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Grand Valley State University Women's Commission 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.

2014-2015 Women's Commission Leadership Team

Dauvan Mulally, Affiliate Professor in Department of Writing, Co-Chair

Kristen Evans, Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life, Co-Chair

Keri Becker, Associate Athletic Director, Leadership Team Member

Krashawn McElveen, Alumni Relations Office Coordinator, Leadership Team Member

Suzy Herman, Living Center Director, Leadership Team

Ashley Schulte, Living Center Director, Leadership Team

2014-2015 Events

Annual Fall Welcome

The 17th annual fall welcome, held on September 18, allowed the Women's Commission to recognize the past successes of the group and look toward the future. The luncheon, attended by 115 faculty and staff members, featured a keynote address by **Jessica Jennrich**, Women's Center Director, who spoke to an advocacy style that resembles gently falling snowflakes rather than a torrential storm. This annual kickoff event offers the campus community a reminder that there is an avenue for discussion and advocacy around issues faced by faculty and staff on campus.

Mentoring Reception

The third annual Mentoring Reception, held on November 11, was attended by 56 GVSU faculty and staff members and featured the powerful stories of **Beverly Grant**, **Anne Hiskes**, **Chick Blue**, **Diana Lawson**, and **Karen Ingle**. This signature event continues to grow not only in number of attendees but in positive accolades from mentors and mentee participants. The event offers a comfortable yet professional environment for socialization and networking as well as a platform for accomplished women at GVSU to share insight and advice for younger professionals.

Celebrating Women Awards

Continuing the tradition which began with the Maxine Swanson award in 1998, the Women's Commission ended the year with the Celebrating Women Awards ceremony. The event, held on March 29, included contributions by Positive Black Women, the Women's Center and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies and focused on recognizing the outstanding impact faculty, staff and students are making across campus and in their communities that promote positive social change. 100 faculty, staff, and students attended to celebrate the award winners including:

- **Unsung Hero Award – Linda Rettig**, Student Academic Success Center
Presented to an individual who may not be well known by the general public but who goes above and beyond to improve the lives of faculty, staff and students
- **Maxine Swanson Award – Mary DeYoung**, Sociology
Presented to an individual who has provided leadership in support of the rights of women at Grand Valley State University

- **Women's Impact Award – Shorouq Almallah**, Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation
Presented to an individual who has made outstanding contributions for the advancement of women at GVSU and in the community via contributions as a professional, volunteer, or agent of change
- **Lifetime Achievement Award - JoAnn Wassenaar**, Women's Center
- **Lifetime Achievement Award: Kathleen Underwood**, Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Her Story

The Her Story series, a tradition begun by the Women's Center and now facilitated by the Women's Commission, offers an opportunity for the GVSU community to hear the authentic stories of women in leadership positions and the experiences that motivated them to success. The 2014-2015 series featured:

- **Maggie McCrystal**, Director of Staff Relations, Human Resources (October 30, 2014)
- **Marcia Haas**, First Lady of GVSU (January 22, 2015)
- **Mary Sharp**, Coordinator of Multicultural/Diversity Services & Training, Counseling Center (February 26, 2015)

2014-2015 Meetings

The Commission shifted the structure, format, and content of general meetings in 2014-2015, hosting Conscious Conversations rather than general meetings. These lunchtime discussions, highlighted in The Lanthorn, were well attended not only by faculty and staff but also students.

October 2: Race and Gender in *Orange is the New Black*

Facilitated by Jazmine Williams, Housing and Residence Life

<http://www.lanthorn.com/article/2014/10/news-womens-commission>

November 6: Expecting Better: Establishing Family Friendly Workplaces

Facilitated by Sue Sloop, Human Resources

December 4: We're Our Own Worst Enemies: Judgment and Competition Among Women

Facilitated by Diana Lawson, Seidman College of Business

<http://www.lanthorn.com/article/2014/12/conscious-conversations-judgment-and-competition-among-women>

February 5: Cinderella Ate My Daughter: Raising Smart, Confident, Independent Girls in the Princess Culture

Facilitated by Jennifer Jameslyn, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

<http://www.lanthorn.com/article/2015/02/fighting-princess-culture>

April 2: It's All About Me (For An Hour): Self Care, Self Worth, Self Satisfaction and Self Fulfillment

Facilitated by Shaily Menon, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

2014-2015 Partnerships and Collaborations

Women's Center: The Commission continued its close partnership with the Women's Center, relying on Women's Center student volunteers to assist with events and maintaining frequent communication regarding events, initiatives, and campus climate. Commission archives and supplies are housed in the Women's Center.

Children's Enrichment Center (CEC): For the third consecutive year, the Women's Commission featured centerpieces made by students at the Children's Enrichment Center at the annual Celebrating Women Awards. 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 maintained representation within the family support initiative which has transitioned from an ad-hoc stakeholder committee to a campus-wide Student Parent Success Committee commissioned by the Division of Inclusion & Equity.

MI-ACE: The Women's Commission continued involvement with Michigan's American Council on Education Network, an organization committed to identifying, developing the leadership of, advancing, and supporting the retention of women in higher education throughout the state. The Commission maintained regular communication with the MI-ACE representatives, Lisa Miller and Carol Sanchez, and sponsored one attendee for the annual MI-ACE Network conference in June.

