria Stubbs, Hospitality and Tourism Management; Anne Marie Fauvel*, Liberal Studies

Students: Dan Albright*, Britta Carlson*, LIB 342 Food Matters

Community Partners: Suzan Couzens, Calvin College; Amy VanFossen*, Heartside Nutrition Project, Spectrum Health; Lisa Blackburn, Dwelling Place; Dan Elzinga, Mel Trotter; Marge Palmerlee, Degage

The Heartside neighborhood of Grand Rapids qualifies as a food desert because of limited access to healthy food. Through the Heartside Gleaning Initiative GVSU faculty, students, and staff are engaging with Heartside residents to supply produce gleaned from farmers’ markets to soup kitchens, food pantries, and low-income residents. The Lib 342 Food Matters class collaborated with the initiative to improve their efficiency and effectiveness through streamlined processes and enhanced programming while learning about the wicked issues of food systems. Additionally, individual students worked with the initiative to glean and distribute produce as well as write a grant proposal to support the work.
Indian Trails Camp Evaluations by Social Work Master's Students  
**Faculty:** Brandon Youker*  
**Student:** Nick Bayer*, students in SW679  
**Community Partner:** Tim Hileman*, Executive Director of Indian Trails Camp

Indian Trails Camp (ITC) is a year-round outdoor recreational camp for individuals with ability needs. For the past three semesters students in SW679 were placed into evaluation teams, each of which evaluated one of ITC’s programs: Community Living Supports, Weekend Respite, or Skill Building. Additionally, over the summer, students evaluated a training for camp counselors that was provided by GVSU Occupational Therapy Master’s students.

Kent County Sexual Violence Program and Resource Needs Assessment  
**Faculty/Staff:** Tonisha Jones*, Criminal Justice  
**Student:** Kelly Funk*, Criminal Justice  
**Community Partners:** Amy Endres-Bercher*, Kent County Health Department; Nicole Villanueva*, YWCA West Central Michigan

The primary purpose of this research study is to assess what sexual violence programs and resources are available to victims of sexual violence in Kent County; if the programs and resources meet victim’s needs; and, if not, how service delivery can be improved. The data obtained from the research study will help identify whether there is a gap between available sexual violence programs and resources and what is needed. The information obtained from the study can assist stakeholders in setting priorities for current and future directions related to the development and delivery of sexual violence programs and resources.

Michigan Cares for Tourism: A Tourism Industry Volunteer Partnership  
**Faculty/Staff:** Patty Janes*, Paul Stansbie*, Rita Cooper, Victoria Stubbs, John Lipford, Gail Zemmol, Mike Sciarini, Mark Gleason, Robert Robins, Hospitality and Tourism Management  
**Community Partners:** David Lorenz*, MEDC; Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Pure Michigan/Travel Michigan, Indian Trails, DRIVEN

Michigan Cares for Tourism (MC4T), founded by GVSU’s Hospitality and Tourism Management Department, is a volunteer partnership between Michigan tourism organizations, including six core partners and over 45 sponsors. MC4T creates volunteer events for tourism industry professionals to help restore Michigan’s historic attractions and learn about tourism destinations. In 2013, the event brought 100 tourism industry volunteers together to begin the restoration of a 1934 cabin community in Chelsea, Michigan. In 2014, over 425 tourism professionals volunteered at Belle Isle Park, a 100-year-old Fred Olmsted designed park in Detroit, Michigan working on seven different work sites. Two 2015 sites have been selected and will be announced at the annual Michigan Governor’s Conference on Tourism in March.

Using Marine Technology for Exploring Great Lake Shipwrecks  
**Faculty/Staff:** Mark Gleason*, Hospitality & Tourism Management; Mark Schwartz*, Anthropology  
**Community Partners:** Alpena Community College Marine Tech Program, NOAA Thunder Bay National Sanctuary, SeaView Systems, GVSU Annis Research Institute, East Grand Rapids Public Schools and Historical Society

For four years, the presenters have partnered with other organizations to promote exploration of underwater shipwrecks using marine technology. In addition to staff time, each partner
contributes toward the tools needed to undertake underwater surveys and documentation of shipwrecks. For example, NOAA provides boats and divers, SeaView offers a large Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), and Alpena Community College contributes a smaller ROV with side scan sonar. GVSU adds archeology experience and an ROV with 3D cameras. The presentation will include video footage from a number of wrecks, including the Christmas Tree schooner, Rouse Simmons.

