

2027 Chuck Peterson Memorial Film & Video Fellowship Application

The [Chuck Peterson Memorial Film & Video Fellowship](#) is intended to assist upper-level students in the Film and Video Production program at GVSU who are working on creative projects that support their community. Each recipient will be awarded \$1500.

This year's recipients will work with a pre-determined non-profit organization to create a video to support their mission.

Details:

- 2 Junior or Senior level students apply for the Fellowship together.
- The selected students will work as a team to produce the video during the winter semester.
- The pair will have a mentor throughout the process provided by staff from Public Access Television Station [GRTV](#).
- The team will work with the selected non profit organization to create a video to meet their needs.
- Students will be notified about the selection process before the end of the fall semester.
- The selected students will work as an independent team throughout the winter semester.
- The finalized videos will be delivered to the client no later than April 23, 2026.

To apply:

Complete the application form by **midnight on Nov 1, 2026**.

Email all materials to Zacks@gvsu.edu.

Include in the subject line: Peterson Application for (your name)

Applicants may be contacted for a virtual interview.

Application form:

- Create a document (pdf.) with this information.
- Email the application materials to Zacks@gvsu.edu
- Questions and Materials:
 - Students should include their full name, email, and G # on the application.
 - The heart of the Peterson Fellowship is to support students on creative projects that support their community. In one paragraph, describe what this means to you.
 - Describe an experience of receiving and incorporating constructive criticism into your work (either writing or video).
 - Describe how you stay organized and meet deadlines and communicate in a timely fashion.
 - Describe the strengths each student brings to this production team.

- Each student should include a link to previous video work that can serve as a portfolio that demonstrates the quality of the student's previous work. Describe your role in creating this work.
- List the relevant courses that each student has taken. In particular, are you in, or have you taken the Documentary courses or Producing for Clients.
- Attach a resume for each student.

Fellowship Specifications:

Recipients of this fellowship should be currently enrolled at Grand Valley State University (GVSU). They must be an undergraduate enrolled as a student with a declared major in Film and Video Production and shall be making satisfactory academic progress according to the norms established by the University.

The fellowship will support upper-level students pursuing creative film/video work for the nonprofit sector or their community. The work should be completed within the semesters of receipt of the fellowship. A summary of the activity and/or works will be posted to the GVSU Film and Video website.

Background:

This fellowship was established by his family in memory and celebration of Charles "Chuck" W. Peterson '83--filmmaker, husband, father, friend, and practical joker--whose passion for community and helping others inspired and impacted Grand Rapids' nonprofit and film communities. Chuck earned an Arts and Media degree from the William James College at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) in 1983. After a brief start as an animator, he found his footing in a job he loved for 20 years as the station Manager/Affiliate Director for GRTV and the Grand Rapids Community Media Center (GRCMC), where he was a gifted teacher, mentor, and advocate. Chuck was a fierce free-speech advocate, as well as a mentor for artists and dreamers who found themselves drawn to that creative space. In Chuck's freelance career, he specialized as a media producer for nonprofit organizations, taking on projects that served the common good. He created films for the Children's Assessment Center, Healthy Homes Coalition, Kids' Food Basket, Disability Advocates of Kent County, and the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. He served one year as a teaching artist at the West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology (WMCAT). Chuck was a co-founder of the West Michigan Film Video Alliance, and he served the Michigan film/video community wherever possible, including in the development of youth media programs and film competitions.