

AP Award Summaries 2015

A/P Achievement Award: Margo Dill

As a Program Coordinator at the Regional Math and Science Center, Margo is passionate about improving traditional education, empowering teachers, and engaging members of the community to become lifelong learners. Margo has served on university committees/groups including the AP Professional Development Committee, the CLAS Dean's Office Advisory Committee, and University Risk Management Task Force. Some of her programs and accomplishments include Science Olympiad, Science Technology & Engineering Preview Summer Day Camp for girls (2002-2012), Super Science Saturdays, and Grandparents, Grandkids, and Grand Valley camp starting in 2012. Margo has brought in \$463,850 in grants and donations to support the programs under her charge. Margo has a strong, positive work ethic which results in her going above and beyond the call of duty in executing programs assigned to her. Margo Hill has been the backbone of the many successes of the Regional Math and Science Center for a long time. She is an incredibly talented individual and she is very deserving of this recognition.

Commitment to Students Award: Alissa Lane

Serving as Outreach coordinator in the Padnos International Center, Alissa has taken her role and expanded it to include student engagement. She is committed to students having the best experience possible and remaining engaged. Alissa created the GLO Student Organization with a handful of dedicated students from other countries connect meaningful ways with students that have studied abroad. Students seek Alissa's opinions, advice and intelligence while finding her to be helpful, caring and committed to their success. Her willingness and capable attitude in many different aspects, professionally and personally, helping students whether only one student or GVSU's entire student body. She has founded the GVSU Study Abroad Alumni Reunion, which is an event that brings aforementioned groups of people together to rally donations for the Murray Study Abroad Scholarship. She is an inspirational and motivational mentor, at the most she is a genuine leader in helping students live up to their potential. Alissa Lane lives and breathes student engagement and student success.

Commitment to Diversity Award: Takeelia Garrett

Takeelia gives her time by volunteering and mentoring students through Positive Black Woman and the NIARA mentoring programs provided through GVSU's Office of Multicultural Affairs. She actively supports and mentors students through her knowledge of Housing and Residential Life, as well as her support for the Woman's Center, Sexual Assault Protocols and the Civil Rights and diversity missions being implemented across campus. She embodies professionalism while also being personable and compassionate about the students she comes in contact with as well as the many staff she works with across campus. Takeelia is the epitome and classic example of scholarship and commitment to education and learning. Takeelia works with disciplinary actions and at risk students daily and we see her compassion for these students and how she makes decisions that are fair but often encourage students to learn from their mistakes and continue to grow. She encourages students to be better at life not just the academic setting, she is also the person who is going to tell you the truth and hug you while doing so.

Commitment to Diversity Award: Mary Sharp

Mary Sharp of the Counseling Office, is most definitely a person on the front lines of diversity and inclusion here at GVSU. Quietly compassionate, she is always a voice for intersectionality and a complex understanding of the many things that make up our lives. As a person with both an American and Native American ancestry and a non-traditional path through her education - she is in an extraordinary position to provide empathetic support to our students in her courageous role – and given her own difficult journey, it is extraordinary that she finds in herself the well of generosity to do this for others. Many seek to train themselves for ally-hood, but Mary works on the front lines of students in crisis every day of her professional life in the silent confidentiality of her profession, work unseen, but vitally important- still she finds time to volunteer to train those of whom may have little of her lived experience so that we can in a small way join her in this importance.

Innovation Award: Luis Lozano

Upon joining the Financial Aid Office in July of 2012, one of Luis' responsibilities was the very broad task of "financial literacy". Luis has done a tremendous job of creating a financial literacy program at GVSU which includes his diligent work on creating and implementing the MoneySmart Lakers program that serves students in the area of financial literacy. A highlight of his also includes a RealitySmart game he created, which is an interactive game to help students understand how to budget and why it's important. Through the education of students on the issue of borrowing, debt repayment, spending practices etc., Luis' programs directly benefit the financial health of GV students. He collaborates with many campus partners to maximize any and all opportunities to get financial literacy information to our students. Luis has done a tremendous job of creating a financial literacy program at GVSU.

Outstanding Team Project Award: Biennial Conference on Chemical Education AP Organizational Team

The goal of this project was to provide a well-organized conference so that the attendees could concentrate on networking with colleagues as well as the professional development opportunities offered through the 4 plenaries, 778 symposia with over 1000 papers and 102 workshops. Survey results from the end of the conference stated attendees were energized by what they learned, remarked by the beauty of our campus, thought the campus apartments were great and in general commented that this was one of the best organized and executed BCCE conferences. The conference included 1580 attendees from 44 states, 21 countries on 6 continents, and 30 volunteers and staff. The AP's included in this team were either involved over the 6 years it took to plan and carry out this conference, or worked many extra hours during the conference to ensure its success.

Members of the team include: Sandi Bacon, Mary Ann Sheline, Michelle DeWitt, Aaron Perry, Karen Matchett, Diane Miller, Robert Smart, Mike Ashcraft, Sue Korzinek, Karen Denby, Fred Mooney, Kellie Pnacek Carter, Nancy Crittenden, and Brenda Lindberg.

Service to Community Award: Michelle DeWitt

Michelle has created activities, supported workshops, coordinated vendor trades shows, and developed outreach activities within the organizations she's involved with. Not only is there a strong chemistry component – but a community involvement as well. Michelle is an active member in the National Association of Science Materials Managers, American Chemical Society, and Biennial Conference of Chemical Education. She also volunteers much time and energy towards the Science Olympiad

Tournament held at GVSU each year, the GearUP program, the AP committee, other search committees, and is a Certified Tourism Ambassador for the City of Grand Rapids. Michelle continues to extend the presence of Grand Valley State University by tirelessly developing outreach. Her support, leadership, and community service truly defines what it means to be a Laker to the local and national community.