**College of Education**

**Groundswell Initiative**

**Faculty/Staff:** Clayton Pelon*, Michael Posthumus, Colleen Bourque, Joanna Allerhand, and David Bair, Center for Educational Partnerships; other participants include individuals from Special Education, Foundations, and Technology Department, WGVU, and Annis Water Research Institute  
**Community Partners:** Mary Nell Baldwin*, Kent Intermediate School District; Michelle Storey*, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Groundswell is an educational initiative established at the GVSU College of Education that provides sustained, high-quality professional development and technical assistance to local schools and teachers. The partnership links students and teachers with regional environmental agencies in creating educationally sound and environmentally relevant student-led projects that affect real change in their communities.

**The Grand Rapids Public Museum School**

**Faculty/Staff:** Michael Posthumus*, Center for Educational Partnerships; Kevin Holohan, Special Education, Foundations, and Technology Department  
**Community Partners:** Karyl Morin* and Gayle DeBruyn, Kendall College of Art and Design; Rob Schuitema* and Dale Roberston, Grand Rapids Public Museum; John Helmholdt* and Carolyn Evans, Grand Rapids Public Schools

Over the past year, GVSU’s College of Education has been working with the Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids Public Museum (GRPM), and Kendall College of Art and Design to develop an innovative new school for students from Grand Rapids. The result is the Grand Rapids Public Museum School—a Center of Innovation opening in the fall of 2015. The school will be held at the GRPM and will encourage students to be curious and creative while using the community as their classroom.

**College of Health Professions**

**Partnering for Health: Kick & Cook-a-Palooza**

**Faculty/Staff:** Jody Vogelzang*, Public Health; Dawn De Vries*, Therapeutic Recreation  
**Students:** Megan Stankey, Boys & Girls Club; 26 Therapeutic Recreation students, 2 Juvenile Justice Students; Carly Roach, Storee Harris, Abbie Dysktra, Lexi Hutchinson, Erika Junge  
**Community Partners:** Erin Crinson*, Boys & Girls Club

Kick and Cook-a-Palooza is a collaborative partnership between the Grand Rapids Boys & Girls Club and the GVSU Public Health and Therapeutic Recreation programs. The program is funded
by a grant from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation and the General Mills Foundation, and a small supporting grant from the Recreational Therapy Foundation. The project serves as a multi-site effort to engage low-income children and their families in food preparation, nutrition education, and physical activity. The goal is to build self-efficacy and family support for regular physical activity and healthy meals.

**Lessons from the Sidewalk: Materials from Bates Place**

**Faculty/Staff:** Jody Vogelzang*, Public Health

**Students:** Over 80 students have participated in the Bates Place Partnership over the last three semesters

**Community Partners:** Bryan Blakely*, Executive Director; Marlene Cook*, Director of Communication, Bates Place Community Center

The best lessons may not come from a textbook. On three separate occasions over the last six months, Master of Public Health students walked and talked with residents in a bounded area of Grand Rapids regarding food availability and procurement. Phase 1 consisted of a randomized door-to-door survey of over 200 households on food availability and procurement. In Phase 2, students conducted a food basket survey, visiting stores and buying prescribed foods. Come and see what the students found. This study was made possible with a grant from GVSU’s Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence.

**Engaging in ArtPrize: A Shared Learning Experience between OT Students and Older Adults in the Community**

**Faculty/Staff:** Susan Cleghorn*, Denise Meier*, Jeanine Beasley*, Shauna Kelder*, Occupational Therapy

**Students:** Meghan Zeitter*, Sam Zettler*, Jessica Drews*, OT 693 student researchers; 30 current OT students, OT 651/OT 652

**Community Partners:** Four Pointes Center for Successful Aging: 74 older adult members, Four Pointes Center; Rolina Vermeer*, Four Pointes Center Staff

For the past five years, occupational Therapy (OT) students and faculty have partnered with Four Pointes Center for Successful Aging to experience ArtPrize. The purpose of this partnership is to provide OT students an opportunity to understand the needs of older adults who live in the community and to provide access to a community art event. Students research the needs of the older adults, art venues, and artists in preparation of the event. On the day of the event, students provide walking and riding tours of ArtPrize that include discussion, reflection, physical activity, and social engagement.

