

CECI Connections

NEWSLETTER

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Colleagues,

It is the season where we explicitly express our gratitude and thanks, and I can't say enough to thank you for all your hard work and dedication to our mission. This edition of our newsletter highlights some of the recent achievements and recognitions earned by our faculty, staff and alumni. Your efforts are also visible through the many requests I receive from community partners seeking to place our students within their professions as volunteers, interns, and employees. Our community partners are always ready to share their absolute confidence in the high quality education we provide that is evident not only in the excellent preparation of our students but also in the service roles you play in their organizations.



I hope you are able to join us next Tuesday, November 14 when we will host our third annual

fall gathering in the Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event provides opportunities to connect with other CECI colleagues while enjoying some tasty hors d'oeuvres, including mulled apple cider. Please come out and join us if you are available.

~Sherril

Celebrations

CSCE Catalyst Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the following faculty members who have been awarded a Catalyst Grant from the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence (CSCE):

Wei Gu, associate professor in Teaching & Learning for her proposal entitled, "An Examination of the Family Literacy Practices of Young Children and Their Fathers in China and the United States."

Julia Snider, assistant professor in Teaching & Learning for her proposal entitled, "Self-Advocate Guest Presenter Series: Exploring Perceptions of Disability."

Naoki Kanaboshi, associate professor in the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Legal Studies for his proposal entitled, "Legal Aspects of Criminal Justice in Japan."

Karyn Rabourn, associate professor in Educational Leadership & Counseling for her proposal entitled, "Academic Department Chairs' Perceptions of their Preparation for and Role as Stewards of Equitable and Inclusive Departments."

Celebrating our 200 Most Influential Leaders!

Crain's Grand Rapids Business Journal celebrates 200 most powerful business leaders in more than 20 industries in Grand Rapids based on a number of factors, including the size of a given company/organization, growth rate, geographical reach, and extensive personal contacts. We want to recognize the following CECI alumni:

- [Hanna Schulze - HTM, 2012](#)
 - [Vanessa Greene - MED, 1998](#)
 - [Sara Lowe - BSW, 2002; MSW, 2006](#)
 - [Holly Johnson - MPA, 2010](#)
 - [Jamon Alexander - PA, 2005](#)
 - [Adam London - MPA, 2004](#)
-

Celebrating our 40 Under 40 Alumni Business Leaders!

Each year, Crain's Grand Rapids Business Journal celebrates 40 emerging business leaders who have achieved personal success and made significant civic contributions to our community. This year, we want to recognize the following CECI alumni:

- [Tara Aday - MPA, 2014](#)
 - [Eva Alexander - HTM, 2010](#)
 - [Jamon Alexander - PA, 2005](#)
 - [Daniel Hatch - HTM, 2011](#)
 - [Kyle Van Strien - HTM, 2012](#)
-

Recognitions

Faculty/Staff, Alumni, Students

President Emeritus and Distinguished Professor in Educational Leadership and Counseling (ELC) Thomas J. Haas, was interviewed by Bridge Michigan for a story about the [organization of board members at Michigan's largest universities](#).

Liz Brown (MEd '17) received her degree in Elementary Education because she wanted to give a voice to the voiceless in education. Her book was written about her experience as a trans-racial adoptee and gives her point of view along with a glimpse of her experience. [Read her book](#).

Shannon Cohen (MPA '11) received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Alumni Relations. This award is presented to an individual who excels in their chosen profession, and whose accomplishments positively impact society, and reflect favorably upon themselves and Grand Valley State University. [More about Shannon](#).

Teresa Seidel (MPA '97) commenced as director of the [EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office](#) on November 6, 2023. She has been director of the Water Resources Division at the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy since 2016.

Publications/Presentations

Paul Bylsma, assistant professor in ELC, presented at The Lilly Conference. His two presentations were entitled, "The Simultaneous Emergences of a Hidden Multi-Curriculum" and "Understanding and Practicing All Learning as Active Learning."