University Communications: The Commission continued a partnership with University Communications to improve event publicity, resulting in notable growth in attendance at annual Commission events.

Positive Black Women: The Commission sponsors the annual Celebrating Women Awards which honors the annual Positive Black Women scholarship recipients. Additionally, the Commission promotes participation in the Fireside Chat series hosted by Positive Black Women.

Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies: The Commission sponsors the annual Celebrating Women Awards which honors recipients for the Barbara Jordan Award and Jean Enright Scholarship, both sponsored by Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies.

2014-2015 Budget and Expenditures

| Expense Type | Projected Amount | Actual Amount |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 13-14 Carry Over | \$579.49 | \$579.49 |
| 14-15 Budget Allocation | \$4000.00 | \$4000.00 |
| | | |
| Fall Welcome | \$2004.15 | \$2004.15 |
| Mentoring Reception | \$852.50 | \$449.50* |
| Celebrating Women Awards | \$1350.00 | \$1355.86 |
| Her Story | \$150.00 | \$150.00 |
| MI-ACE | -- | \$280.00 |
| Misc. Meeting Expenses | -- | --** |
| | | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$4356.65 | \$4069.51 |

*Beverage expenditure paid by Provost Office, resulting in \$509.98 carry over to FY16

**Summer planning retreat cost of \$107.86 charged to FY16

2015-2016 Budget and Expenditure Projections

| | |
|---|------------------|
| <u>Programs</u> | |
| Fall Welcome | \$2200.00 |
| Mentoring Reception | \$ 600.00* |
| Celebrating Women Awards | \$1500.00 |
| <u>Sponsorships</u> | |
| Her Story | \$ 150.00 |
| MI-ACE Conference | \$ 600.00 |
| <u>Meeting and Retreat Costs</u> | |
| Misc Meeting & Retreat Costs | \$ 250.00 |
| Total Request | \$5300.00 |

*Food cost only - beverage expenditure approved by Provost Office

2015-2016 Projects and Initiatives

MI-ACE: The Women's Commission seeks to sponsor participation in the 2016 MI-ACE Conference and build a stronger partnership with GVSU ACE representatives.

Technology: The Women's Commission website will be moved from CMS 3.0 to CMS 4.0. In addition, archived Her Story installments will be converted to video files and be available for streaming on the Commission website.

Student Parent Success Committee: Kristen Evans will continue to represent the Women's Commission at the Inclusion & Equity Student Parent Success Committee. The Commission has a vested interest in the quality and breadth of services provided by the GVSU Children's Enrichment Center and recognizes the success of the Children's Enrichment Center as integral to the success of both of student parents and faculty/staff members of the University.

Advocacy: The Commission has added an Advocacy Chair to our leadership team. In 2015-2016, the Commission will focus on topics including family leave, infant care, and responsible employee reporting requirements. An Advocacy Forum is scheduled for mid-January. Advocacy Chair, Suzy Herman, will also serve as the Commission's Affinity Group Council representative and Inclusion & Equity liaison.

2015-2016 Commission Membership and Leadership

Executive Board

Commission Chair – Kristen Evans, Housing
Treasurer – Keri Becker, Athletics
Events Co-Chair – OPEN
Events Co-Chair – Ashley Schulte, Women's Center
Administrative Chair – Jennifer Palm, Graduate Studies
Advocacy Chair – Suzy Herman, Housing

Core Membership

Jenna Bolle, University Libraries
Chelsea Brehm, Movement Science
Cassonya Carter, Kirkhof College of Nursing
Yumi Jakobcic, Office of Sustainability
Lisa Miller, Center for Adult & Continuing Studies (MI-ACE Rep)
Jackie Rautio, Student Academic Success Center
Carol Sanchez, Seidman College of Business (MI-ACE Rep)
Casey Thelenwood, Office of Sponsored Programs
Meghan Veltri, Career Center

2015-2016 Events and Programs

Fall Welcome – Thursday, September 17, Grand River Room, 12pm
Conscious Conversation: Worldwide Women: – Wednesday, September 23, 12pm
Her Story – Renee Freeman – Tuesday, October 6, Pere Marquette Room, 12pm
Mentoring Reception – Tuesday, November 10, 4pm, Loosemore
Her Story – Zulema Moret – Tuesday, December 1, 12pm, Kirkhof 2204
Conscious Conversation: Moving Beyond the B-Word – Week of January 25 or February 1
Family Leave Forum – Week of January 18
Her Story – Week of February 22 or 29
Celebrating Women Awards – Tuesday, March 29, 3pm, Grand River Room
Conscious Conversation: Men's Role in Feminism – Week of April 11

2015-2016 Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, September 2, 3pm, DeVos 302E
Wednesday, October 7, 3pm, Kirkhof 1142
Wednesday, November 4, 3pm, DeVos 302E
Wednesday, December 2, 3pm, Kirkhof 1142

Wednesday, January 6, 3pm, DeVos 302E
Wednesday, February 3, 3pm, Kirkhof 1142
Wednesday, March 2, 3pm, Kirkhof 1142
Wednesday, April 6, 3pm, Kirkhof 1142