

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

MFA for Students Launches May 6 Change Enhances Security of Student Accounts

On Monday, May 6, 2024, we are going live with requiring multi-factor authentication (MFA) for ALL students to access university services and systems. Previously, multi-factor authentication has been an optional security measure for students. However, we are now requiring it to access university services and systems.

In addition to existing IT Services support, we have prepared comprehensive guides to assist students with this transition:

- [Multi-Factor Authentication for Students article](#)
- Students have the option of enabling MFA today by submitting [this form](#)
- Additional information about MFA is available on the [MFA for Students webpage](#)

We encourage you to remind students about these changes and direct them to available support resources. Your feedback on the implementation process and its impact on teaching and learning activities is invaluable. Email it@gvsu.edu with your observations and suggestions.



Innovation Insights: GVSU I+R Team and Legal Studies Showcase VR Technology Impacts in Learning Environments.

GVSU Innovation + Research (I+R) team members Jacob Fortman, Hunter Bridwell, and Ruth Yeboah, along with Legal Studies Assistant Professor Courtney Topić, were recently invited to present at the Stanford x HAIL Digital Learning Summit. This summit was dedicated to leaders, emerging leaders, subject matter experts, and generalists who work in digital education and academic innovation spaces at higher education institutions.

This collaborative presentation focused on how GVSU is bringing VR education to scale. By leveraging a call for proposals process, a scripting/storyboarding framework, a student technology development group, and a research/evaluation phase, they demonstrated how university instructors with diverse subject matter expertise can design and launch their own custom-created VR learning experiences.

Have an immersive learning idea? The Innovation + Research team would love to hear from you. Check out our [Innovation Call for Proposals](#) web page to start the conversation!

[Learn How VR Is Changing GVSU Learning Environments](#)

From Surviving to Thriving Blackboard Faculty Event Only a Few Spots Remain - Register by April 19, 2024!

In May 2024, the university will mark the first anniversary of its migration to Blackboard Ultra. To assist faculty with the transition to Ultra, we are pleased to announce a half-day event on May 13, 2024, from 10 am to 2 pm in SCB 1008 (Seidman College of Business). **The deadline to register for this event is April 19, 2024.**

This event will feature dedicated pedagogical topic tables for group discussions and opportunities for hands-on immediate application. Lunch will be provided, and faculty are encouraged to bring laptops. Attendees are welcome to come and go as their schedules allow.

Our goal is to provide GVSU faculty with the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Bb Ultra's latest features. We will also share a few time-saving Microsoft Outlook email tips.

[Register for From Surviving to Thriving Blackboard Event](#)



IT Exhibits Innovation at Reach Higher Presentations draw audience and spark imagination.

During the Reach Higher Showcase held on Friday, April 12, 2024, Information Technology presented a variety of innovative projects and initiatives. A key objective of each presentation was to provide an overview of how technology, innovation, and research are working to further the Reach Higher commitments of empowering educational experiences, fostering a lifetime of learning, and creating a culture of educational equity.

The Reach Higher Showcase is an inspiring and unique opportunity to share ideas, build collaborations, and drive change across the university. A summary of the IT Reach Higher Showcase presentations can be reviewed on the [GVSU IT 2024 Exhibits Support Reach Higher 2025 webpage](#).



IT Team Member Highlight Joseph Van Harken, Innovator in Residence

In his role as Innovator in Residence with GVSU's Innovation + Research team, Joseph Van Harken contributes to facilitating the discovery and exploration of emerging technologies and innovation solutions that lead to digital transformation across Information Technology at Grand Valley State University.

Joseph works with the team to leverage emerging technology-based, turnkey, and custom-created applications and solutions such as extended, virtual, augmented, extended reality (VR/AR/MR), and artificial intelligence (AI) to create a portfolio of immersive resources that are purposefully designed to further academic and research initiatives, facilitate quality digital education, enhance the learner experience, build the next generation of teaching and learning spaces, and support the university's mission and strategic priorities.

Starting at GVSU in August of 2023 as an adjunct professor in the VMA department, Joseph moved into his current role in November of 2023.

When asked what he finds most rewarding about his daily work, Joseph shared, "The most rewarding aspect of my work comes from discovery, problem-solving, and student engagement. I've always been curious and collaborative by nature. The opportunity to work within an ecosystem that prioritizes innovation and places high value on the next generation of thought leaders is rare and something I'm thankful for each day."

Joseph obtained a BA in Communications from the University of Michigan and an MS in Journalism from Columbia University. Outside of work, Joseph spends much of his time supporting his family and organizations he cares deeply about. This includes the 501c3 he founded to raise funds for Michigan Medicine C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in partnership with the Charles Woodson Clinical Research Fund. Additionally, he coaches youth lacrosse and plays soccer with an "old person league" (his words) to stay active.

Thank you, Joseph, for all you do to develop innovative approaches to learning and research at GVSU!

Need IT Assistance?

Phone: (616) 331-2101 Email: it@gvsu.edu Service Portal: services.gvsu.edu