Clay Pelon, director of the Center for Educational Partnerships and project specialist with the Groundswell Program, Mara Spears, presented at the Grand River/Rand Rapids Urban Waters Federal Partnership 10-Year Commemoration at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. They spoke of the work that has been done the past decade in supporting this initiative.

A. Scott Rood, associate professor of Hospitality and Tourism Management, was featured as an expert in Money Geek's recent article, "[Using Your Credit Cards & Other Methods to Travel Hack Responsibly and Safely.](#)"

He also published the [13th Annual Issue of the Journal of Tourism Insights](#). This is hosted by GVSU Scholarworks with 180,000 article downloads the past 12 years.

Christina Ponzio, assistant professor in Literacy, Educational Foundations, and Technology, has a new publication out with her colleague, Dr. Naitnaphit Limlamai (Colorado State University) in [Currents: Journal of Diversity Scholarship for Social Change](#), which is titled, "Disrupting racism and white supremacy culture in a professional development organization." Christina also presented on a portion of this work at the recent Michigan Council of Teachers of English Conference. Scan the QR code below to access this presentation or click on the picture below.



Community Engagement

Ara Cary Lecture Series

On October 17, 2023, the School of Social Work hosted its annual Ara Cary Lecture Series for social work professionals who work with children and families. The lecture series is named after Ara Cary, a pioneer in Social Work Education who aided in the development of the MSW program at GVSU in 1984.

Over 155 professionals attended the conference presentation given by national presenter and author, Robyn Gobbel. Ms. Gobbel's presentation was titled, "How Relational Neuroscience Reframes Children's Mental Health."



Global Awareness Collaborative Symposium

As part of the Global Awareness Collaborative Symposium (GACC), students in HTM 250 (Food Production and Kitchen Management) have been preparing some Czech recipes under the supervision of co-instructor and chef [Kirsten Rydzewski](#). (See recipes in the links.) [Shopska salad](#) was added to the top of hummus, which is probably not authentic but tasted good. [Kleveland \(Plum Compote\)](#) was used as a topping for blintzes.



On November 6, as part of the Global Awareness Collaborative Symposium, Salvatore Alaimo presented and shared his Fulbright experience at the University of Ostrava, which included a comparison of the theory and practice of nonprofit management in the

U.S. and Czechia.



Many other Czech-related presentations, webinars, and film screenings, occur this month. Please visit the [GACC web page](#) for details.

November 11 - [Film: "Anthropoid" with discussion](#), DEV 201D, from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

November 15 - [U.S. Premiere of Oboe Concerto by Czech composer Vladimir Werner](#), reception with Czech food follows the performance. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Louis Armstrong Theatre, Allendale at 7:30 p.m.

November 20 - ["Music and Politics" webinar](#), a presentation by Michael Beckerman from 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

November 27 - ["The Challenge Posed by Disinformation and Conspiracy Theories" webinar](#), a conversation with Jonas Syrovatka and Wojciech Solak from 3:00 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.

November 30 - [Three short Czech documentary film screenings and discussion](#), DEV 119E, from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

December 1 - ["When you say 'NGO' in Czechia" webinar](#), a presentation by Jakub Pejcal from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

FuturEdlab Open House

A delegation from CECI attended the [futurEDlab open house](#) on November 8, which offered a sneak peek into our evolving Blue Dot ecosystem, with a focus on our collective work around the future of education. Included in the open house was a station created by Megan Freudigmann, Amy Schelling, and Mark Hoffman on “Addressing the Teacher Shortage through Innovative PK-12 Partnerships & Conducting Virtual Teacher Candidate Observations.” This included a [Story Map on the GYO partnerships](#) and a video demonstrating the GoReact video feedback software for classroom observations.



College Governance

Faculty Governance Committee (FG)

All committee agendas and minutes are posted on our [website](#).

Our next Faculty Governance Committee Meeting is November 10 from 9:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m. via [ZOOM](#).

*All committee meetings are open. An agenda will be shared a week prior to the meeting.

