

# THE ROBERT AND MARY PEW FACULTY TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER

## *TIPS FOR TEACHING FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS AT GVSU*

### GVSU FACULTY SUGGESTIONS FOR HELPING FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS SUCCEED

- **Ways to clearly establish academic expectations**
  - Provide a rubric or detailed description of how the assignment will be graded
  - As assignment/exam deadlines approach, take time to review your expectations
- **Ways to demonstrate a willingness to discuss study skills and effective methods of studying**
  - Explicitly describe how reading academic material differs from reading recreational material
  - Provide examples of specific study techniques that have worked for previous students i.e. flash cards
- **Ways to be approachable**
  - Make use of the Class Photo Roster feature in Blackboard to learn names
  - Never underestimate the impact a casual conversation with a faculty member can have on a student's commitment to your course
- **Ways to use instructional techniques that promote deep learning**
  - At various points in class, stop and ask students to summarize the key points so far
  - Provide time for students to work together on a problem before you show them the solution