Student Input Impacts Information Technology Initiative

IT Moves Forward with the Development of University Portal

During the creation of Information Technology's Digital Transformation Strategy, it became evident that students, faculty, staff, and alumni regularly spend time in several different systems to perform simple tasks and receive important campus communications and would greatly benefit from one platform.

Additionally, IT heard from the student community through surveying and feedback that having one platform for connecting to resources and technology will increase access to important information throughout the university. As a result of all of this input, IT has been evaluating university portal vendors in order to meet this need.
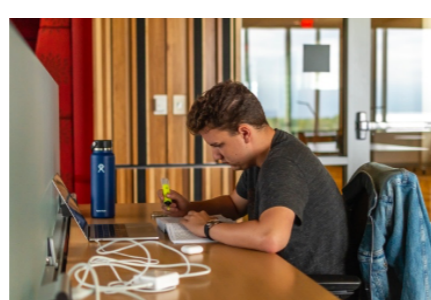
[University Portal to Simplify Access to Information]

Innovation Insights: X>STUDIO and Project Grand Path Envision Future of Education

Housed within the John G. Russell Leadership building, the IT Innovation and Research X>STUDIO is a coworking space dedicated to the design and development of transformational teaching and learning experiences. As part of this mission, the X>STUDIO is currently facilitating Project Grand Path, a presidential initiative focused on experiential, student-led innovation with immersive technology. With Project Grand Path kicking off in Winter 2023, the team of students, faculty, and staff are now in full swing this summer developing a financial literacy application and a media visualization that explores what the future of education will look like.

[More on X>Studio and Project Grand Path]

Relax this summer, but don't relax on your cyber security!

As the warmer months approach, many people take advantage of the nice weather by working from home. As nice as it is to be able to work at home and enjoy the sun, the National Security Agency (NSA) is urging people to be mindful of the security on their home networks. In anticipation of the wave of "work from home" transitions to come, the NSA has released an article on the "Best Practices for Securing Your Home Network".

[How to Safely and Securely Work from Home This Summer]

eLearning Technologies to Present on Blackboard Ultra Best Practices

eLearning's Glenna Decker and David Nivala will present "The Instructor Perspective: Pedagogical Best Practices in Learn Ultra" as part of Anthology's Ambassador panel on June 27 at 11 a.m. EDT. Anthology is the university's implementation partner for Blackboard Learn Ultra. Glenna and David will lead a one-hour live virtual panel discussion and Q&A session. In this session, they will explain how Learn Ultra can be utilized to increase engagement, create efficiency, track and maximize student progress, and much more. Registration is free and accessible through the link below.

[Register for Pedagogical Best Practices in Learn Ultra]

IT Team Member Highlight

Eric Bellmore, Director of Academic Research Computing

As Director of Academic Research Computing for GVSU, Eric Bellmore is responsible for empowering faculty and students with the best solutions for their curricular and research computing needs. Having joined the university just seven months ago, he summarizes his role as working with amazing people and finding solutions to complex problems.

When asked what he finds most enjoyable about his work at GVSU, Eric shared "I'm a higher ed lifer. I've been saying the same thing for over 25 years: 'My job is simple; I use technology to make the college experience better for the next incoming freshman than it was for the last graduating senior.' I love being able to impact people's educational and life journeys while doing work I enjoy because my college education also changed the trajectory of my life."

Eric earned both his BS and MSA from Central Michigan University. He is also pursuing a Ph.D. through the Educational Leadership program at CMU. Eric also holds cybersecurity certificates specific to penetration testing, defensive coding, and digital forensics.

As fast-paced as Eric's work life is, so is his personal life. He is a single dad to a remarkable woman with disabilities who keeps him very busy. Additionally, Eric is an avid hunter, fisherman, runner, golfer, and, as he says, a "terrible hockey player who will do anything for ice time." If you run into Eric, ask him about his next adventure - running his 9th Ragnar Relay later this month.

Need IT Assistance?

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