Our next Full Faculty Meeting is Tuesday, November 14 from 12:00 p.m. -1:30p.m.; this is **HYBRID** (in-person in 121E DeVos with [ZOOM](#) option).

*We encourage all faculty to attend for a time of connection and dialogue around issues important to faculty. An agenda will be shared the week prior to the meeting.

Please see the CECI University Committee Representative [slideshow](#), which offers updates on the work going on around the university. If you have questions, please reach out to our CECI representatives.

*If you are a university committee representative, be sure to share 2-3 highlights after each committee meeting with your assigned liaison, along with any calls for feedback. We will house that information on the slideshow.

College Advisory and Communications Committee (CACC)

Meeting times have changed to **9:00 a.m.** on the second Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting was November 8 at 302E DeVos.

Meeting times, locations, agendas, unit representatives, and minutes for CACC can be found on the [CECI Website](#).

- CACC is working with the Dean's Office and Provost Mili to organize the listening scheduled for **November 28 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. While there is no path for splitting the college back into two colleges**, Provost Mili is interested in our questions, feelings about the merger, and thoughts about how we might address outstanding issues moving forward. We have the [feedback](#) collected from the Faculty Forum, which we plan to incorporate, yet there are many more voices that have not been heard. Please use this [anonymous form](#) to submit any questions, impacts, and ideas you have for the forum. Please respond by November 17.

- [Form](#)

- Please support your colleague, **Salvator (Sal) Alaimo** and immerse yourself in the **Czech Republic** during the *Global Awareness Collaborative Colloquium!* November 6 – December 7 – Attend [In-Person and Remote Events](#).

- Rhett has a new home with Patty Janes. Thank you, Patty, for your positive energy and leadership with the CECI Give Back Event!
-

Affiliate/Visiting Committee (AVC)

The AVC met last month. We received an update summarizing Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee's (AFAC) work in the areas of promotional amounts for those reaching Senior Affiliate Status as well as reviewing the equity process around hiring affiliate faculty into tenured-track positions. In addition, Katie Humphrey joined us to clarify how the yearly pay increase is completed. She explained it is systematic and all personnel files are reviewed for increases and compressions.

CECI Tech Tidbits

Big Byte Webinar

The CECI Technology Committee successfully hosted its first Fall 2023 Big Byte last month, and is excited to organize the next one on November 15. Save the date to know the ethical and integrity considerations of leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI), in particular Generative AI, in education, teaching and learning. Check out the Technology Committee's [website](#) for past webinars.

Technology Committee Meeting

The Technology Committee hosted its second CECI Technology meeting on October 18. Read the [meeting notes](#). Join the next CECI Technology meeting on November 15 after the Big Byte webinar.

Did you know?

Anthology/Blackboard Idea Exchange

Blackboard/Anthology has created an idea exchange for requesting future enhancements. We encourage faculty to [sign up for the Idea Exchange](#) and post their suggestions, vote on feature requests others propose, and track their implementation.

Based on feedback we have heard from faculty thus far, these three ideas around [messages/email](#), [discussion settings](#), and [assignment settings](#) may be of particular interest to faculty.

Faculty can also contact their [eLearning Liaisons](#) with questions about Bb Ultra features or [schedule a consultation](#). See the [Release Schedule](#) and the [Release Notes](#) for monthly and upcoming features and improvements.

Schedule a discussion call with Technology Teaching Specialist GA

Our new technology teaching specialist graduate assistant, Pooja Gadige, is

enthusiastic to assist, support and collaborate with faculty in creating immersive learning experiences for students using educational technologies. Watch Pooja talk about her journey to GVSU in this [video](#). She welcomes everyone to [schedule a quick virtual call](#) with her to brainstorm and discuss any project ideas, questions or concerns about technologies such as Blackboard Ultra, or anything that the faculty needs help with using digital tools for teaching courses. Check out our past projects [here](#) to get an idea of our spectrum of activities.

