Equity Within the Classroom Conference

*University of Michigan*
*March 31 – April 1, 2014*
*http://www.equityconference.com/

We are pleased to announce the following conference, cosponsored by a consortium of Michigan institutions and organizations. Next year, the 25th annual conference will be hosted by Grand Valley State University. This conversation around access, engagement and achievement is an important one for our state, our institution, and our students.

We will be sponsoring 10 faculty to attend the conference. Registration costs will be covered and $100 towards travel/hotel will be awarded. Please email us at ftlc@gvsu.edu to reserve your spot and learn more about the details of sponsorship.

The Equity Within the Classroom Conference is a statewide event hosted annually as a collaborative effort between the State of Michigan’s King Chavez Parks (KCP) Initiative and Michigan colleges and universities. The Equity Conference provides an annual forum for higher education and K-12 constituencies to come together to share best practices, data and research findings and strategies developed by KCP Initiative programs designed to improve the educational experiences and/or outcomes for academically and economically disadvantaged students.

The 2014 conference theme is: *Re-envisioning the Pipeline: Access,*
visiting a class, interviewing students, and reporting back to the instructor. Conducted during the 4th to 9th week of the semester, the MIT takes 30 minutes of class time wherein a consultant guides a three-step feedback process. 

Suggested Request Deadline, Winter 2014: Monday, February 10
MIT Period, Winter 2014: January 27 - March 14
Please visit the MIT website for additional details and a link to an online request form.

It's not too late to join a Mentoring Group
Mentoring groups for first year faculty as well as groups for second and third year faculty are continuing! We still have room for first year faculty on
Tuesdays, 9-10 in DeVos
Tuesdays, 3-4 in DeVos
Wednesday’s 1-2, Allendale
Wednesday 4-5, Allendale
Thursday 11-12:30, Allendale
Thursday 3-4, Allendale
Friday’s 2:30-3:30, DeVos

Anyone interested in joining a group should contact Patty Stow Bolea at boleap@gvsu.edu

Faculty Awards Convocation
The Annual Faculty Awards Convocation will be held Thursday, February 6th in the Devos Center, Loosemore Auditorium at 4 pm. A reception will follow.

Competitive Grants

**Engagement and Achievement.** Focus areas include:

- Strategies to foster deep and meaningful collaboration and/or partnerships between various communities both internal and external to higher education
- Exemplary collaborative programs or partnerships with institutions of higher education, K-12 schools, parents and/or community agencies that have increased the enrollment, retention and/or graduation of students from academically and economically disadvantaged populations
- Action-oriented or applied research and assessment on achieving parity in enrollment, retention, and graduation for academically and economically disadvantaged students in K-12 and higher education
- Best practices and/or evidence-based models or frameworks that focus on improving K-12 and/or higher education to increase the access and success of underrepresented students

**Theory to Practice: Using Ecology Theory in Learning and Student Development**

Kristen Renn, Michigan State University
Winter 2014 Academic Advising Forum
Thursday, January 30, 2 – 4pm
Grand River Room, 2250 Kirkhof Center
Register for this event online at [http://www.gvsu.edu/seminar/](http://www.gvsu.edu/seminar/).

Dr. Kristen Renn is professor of Higher, Adult, & Lifelong Education (HALE) in the Department of Educational Administration at Michigan State University. Since August 2013, she is also Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Director for Student Success Initiatives, providing leadership for MSU’s Neighborhood Engagement Center initiative. She is a faculty member in the Student Affairs Administration MA program and teaches courses related to student development, diversity and equity, and higher education foundations in the HALE PhD program and HALE MA program. Prior to coming to MSU, she was assistant professor of higher education and qualitative research at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, a policy analyst for the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, and, for ten years, a dean in the Office of Student Life at Brown University. A Mount Holyoke College alumna, she received her PhD in Higher Education from Boston College.

Dr. Renn’s research interests include identity and identity development in higher education; mixed race college students; women in higher education in the US and global contexts; new professionals in student affairs; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues in higher education. She received an MSU College of Education Excellence in Teaching Award. A grant from the Spencer Foundation supported her international study of women’s
Due February 1
FTLC offers an outstanding array of grants for faculty to engage in various teaching-related activities.

Welcome Barb Blankemeier
We are joined by a new FTLC Assistant: Barb Blankemeier. She will manage the department and grants budgets and maintain databases related to center activities, grants, and teaching awards. Barb will assist the Associate Director in guiding faculty through the grant application and reimbursement processes.

Save the date!
On Wednesday March 19, 2014, Grand Valley will host its 13th annual Teaching & Learning with Technology Symposium.

University Undergraduate Mentoring Guidelines Announcement
Involvement in research or creative activity can be among the most significant experiences in an undergraduate student’s academic career. Collaboration between mentor and student is central to the success of this endeavor. To provide guidance to those who are, or would like to be, involved with mentoring, the Undergraduate Research Council and the Faculty Teaching and Learning Center provide the following guidelines to help students and faculty understand the expectations of effective mentoring at GVSU. Click here to read the guidelines.

Writing Center Initiatives
The Fred Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors offers a variety of writing support for GVSU faculty. If you are working on an academic article, grant, or proposal, we staff a professional consultant who will provide feedback on drafts and meet with you to discuss revisions. Also, at the Allendale and Downtown campuses, the writing center hosts Faculty Fridays, where faculty are given a quiet location and resources to work on their own projects. Additionally, there are week-long writing retreats in the summer (April 28-May 2 & August 4-8) where faculty can make significant progress over 5 days. For additional information on support for faculty or students or to sign up for a writing retreat, please contact the writing center (331-2922).

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