**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

**With Clay with Friendship with World: A Ceramic Art Exhibition**

**Faculty:** Hoon Lee*, Art and Design

**Students:** Sarah Confer*, Chelsey Sall*, Art and Design, Ceramics Emphasis

**Community Partners:** 2013 Exhibition Participating Universities: USA: Grand Valley State University, Montclair State University, University of Hawaii at Manoa; Korea: Seoul National University of Science and Technology, Department of Ceramic Art & Design; China: Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute; Japan: Kyoto Seika University; Thailand: Silpakorn University
The goal of the “With Clay With Friendship With World Ceramic Art” Cyber Exhibition is to bring together creativity and passion of students and professors of ceramics all over the world. For the past decade, the Ceramic Art & Design department of Seoul National University of Science and Technology, Korea with affiliated universities from USA, China, Japan, and Taiwan have held a common vision to share unique information, trends, and insights to further develop and implement ceramic exhibitions and exchange programs. For the past seven years, in partnership with seven universities from five different countries, the GVSU Ceramics program was able to share the works of professors and students through “With Clay With Friendship With World Ceramic Art” Cyber Exhibition, which also promoted the exchange of international art trend and developments of modern ceramic arts.

**Producing Videos to Benefit the Community as a Service Learning Project**

**Faculty:** Suzanne Zack*, School of Communications  
**Students:** Nicole Quain*, Jordan Armstrong*, Kirk Rasmussen*, Jillian McCafferty*, Taylor Robida*  
**Community Partner:** Andrew Steiner*, Feeding America West Michigan

Producers for Clients is an advanced film/video production course in the School of Communications. Students work in small groups to create videos that serve the needs of nonprofit organizations. For the past two years, Feeding America West Michigan has been a client. This year, students filmed two testimonial videos for Feeding America West Michigan’s website and social media platforms. The videos show the stories behind the face of hunger in West Michigan.

**The Influence of Raised-Bed Garden Participation on Fruit and Vegetable Consumption**

**Faculty:** Deborah Lown*, Biomedical Sciences  
**Students:** Rachel Jurcyszyn, Rachel Shamoun, Kali Sanford, Whitney Rhoades, Miranda Regenold, Sarah Craven, Katherine Hekstra*, Emma Popma-Metsaars*  
**Community Partners:** Melanie Beelen and Anna Johnson*, Baxter Community Center

This project examines the relationship between demographic characteristics and the distribution of food outlets in Michigan. It also examines the presence or absence of food deserts and oases, effective nutrition and behavioral interventions, and mechanisms for enhancing participation in local food initiatives. The project is a collaborative research effort across six universities. Each university has partnered with a community organization to work on a local urban agriculture intervention. The GVSU team, partnering with Baxter Community Center, will be presenting the impact of raised bed gardens on consumption of fruit and vegetables.

**Girl Scouts STEM College Readiness Experience**

**Faculty/Staff:** Laura Witucki*, Chemistry; Karen Gibson*, Physics; Brittany Dernberger*, Women’s Center  
**Students:** Cheyenne Marlin*, College Student Affairs Leadership; Maria Beelen*, Women in STEM  
**Community Partner:** Katherine Key*, Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore

Recognizing the lack of women majoring in STEM fields, this annual event was created as a collaboration between many campus entities and the Girl Scouts. Since 2012, fifty Girl Scouts have visited the Allendale campus all day on a Saturday in October to interact with GVSU students and faculty exploring STEM. Among other activities, the girls engage in hands-on-science activities in university labs and explore campus during a scavenger hunt. As a result of
this event, attendees report an increased interest in STEM fields and some participants have subsequently chosen to attend GVSU and pursue majors in STEM fields.

**Play, Discover, Invent, Create: Exceptional Student Collaborative**

**Faculty:** Katalin Zaszlavik*, Art and Design  
**Students:** Art Education Students in Art 332/Art 333 courses  
**Community Partners:** Heidi Holst, Frederick Meijer Garden and Sculpture Park; Amanda Cavazos, Ian Throop, Heather Beamers, Rockford Middle Schools; Rockford special needs students

This art education program prepares, implements, and advocates studio practice for special needs students for Region 1 Transition Services program at Rockford Middle Schools. The presentation introduces the development of the partnership, reviews the projects, and promotes future ideas to advocate the importance of collaborative learning through art.