Upcoming Events

November 15 - Generative AI in Education, Teaching, and Learning: Ethical and Integrity Considerations by CECI Technology Committee from 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. in DEV 488C Conference Room and virtual on ZOOM.

College Curriculum Committee (CCC)

The CECI College Curriculum Committee encourages colleagues to review the [curriculum guidelines and UCC Syllabus of Record Guidelines 2023](#).

CCC recommended approval of the following proposals (semester to date):

CCR – Course number Change for ENG in BK
CCR - MSL 101
CCP – EDI 344
CCP – SI 690

CCC proposals – work in progress (semester to date):

NCP – CJ 102
NCP – CJ 162
NCP – CJ 260
NCP – CJ 333



The purpose of these podcasts is to showcase the talent within the college. It also allows us to spotlight faculty, staff, students, and alumni who are engaging our community partners from a teaching, scholarship, or service perspective.

Greg Warsen, associate professor in Education Leadership and Counseling and the Padnos/Sarosik Center's Endowed Professor for Civil Discourse, [was interviewed about the upcoming 10th Annual Civil Discourse Symposium](#). It will be held on Thursday, November 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the Seidman Center.

Salvatore Alaimo, associate professor in the School of Community Leadership and Development, with Marlen Vavriova, associate professor in the Music Program, [spoke about the semester long series of events/activities](#) related to the Czech Republic for the Global Awareness Collaborative Colloquium.

Amy Schelling, associate dean for the College of Education and Community Innovation, along with Laura Castle, director for the West Michigan Teacher Collaborative, and Morgan Dailey, program director, [spoke about the partnership with Grand Valley State University and the West Michigan Teach Collaborative](#). This partnership is focused at providing initial teacher certification or advanced credentials/degrees for 300 individuals in the tri-county area.

Greg Warsen, associate professor of ELC and Padnos/Sarosik Endowed Professor of Civil Discourse, was interviewed by WGVU about the [upcoming fall symposium](#), "Calm the Chaos: Honoring all Voices in Public Education."

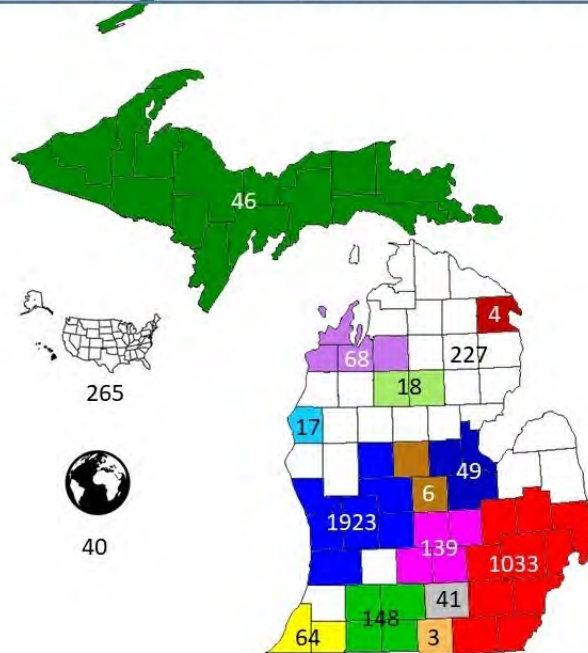


The [CECI Happenings](#) is an informational form that can be submitted by any faculty, staff, or student to promote an event, publication, etc. for our social platforms and newsletter.



