

# 2012 annual report

## Women's Commission Annual Report, 2011-2012

The 2011-12 academic year, marked another growth opportunity for the commission. We had the addition of one new member on our team and as we go into the 2012-2013 academic year we will have a new team going forward.

The Women's Commission leadership team draws from the ranks of administrative/professional and clerical/office/technical staff.

### **They are**

Chaunté Rodgers, Human Resources  
Takeelia Garrett-Lynn, Housing and Residence Life  
Liz Smith, Padnos International Center  
Theresa Rowland, Women's Center

The commission, which met biweekly beginning in August, successfully brought stability and succession for the commission.

The commission continued a strong and positive relationship with the Women's Center. The Center offered administrative support for programs and was a collaborative partner of programs such as HerStory and Fireside Chats.

### **Activities:**

In September, the commission held our Annual Welcome. More than 100 people attended the evening reception and learned about various women's groups on campus and the history of the Women's Commission. We were able to introduce the campus to Keri Becker, Athletics newest female Associate Director.

The commission worked with the Women's Center to continue co-sponsoring the "HerStory" series in the fall and winter semester. The following women shared their personal journeys and their path to leadership roles: Danielle DeMuth, and Natalia Gomez, Sylvia Mupepi and Maureen Wolverton.

The commission also continued to partner with the Women's Center and Positive Black Women to host Fireside Chats. We hosted four chats in the academic year which were held in the Women's Center and facilitated by representatives from the Women's Center and different women from the GVSU campus. The topics included, Integrating the Inner and Outer: A holistic Vision, Privilege: What it is, How it Manifests, and How to use it to Create Change, Beyond Privilege: How to Articulate the Costs of Inequality to the 'advantaged' and Gender: Privilege, Power, and Oppression.

In April, the commission worked with the Women's Center, Positive Black Women, and Women and Gender Studies to sponsor the Celebrating Women Awards ceremony. More than 100 people attended the event. Awards were presented to students and faculty.

Seeing the need to recognize members of the GVSU community who may not be ordinarily nominated or recognized, the Commission created the Unsung Hero Award, to honor the contributions of those who improve the GVSU community who may not be well known by the general public for the outstanding efforts they make.

The first recipient of this award was Michelle Duram a COT in the History Department. The commission presented the Maxine Swanson award to Harriet Singleton, Senior Counselor of the Counseling Center. The Women's Impact Award was given to both, Pat Smith, Deputy University Counsel; and Dr. Debra Ross, Professor in the School of Criminal Justice.

This year the Commission also took the time to congratulate and honor Dr. Cynthia Mader for founding the Women's Commission and the initiatives that grew from the work she did on the Commission more than a decade ago. She was awarded with the Lifetime Achievement Award which had previously only been given to Mary Seeger.

The commission was also involved in a number of other activities across campus, including:

- Co-Sponsor of the Month of the Young Child
- Provided transportation to the Michigan ACE Conference.
- Campus Career Connections – a program with the Career Coach to connect

### **Issues researched:**

The commission continues its rich history in research and advocating on behalf of women on campus. This past year we have had great success with our sub-committee projects, including:

- Early Care and Education, coordinated by Sharalle Arnold

The subcommittee has conducted benchmarking research and is working collaboratively with the Children's Enrichment Center Advisory Board to determine next steps.