



April 2023

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Colleagues,

It was great to see those who could attend our Winter (Year-End) College Meeting. My thanks again to the College Advisory and Communications Committee for their excellent work in organizing the meeting.

As I watch the snow falling on the blossoming trees today, I can't help but think about transitions and reflect on how this is a metaphor for us moving forward into the new season of spring, which will arrive no matter the tenacious endeavors of the hallmarks of winter. I'm grateful to you for all of your efforts and for the ways that you engaged to build a collegial, collaborative and consensus building culture in CECI over the past academic year.



Thank you to our colleagues who are retiring after many years of significant contributions to the college and university. Our retiring colleagues are [Dr. Olivia Williams](#), Associate Professor of Educational Foundations (18 years of service); [Dr. Cindi Smith Williams](#), Associate Professor of Special Education Administration (15 years of service); [Dr. Andrew Topper](#), Associate Professor of Educational Technology (24 years of service); and [Ms. Suzanne Richards](#), Affiliate Professor of Educational Leadership (11 years of service). We are grateful for your years of service to the college and the university.

My thanks to those of you who participated in our first scholarship showcase/gallery walk. We plan to continue this tradition at the winter meetings to help foster collaboration across the college and to build awareness of the good work being done by the college. Looking ahead to the fall, as I mentioned yesterday, we will be working on our college strategic plan in earnest during the coming academic year. More information will be forthcoming soon, including a request for participants.

The full presentation for the college meeting can be found [here](#).

Sherril

Celebrations

Newest CECI Faculty and Staff Members

Karen Abraham, Visiting Faculty **Literacy, Educational Foundations, and Technology**

Karen recently retired in June of 2022 after 31 years in Michigan Public Schools. She worked 14 years in administration as an elementary principal in West Ottawa Public Schools, Mona Shores Public Schools, and Whitehall District schools. For five years, she was Whitehall's Director of State & Federal Programs and Director of Literacy & Interventions. Prior to administration, Karen spent 17 years as a classroom teacher in kindergarten, 1st grade, and a 1st-2nd-3rd Multiage Program. Literacy is my personal passion. She is married with two adult sons and enjoys spending time with family, traveling, hiking, kayaking, and being outdoors.

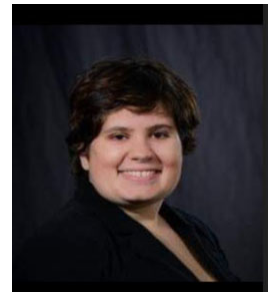


Geoff Collard, Director of Criminal Justice Training **School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Legal Studies**

Director of Criminal Justice Training Geoff Collard grew up in Flint, MI. He has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in public administration from Western Michigan University. Director Collard has attended numerous training and leadership courses throughout his career including the three-week Senior Management Institute for Police at Boston University, which is hosted by the Police Executive Research Forum. He began his law enforcement career in 1999 and has been a Police Officer in Flushing, Wyoming, and Grand Rapids. At Grand Rapids PD, Director Collard served as a patrol officer, a member of the Special Response Team, was a Watch Commander, Training Unit Commander, and commanded the East and West Service Areas and the Support Services Division. Director Collard is married and has three children.

Allyssa Wetzel, Grant Office Coordinator **Literacy, Educational Foundations, and Technology**

Allyssa is joining as the new ESL NPD Grant Office Coordinator. Allyssa received her B.B.A. from Siena Heights University. Before joining GVSU, Allyssa worked at Grand Rapids Public Schools.





The Brilliance Awards recognize the dynamic talent, spirit and intellect of those who tackle issues facing professional women. The following alumna are committed to creating positive change and excel in their fields:

BRILLIANT TEAM PLAYER

Katie Racey (HTM '10 & M.P.A. '18), Guest Experience Manager with Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

BRILLIANT SOCIAL CHANGE AGENT

Vanessa Greene (M.Ed. '98), CEO with Grand Rapids African American Health Institute

BRILLIANT ENTREPRENEUR

Rachel VanBuskirk (M.S.W. '12), Clinical Director and Owner of Portal Point Counseling

BRILLIANT EMERGING LEADER

Caylie Peet (HTM '16), Minority Business Program Manager with Grand Rapids Chamber



Glenn A. Niemeyer Award

The Glenn A. Niemeyer Award recognizes well-rounded individuals with demonstrated excellence in both the classroom and extra-curricular activities that serve to enrich their lives and the lives of others.

Outstanding Undergraduate Student

Yasmin Alemayehu, Comprehensive Science and Arts for Teaching (CSAT)

Outstanding Graduate Student

Alexandra Patterson, Health Administration (M.H.A.)

