

Gayle R. Davis Center for Women and Gender Equity

Hello and welcome everyone. My name is Aruna, and I am a staff member in the Graduate School at Grand Valley State University. At Grand Valley, we do our very best to ensure that our graduate students have as many resources available to them as possible to help them succeed within their programs. GVSU encourages the campus to embrace a social justice and intersectional identity approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion work. Therefore, the University has established four social justice centers, the Gayle R. Davis Center for Women and Gender Equity, the Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and the Peter Secchia Military and Veteran Resources Center. Today we will be delving more into the Gayle R. Davis Center for Women and Gender Equity (CWGE).

The Gayle R. Davis Center for Women and Gender Equity's mission is to create meaningful learning about gender and to advocate for gender justice through the education, engagement, and empowerment of students at Grand Valley State University. The Center is committed to creating environments in which any individual or group feels welcomed, respected, supported, and valued while embracing the complexities of our multiple and intersecting identities. As such, the Center offers the most comprehensive and progressive programs, services, and initiatives. You can visit the Center at 1201 Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus.

The main annual programs CWGE provides are NIARA, Femme Film Friday, Talk Back Tuesday, Women's History Month events, Replenish Basic Needs Center, Violence Prevention Education, Victim Advocate Campus Resource, Victim Prevention Education, and Fostering Laker Success.

The NIARA program is designed to increase a sense of community and belonging, centering the experiences of those that identify as Women of Color (WOC). The Center creates an opportunity for Women of Color to be seen and excel academically, socially, and culturally.

Femme Film Friday is a monthly showing of a film centered around themes of feminism, gender, intersectional experiences, socioeconomic status, and gender justice. While the goal of these showings is to focus on how various topics and genres interact with gender, what CWGE is most excited about is fostering an environment where conversation can be held in a relaxed and comfortable setting.

The format of Talk Back Tuesdays varies, but typically speakers share information related to their area of expertise followed by Q&A from attendees. It is our hope that students will leave feeling motivated to transform the world in which we live or will further research or investigate the topics discussed.

Another program of CWGE is the Replenish Basic Needs Center which provides perishable and nonperishable food items, clothing, personal care items, household items, infant/child items, and school supplies. It also assists with intercampus and community referrals related to housing, financial support, physical and mental health services, and employment. Replenish also oversees

Laker Meal Share Dining program, Emergency dining cards, and University Laptop Loan program (short term and semester loans). The center is located at all three campuses of GVSU. Replenish Center is at KC 073 at Kirkhoff Center at Allendale. The other two are at Devos Center building A, inside the Steelcase Library, and CHS 347 at Cook Devos Center for Health Science.

The Center also has support services for victims/survivors of gender-based violence. The Center offers programs throughout the year and takes workshop requests for pre-existing programs or for a customized workshop. One of the services is the Victim Advocate Campus Resources. The role of the Victim Advocate is to provide nonjudgmental, confidential support to student survivors of gender-based violence which plays a critical role in the healing process of a victim/survivor. Talking with the Victim Advocate is confidential and does not start a formal misconduct or criminal process, unless you want to access those options. The Victim Advocate is trained to help students navigate options and services on campus and in the community. GVSU offers victim advocacy to all members of the University. For support services, please call (616)331-2748 or visit www.gvsu.edu/cwge/. You can also reach out to them via their email, cwge@gvsu.edu.

Another important service of the Center is Violence Prevention Education. Violence prevention education comes in many forms and can cover an array of different topics. The Center focuses on issues of gender-based violence and uses an anti-oppression lens to explore the different ways we can collectively work together to form a compassionate community. It aims to create spaces that are affirming and supportive for victims/survivors and advocates for healing, restorative practices, and growth.

The Gayle R. Davis Center for Women and Gender Equity works to ensure that students, faculty, and staff can find a deep sense of belonging and community on campus. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.