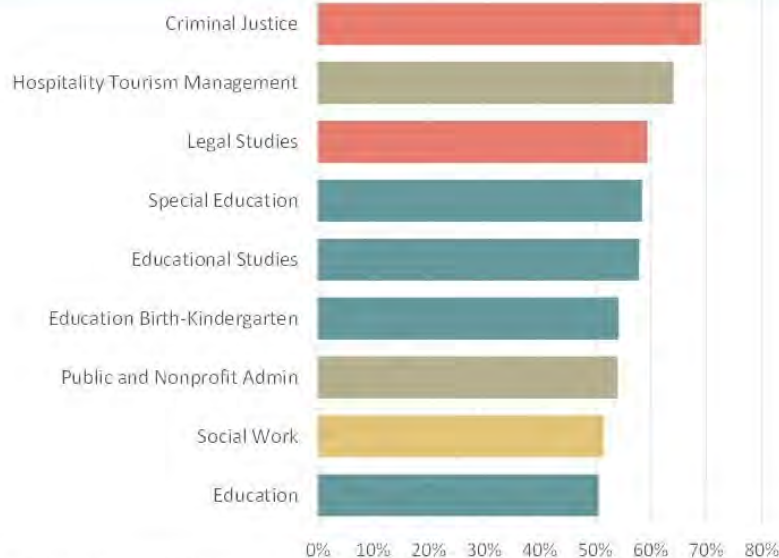


CECI students by metropolitan area or region



Fall 2023

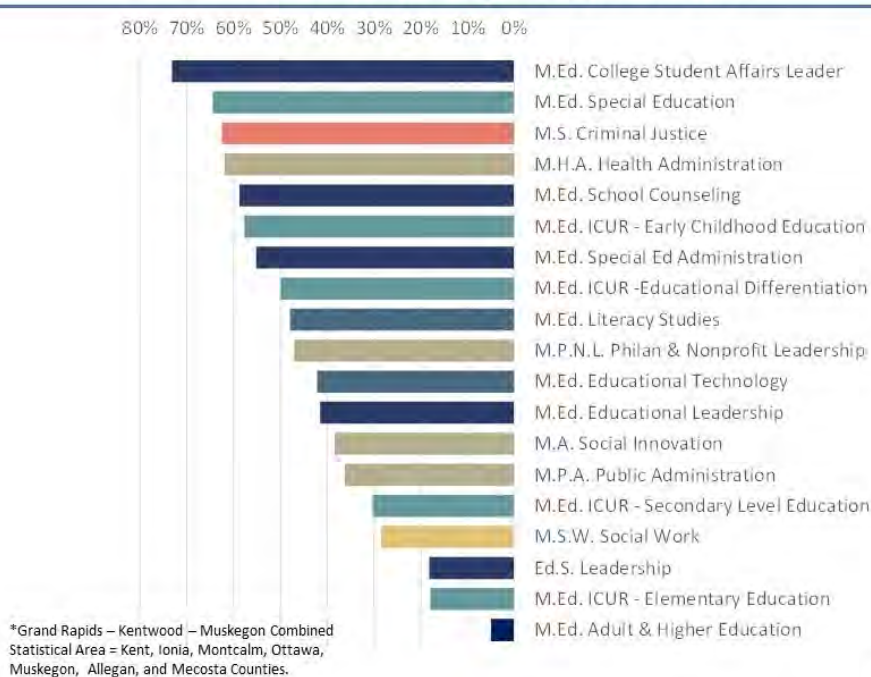
Percent of majors with home address outside the Grand Rapids Metro Area*



*Grand Rapids – Kentwood – Muskegon Combined Statistical Area = Kent, Ionia, Montcalm, Ottawa, Muskegon, Allegan, and Mecosta Counties.

