



2013-2014 Annual Report

Women's Commission Committee Members:

- **Dauvan Mulally**, Affiliate Professor in Department of Writing, Co-Chair
- **Theresa Rowland**, Violence Against Women Grant Coordinator, Co-Chair
- **Keri Becker**, Associate Athletic Director, Leadership Team Member
- **Krashawn McElveen**, Alumni Relations Office Coordinator, Leadership Team Member

Mission: The mission of Grand Valley State University's (GVSU) Women's Commission, formed in 1996, is to advocate for all women on campus by acting on their issues and by promoting equity and social justice, ever conscious of the intersection of race, class, gender, and orientation.

Brief History and Overview: In 2013, The Women's Commission marked its 18th year of advocating for all women on GVSU's campus. The Commission was formed in 1996 after a 1994 climate study suggested discontent from many of the women faculty and staff on campus. The study led to subsequent changes in salary structure. The Women's Commission has a strong and productive history at the institution and has worked on such projects as:

- The commission played a vital role in the hiring the Vice President for Planning and Equity, **Pat Oldt**, in 2000
- In 1999 a task force was formed to examine the viability of creating a women's center on campus. The Women's Center opened in 2001 and has been a collaborative partner of the Women's Commission since its inception.
- In 2002 the Commission worked with the Women's Center in co-sponsoring the Her Story series which highlights women in leadership positions within the University. Since this time, 32 women leaders from across the university have been highlighted.
- In 2005 the Commission partnered with Positive Black Women and the Women's Center to host monthly Fireside Chats.
- In 2009 the Commission celebrated the success of two of its subcommittee initiatives: the creation of flexible scheduling options and the creation of the career coaching position.
- The Commission partnered with Human Resources and the AP Development Committee to open the Excellence Series to all employee groups on campus

Role of the Leadership Team: The Leadership Team is responsible for working with others in the university community who care about gender equity by influencing and developing programs and policies that improve the quality of life for women on campus. These are volunteer positions that receive administrative support from the GVSU Women's Center.

2013-2014 Events

The Women's Commission hosted a range of events, which are highlighted in more detail below:

Fall Welcome (September 19, 2013): The reception allowed the Women's Commission to recognize the past successes of the group and look toward the future. The luncheon featured speaker **Marlene Kowalski-Braun**, Assistant Vice Provost for Student Affairs.

Mentoring Reception (November 7, 2013): The second annual mentoring reception featured panelists **Michelle Burke, Maria Cimitile, Elaine Collins, Claudia Bajema, and Jean Nagelkerk.**

Celebrating Women Awards (March 27, 2014): Each year the Women's Commission ends the year with the Celebrating Women Awards ceremony. The event is co-sponsored by Positive Black Women, the Women's Center and Women and Gender Studies and focuses on recognizing the outstanding impact faculty, staff and students are making across campus and in their communities that promote positive social change.

Award Winners:

Women's Impact Award – **Diane Rayor** – Classics

Unsung Hero Award – **Amy Campbell** – Campus Recreation

Unsung Hero Award – **Doriana Gould** - Modern Languages & Literatures

Maxine Swanson Award – **Connie Dang** – Office of Multicultural Affairs

Her Story: The Her Story series, which we partner with the Women's Center on, offers an opportunity for the GVSU community to listen to the authentic stories of women in leadership positions and highlight the experiences that motivated them to success. Below are the speakers from the 2013-2014 series:

- **Michelle Burke**, Director of Student Life, November 21
- **Koleta Moore**, Assistant Director of Graduate Business Programs, January 23
- **JoAnn Wassenaar**, Associate Director of Women's Center, March 11

2012-2013 Collaborations

The Women's Commission collaborated with a variety of departments and organizations on GVSU's campus during the academic year.

Children’s Enrichment Center (CEC): Dauvan Mulally and Krashawn McElveen met with Sharalle Arnold from the GVSU Children’s Center to learn about the facility and how the organizations could work together.

We aided in the promotion of the CEC’s 40th birthday, Month of the Child initiative, and art show. The Commission used artwork from the children as centerpieces for the Celebrating Women Awards Ceremony. The Women’s Commission continues to collaborate with the CEC to monitor early care and educational best practices with peer institutions to better understand how to improve current GVSU facility programs for students, faculty, staff and community.

