Grand Valley State University
Talking Points

• Liberal education is the best preparation for life in a fast-changing world. Grand Valley’s liberal education fosters critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and cultural understanding for the benefit of life-long learning and global citizenship. See Success Stories at gvsu.edu for examples.

• More than 4,500 students participated in internships, co-ops, practica, and student teaching, saving area organizations more than $18 million.

• Grand Valley’s freshman profile continues to improve. For Fall 2005, the average high school GPA was 3.53 and the average ACT score in 2004 was 23.6.

• Grand Valley was named one of America’s 100 Best College Buys by Institutional Research and Evaluation for the 10th year in a row.

• Grand Valley is committed to the environment. The new academic building, Lake Ontario Hall, was built to LEED (Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design) specifications and the Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center in Muskegon just received gold LEED certification.

• The bus service averaged nearly 7,000 riders a day in 2004, up 68% from the prior year, for an estimated annual savings of 230,000 gallons of gasoline and $2.4 million in car operating costs.

• Grand Valley has a strong study abroad program. In 2005, more than 400 students are taking advantage of the program and they are learning in nearly 40 different countries.

• Every state tax dollar invested in higher education returns $26 of economic activity. That means nearly $40 billion in business activity is generated every year by Michigan’s public universities.

• Financial aid doubled in the last five years to $120 million at Grand Valley. State aid comprises 30% of operating costs, while students shoulder the remaining 70%.

• Grand Valley’s students, faculty, and staff made a total estimated economic impact of more than $588 million in Kent, Ottawa, and Muskegon counties during fiscal year 2003-4.

• During their working years, a college graduate will earn $1 million more than a high school graduate.

See Quick Facts at gvsu.edu for more.
Established in 1960

Campuses in Allendale, GR, and Holland
Regional Centers in Muskegon and Traverse City

Acreage in Allendale 1,237
Acreage in Grand Rapids 37

Faculty 692
Support Staff 981

Number of students (Fall ’05) 22,565
  Undergrads 18,903
  Grads 3,662

Areas of Study 200+
  Undergrad programs 69
  Grad programs 25

Grads employed or seeking advanced degrees 90%

Average class size 27

Study abroad programs available to GVSU students 3,900

Student organizations 230

Tuition/semester Lower div. Upper div.
  In-state $3,110 $3,224
  Out-of-state $6,255 $6,466
  Room and board $3,180

Grand Valley has increased the amount of university-based student financial aid from $12 million to $17 million in the last two years.

Grand Valley’s general fund budget is $206 million, of which $145 million is tuition and $61 million is state appropriations.

Volumes in the library 667,000

Beds 5,291

Parking spaces (GR and Allendale) 12,071

Alumni 56,000

Endowment $46.3 million
Private Funding $27.1 million (FY2004 & 2005)