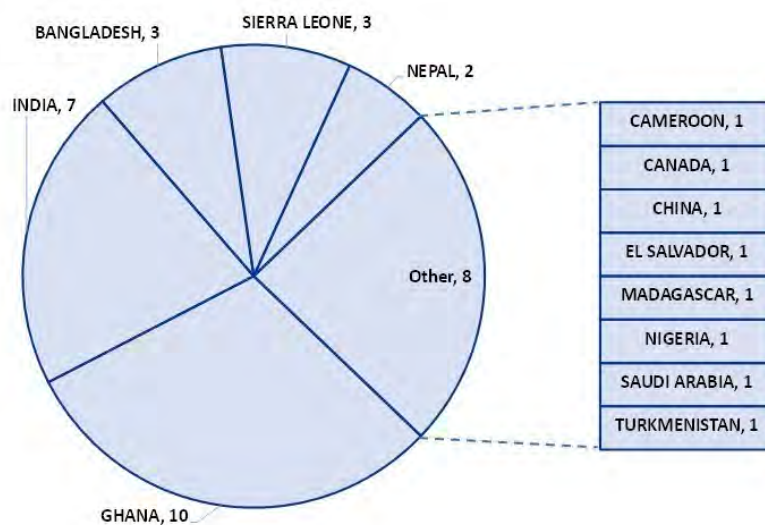
Fall 2023

Percent of grad students with home address outside the Grand Rapids Metro Area*



Fall 2023

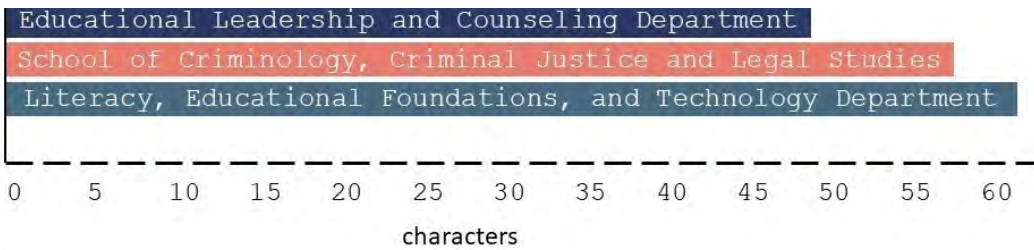
Home country of International Students



Fall 2023

CECI Units by Length of Name

School of Social Work
Teaching and Learning Department
School of Community Leadership and Development



November 1 - 28 - [Campus Food Drive](#); campus community is invited to drop off non-perishable food items to support the Replenish Basic Needs Center.

November 14 - Faculty Governance at DEV 136E from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

November 14 - CECI Social at DeVos Exhibition Hall from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

November 16 - [Calm the Chaos: Honoring All Voices in Public Education](#) from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the Seidman Center

November 22-24 - Thanksgiving Recess

December 7 - [Holiday Gathering](#), Kirkhof Center Grand River Room, Allendale Campus

December 9 - [Commencement](#), VanAndel Arena, Downtown Grand Rapids

**Academic Exploration Fair (8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.). with Open House (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) in the Grand River Room of the Kirkhof Center*

Important Dates

FALL PERSONNEL ACTIONS

August 28 - Fall Personnel Portfolios due to Unit Heads

October 27 - Unit Head submits appropriate fall personnel documents to Dean
October 31 - Dean forwards fall personnel documents to CPC
November 17 - CPC submits fall personnel recommendations to Dean
December 15 - Dean submits fall personnel recommendations to Provost
January 31 - Provost makes fall personnel decisions and notifies all appropriate people

SABBATICALS

September 1 - Sabbatical Leave Proposals due no later than 11:59 p.m.
September 23 - Revised sabbatical leave proposals are due
September 30 - Unit sabbatical recommendations due
November 15 - University Sabbatical Review Committee recommendations are due
December 15 - College Dean sabbatical recommendations are due
January 31 - Provost sabbatical decisions are due

WINTER PERSONNEL ACTIONS

October - Candidates for winter personnel actions can apply in writing to the Dean

Resources

- [Acronyms](#)
- [CECI Connections Guide](#)
- [CECI Newsletter Repository](#)
- [Experts Guide](#)
- [Organizational Chart](#)
- [Student Support Flowchart](#)

Thanks to all those who contributed to the November edition of CECI Connections:
Dean Sherril Soman, Associate Dean Mark Hoffman, Jamie Langlois, Jennifer Vanderground, Elizabeth Stolle, Christina Ponzio, Katie Scheuerle, and A. Scott Rood.

If you have any questions or suggestions, or want to share your newsworthy information with us, please use the link below.

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