**Kirkhof College of Nursing**

**Foot Care Clinics at the Other Way Ministries**

**Faculty:** Sue Harrington*, Joseph Borowsky*  
**Students:** 16 students/semester in NUR 317; Megan Kuckuk*, Jessica Payne*  
**Community Partners:** Kurt Reppart, The Other Way Ministries

Many neighbors in the southwest area of Grand Rapids experience tremendous challenges, particularly related to cold weather and transportation. Care to people’s feet is one of the services that second semester nursing students can provide to assist in alleviating some of these hardships. At the same time, students learn the arts of communication, assessment, and humility. Every fall and winter semester, students are the face of health care for many neighbors as they serve coffee and fruit, check blood pressures and blood sugars, and provide resources and foot massages.

**Padnos College of Engineering and Computing**

**Improving Patient Outcomes: A Multi-Pronged Partnership between the Professional Science Master’s Programs and Spectrum Health**

**Faculty:** Mark Staves, Biology; Bob Downer, Statistics; Tim Born*, Engineering & Computing  
**Students:** Kendall DuBois, Ruth Kurtycz, Christina McGraw, Alyssa Woodwyk  
**Community Partners:** Samer Al-Homsi, Sue Bivens, Inta Mednis, Raymond Neff, Sandra Rempel, Denise Roe, Katie Schurr, Spectrum Health

The Professional Science Master’s (PSM) programs have partnered with Spectrum Health to place students in clinical research, translational research, and community health internships. These students assist physicians in designing and analyzing clinical studies, conducting biomedical research to enhance new and existing clinical efforts, and helping Spectrum Health improve the health of people in West Michigan. This multi-pronged approach has strengthened the relationship between the PSM programs and Spectrum Health, provided practical experience that GVSU students can take into the workforce, and assisted Spectrum Health in their mission to improve the health of individuals and families.
Building Resiliency in At-Risk Students through Web-Based Training

**Faculty:** David Lange*, School of Computing and Information Systems  
**Students:** Megan Dykema, Matt Zinn, Mitch Stefans, and Jordan Frollo, CIS 463 Apex team  
**Community Partners:** Michael Daniels*, School-to-Career Progressions

School-to-Career Progressions, a nonprofit organization based in SE Grand Rapids, builds resiliency in at-risk students. In after-school and other intervention programs, middle school students complete an in-depth curriculum designed to develop their resiliency and character skills. To make the program more accessible, a team of GVSU Computing and Information Systems students developed an online training platform. As a result, students can securely login from home to continue the training and support. In addition, the online platform provides more accurate collection of data for teachers to evaluate.

Seidman College of Business

**Live Business Cases in the Classroom: Hudsonville Ice Cream**  
**Faculty:** Michael E. Ricco*, Management  
**Students:** Three sections of MGT 495, winter semester 2014  
**Community Partner:** Randy Stickney, Vice President of Hudsonville Ice Cream

An historic West Michigan firm, Hudsonville Ice Cream, and three sections of Dr. Ricco’s management capstone course (MGT 495) cooperated to create a “live case” opportunity. The objective was to develop a new strategic business plan for this local organization. Four student teams developed and presented their respective plan versions. Over 100 students interacted with the firm’s representative in class. This provided an enhanced learning opportunity to address current and “real world” challenges and opportunities, with input and feedback from the organization’s leadership.

University Libraries

**Sowing the Seeds of Success: Community Collaboration for College Readiness**  
**Faculty/Staff:** Gayle Schaub*; Lindy Scripps-Hoekstra*, University Libraries; Susan Carson*, College of Education; GVSU Office of Multicultural Affairs  
**Students:** Fatma Ayyad*, Faye McLemore*, Adrionna Penha*, Amy Rogers*, Erica Ruffner*, and Julia Stejskal*, College of Education  
**Community Partner:** Ben Oliver, Challenge Scholars, Grand Rapids Community Foundation

The challenge of developing information literate college students begins long before freshmen enter the university classroom. This poster presentation details the collaboration between a university, a community foundation, and a public school to offer middle school information literacy workshops to sixth-grade students. Having completed its first semester, the presenters will describe the process, offer a first-run assessment, and discuss potential changes and challenges going forward.