

# GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

## Division of Inclusion & Equity | Fall 2017



### Dear Laker Community:

While the national climate is tense and we continue to witness incidents of hate, bigotry, and violence across the country, Grand Valley will continue to [affirm our values for inclusion and equity](#). But more than just issuing statements, we seek to be a campus focused on actively addressing inequities and creating a community where civil dialogue and respect, even when we disagree, are commonplace and where safety and well-being are top priorities. I remain confident that Grand Valley is well positioned to address any challenge that may be ahead of us.

Nearly ten years ago, President Haas made an intentional decision to institutionalize our community values through the creation of the Division of Inclusion and Equity. While systemic inequities are not always under the university's direct control, Grand Valley has worked concerted to be the best place for the success of **all** students. We are also mission-driven in our pursuits to transform society through our engagement with the next generation of leaders.

These efforts are foundational to who we are as a community and a cornerstone of our curriculum. As an institution where [people of all identities come together to live, learn, and work](#), we recognize the responsibility we have to [speak up](#) against attempts to divide people based on difference. We remain committed to creating an environment where everyone can be their full authentic selves, and where your Laker Effect-- our collective impact on the campus, West Michigan, the state, and beyond-- can be fully realized by every single member of our community.

We have set a high bar for our work to advance inclusion and equity-- that we will be the national model in higher education. My hope, in our witnessing behaviors that are contradictory to our values in the news or on our social media feeds, is that the stark reality of what we see

will open the eyes and hearts of those who may resist acknowledging the impact of bigotry, and motivate those of us committed to eliminating inequities to redouble our efforts. I hope you will all join me, and the rest of the Grand Valley community, in continuing to move us toward this goal.

Very Sincerely,

Jesse M. Bernal, Ph.D.

Vice President for Inclusion and Equity

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## Involvement Opportunities

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## Inclusion at Grand Valley

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### Family Leave Taskforce

In response to findings in the [2015 myGVSU Campus Climate Survey](#), the [Women's Commission](#) is developing recommendations for university consideration related to family leave policies. To get involved or share a family leave story, email [wcommission@gvsu.edu](mailto:wcommission@gvsu.edu).

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# Teach-In: Power, Privilege, and Difficult Dialogues

The fifth annual [Teach-In](#) for students, faculty, and staff will take place on Thursday, November 9 2017 in the Russel H. Kirkhof Center (Allendale Campus) and Richard M. DeVos Center (Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus). The event is hosted by University Academic Senate and Student Senate.

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## Inclusion and Equity Advisory Council Nominations

Faculty & Staff Affinity Groups

Social Justice Education Training

What Transpires Now: Transgender History and the Future We Need

Title IX Responsible Employee Training Resources

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## Division Updates and New Resources

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### New Inclusion and Equity Staff

**Adriana Almanza:** Assistant Director- Office of Multicultural Affairs, **Tonisha Begay:** Program Assistant- Office of Multicultural Affairs, **Jessica Campbell:** Living Skills Coach- Center for Women and Gender Equity, **Elizabeth Doyle:** Communications and Special Projects Manager- Office of the Vice President, **Graduate Assistants:** Center for Women and Gender Equity- **Krystal Diel, Kristen Sarniak,** Disability Support Resources- **Ellie Brigger, Rebekah Shippy,** Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center- **Chelsea Ortiz,** Office of Multicultural Affairs- **Brittany Underwood,** Pathways to College Office- **Terrance Shorter, Jr.,** Equity, Planning, and Compliance- **Pavan Komma**

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### New Faculty Associates

**Wendy Burns-Ardolino,** Professor of Liberal Studies, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies; **C.J. Mehall,** Affiliate Faculty of Teaching and Learning, College of Education; and **Lisa Perhamus,** Associate Professor of Educational Foundations, College of Education serve as [Faculty Associates](#)

in the Division of Inclusion and Equity. Faculty Associates provide leadership in a variety of social justice based initiatives for faculty university-wide during their two-year term.

[Inclusive Hiring Toolkit Now Available](#)

[Campus Expressive Activities](#)

[Climate Action Team Recommendations](#)

[Faculty Access Portal for Disability Support](#)

[Religious Inclusion Resources](#)

[Update on the Impact of Interim Q&A Related to Title IX](#)

# Featured Stories

## Pathways to College Office Opens

The new Pathways to College Office will coordinate and provide pre-college programming and outreach to prepare and inspire students from underrepresented backgrounds to attend GVSU. The inaugural director, Bobby J. Springer, former associate director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, will provide leadership in shaping this new unit. Linda Ray, former office coordinator of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, will now provide direct support to the Pathways to College Office.





**GVSU earns \$1.3 million federal grant to support area veterans**

[Read](#)



## Campus Links program earns national attention

Read



## LGBT Resource Center to celebrate 10-year anniversary

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Native American celebration features traditions, guest speakers

GVSU celebrates Hispanic heritage



Orientations held for students of color



Inaugural Native American youth camp held on campus



New event teaches young girls about social justice

1 Campus Drive  
4035 James H. Zumberge Hall  
Allendale, MI 49401

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