

## What is the Making Waves Initiative (MWI)?

Students, faculty, and staff, across GVSU, in collaboration with community partners, will explore and investigate the topic of water in its many facets during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years. Water is a particularly salient concept because of Michigan's geographic setting surrounded by the Great Lakes, as well as the fact that the Grand River flows through Grand Valley's campuses. Michigan thrives as a site of tourism with our Great Lakes shoreline and numerous inland lakes. This reputation as a water wonderland suffers from safety and public health concerns because of contaminants in our water sources. GVSU has a depth of faculty expertise on the topic of water, and we are externally recognized for our sustainability efforts that engage the entire campus community. Our geographic context and expertise is an opportunity to engage students, our various campuses, and the West Michigan community in a deep dive into the topic of water. Our students will be the next generation to take on the issues that challenge society today. The Making Waves Initiative will empower students to thoughtfully explore how water is critical to humanity.

This two-year exploration of water serves as a pilot program, each year or two, we hope to explore a different theme in-depth. This practice has the potential to become a hallmark of who we are: a leading institution in integrating theory with practice to prepare students for the challenges of our world. The initiative will be coordinated by ten teams of students, faculty, and staff.



Planning and Implementation Teams

The broad goals of the initiative are to provide:

- A common theme for students, faculty, and community partners to rally behind.
- Student experiences and education that will set GVSU apart from other peer institutions and attract new students.
- Collaboration opportunities for students, staff, and faculty that cross disciplinary and geographic boundaries.
- Resources, experiences, and experts that enhance curricular and cocurricular activities
- Opportunities for students to make connections across disciplines, locally, and globally to reinforce the importance of a liberal education in the 21st century.
- Community engagement through partnerships and collaborations.
- Recognition and marketing opportunities to recruit and retain students.
- Resources and activities to bring the campus community together.

You can learn more at <http://www.gvsu.edu/makingwaves>.  
If you have questions or suggestions please e-mail us at [mwi@gvsu.edu](mailto:mwi@gvsu.edu)