Family Support Initiative: The Women’s Commission has partnered with the Children’s Enrichment Center, Dean of Students, Financial Aid, Housing/Residence Life, Inclusion and Equity, and Women’s Center to support the needs of current GVSU student families by providing advocacy and resources vital to student parent college completion. Krashawn McElveen continues to serve as a board representative on this committee.

MI-ACE: The Women’s Commission became more involved with the MI-ACE Network, an organization committed to identifying, developing the leadership of, advancing, and supporting the retention of women in higher education throughout the state.

This year we implemented MI-ACE registration sponsorships for the Women of Color collaborative and annual conference. Seven faculty/staff from GVSU received the sponsorships. The Commission collaborated with the Women’s Center and Padnos College of Engineering and Computing to provide transportation for conference participants to Lansing, MI.

Publicity Plan: Dauvan Mulally collaborated with Michelle Coffill to develop a communications plan for the Women’s Commission. As a result, the Commission was better able to publicize their events and increase attendance at their various functions. We will continue to work closely with News and Information Services going forward.

Budget Recap 2012-2013

11-12 Carry Over	\$1709.05
12-13 Budget	\$4000.00
Total Working Budget	\$5709.05
Programs	
Mentoring Reception	\$409.40
Fall Welcome	\$1289.56
Spring Award Ceremony	\$1337.12
Sponsorships	
Lilly Ledbetter	\$34.22

Her Story	\$300.00
Fireside Chats	\$90.00
MI-ACE Conference	\$1410.22
Miscellaneous Meeting Expenses	\$395.19
Total Expenses	\$5265.71
Carry-over to 13-14	\$443.34

Budget Request 2013-2014

<u>Continuing Programs</u>	
Mentoring Reception	\$500.00
Fall Welcome	\$1400.00
Spring Award Ceremony	\$1400.00
<u>Sponsorships</u>	\$3000.00
Her Story	
Fireside Chats	
MI-ACE Conference	
Celebration of Women in Sport	
Women's Center Indulge	
Other Requests	
<u>New Programs</u>	
Women's Leadership Initiative	\$1000.00
Total Request	\$7300.00

*This budget request reflects an ongoing commitment to the well established Fall Welcome reception and Celebrating Women Awards. Further, all four of the Her Story's presentations resulted in standing room only crowds. New initiatives for 2012-2013, such as the Mentoring Reception and MI-ACE Conference Sponsorship are in line with the mission of the Women's Commission to provide a support system for all women. These are two initiatives that will have a direct impact on the retention of women in our GVSU leadership pipeline and are the basis for our efforts as we move into the 2013-2014 academic year.

2013-2014 Goals

Leadership Theme: The Women's Commission is going with a leadership theme this year. As a component of the Commission's Mentoring initiative, we are looking to create a cohort program (Women's Leadership Initiative) aimed at GVSU female faculty/staff eager to take their next steps in becoming high impact University leaders. Tools, resources, and discussion within a safe environment will provide a platform for women to advance and enrich their leadership skills, and to sponsor the evolution of empowering women as leaders throughout the University.

Annual Events: The Women's Commission will continue to host its yearly Fall Welcome on September 19, 2013 and the Celebrating Women Awards on March 27, 2014.

Her Story: The Women's Commission will resume full coordination of the Her Story program from booking presenters, scheduling facility space and videotaping, and promotion. A flyer with those dates will be distributed in late August/early September.

Positive Black Women (PBW): The Women's Commission plans to collaborate more with PBW and perhaps hold a joint meeting this year. **Krashawn McElveen** is now vice-president of the organization and we will work with her to cultivate future opportunities for cooperation.

Mentoring Reception: The Women's Commission will host its second annual mentoring reception on November 7, 2013 using a similar format to last year's event.

MI-ACE: The Women's Commission plans to offer sponsorships for the 2014 MI-ACE Conference and collaborate more with GVSU's ACE representatives.

Worklife Connections: The Women's Commission plans to continue to work with GVSU's Worklife Connections program on the lactation policy, maternity leave policy, and other projects as they arise.

Ongoing Collaboration: The Women's Commission will continue to look for ways and events to collaborate with other offices and organizations across GVSU's campus.