Excellence-in-a-Discipline Award

The Excellence-in-a-Discipline Award honors one student from each undergraduate and graduate discipline. Faculty from each department select the recipient based upon an earned minimum number of credit hours at an exceptional grade point average, along with other criteria identified by each unit as appropriate for use in determining academic excellence in their program.

Robin Moore, Criminal Justice

Destiny Steffens, Early Childhood Education

Anna Lippert, Elementary Education

Eva Marie Matthews, Legal Studies

Eden Belill, Public and Nonprofit Administration

Katelyn R. Stulpe, Secondary Education, Group Social Studies

Ella Beringer, Social Work

Calle Faerber, Special Education

Ben Russ, Health Administration (M.H.A.)

Olivia Witsaman, Higher Education - CSAL (M.Ed.)

Genevieve Roe, Instruction and Curriculum (M.Ed.)

Carley Andrus, Literacy Studies (M.Ed.)

Emily Mathein, Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership (M.P.N.L.)

Gerard Michael Sullivan Jr., Public Administration (M.P.A.)

Fawn Bullock, School Counseling (M.Ed.)

Shelby Denhof, Social Innovation (M.A.)

Reagan L. Woodward, Social Work (M.S.W.)

Krysta Grace King, Special Education (M.Ed.)

David A. Johnson, Educational Leadership (Ed.S.)



Recognitions

Faculty/Staff, Alumni, and Students

Katie Hoffswell (M.Ed. '22) raised more than \$20,000 for victims of the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Hoffswell was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award a year ago to help local teachers with English instruction. [Read full GVNext article.](#)

Julian Ramirez-Torres (M.Ed. '21), principal at Grand Rapids Public Schools' Southwest Middle High School - Academia Bilingüe, shares his story with high school students during a National TRIO Day celebration. Students were on GVSU's Allendale Campus for a daylong program that included a tour, lunch and presentations from various campus departments. [Read full GVNext article.](#)

Megan Rydecki (M.P.A. '09), director of the Hauenstein Center at GVSU, was a guest speaker during a recent ICMA Student Chapter luncheon. During the luncheon, Michigan Municipal Executives (area city and county managers) and students were able to meet and network.

Lisa René Norris, elementary placement specialist in the Office of Certification and Accreditation, presented Michigan Supreme Court Justice Kyra Harris with flowers at the EquilTEA event!

They are both alumni of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Theta Chi Omega Chapter.



Publications/Presentations

Laila McCloud, assistant professor in Educational Leadership and Counseling, was a co-author of an article, ["By Lack of Reciprocity: Positioning Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the Organizational Field of Higher Education"](#), published in the Race, Research, and Policy Portal, sponsored by Harvard Kennedy School's Ash Center.

McCloud also was named a 2023 Emerging Scholar by ACPA College Student Educators International.

A. Scott Rood, assistant professor in Hospitality and Tourism Management, and others (both inside and outside of GVSU) have collaborated to produce the 8th edition of "Introduction to Commercial Recreation and Tourism: An Entrepreneurial Approach." The finished text will be

published soon. This is the premier text in this field and is used in over 175 college/university programs.

Grant Recipients

Elizabeth Stolle, professor in Literacy, Educational Foundations, and Technology, received the Catalyst Grant for her proposal, *Breaking Out of the Silos: Interdisciplinary Instruction for Social Justice*. This grant supports work on a co-authored book addressing literacy-centered interdisciplinary teaching and learning with a social justice lens (i.e., grades 6-12). This book will provide secondary preservice and in-service teachers with relevant, applicable, and timely research along with teaching resources, so they can understand how to teach through an interdisciplinary frame for social justice. Grant funds will support school visits, as we collect examples and stories from the field for the book.

Community Engagement

Dr. Christopher Kierkus served as guest panelist during forum

In the wake of the mass shootings at Michigan State University and Oxford High School, the Michigan State University Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) held a [forum](#) where policy experts and academics from across the nation discussed the role of guns in shootings.

During this forum, **Christopher Kierkus**, professor in the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Legal Studies, was able to share his perspective as a panelist.



CJ 380: Cold Case Investigations

Under the guidance of Grand Valley criminal justice faculty **Carrie Buist and Billy Wallace**, students are helping the Michigan State Police (MSP) develop leads and analyze patterns on a case that has remained unsolved for years. The students were able to assist MSP with organizing, digitizing, and researching a cold case murder from 1960. Although the case remains unsolved, the students provided new perspective to the case providing new findings and information to the Michigan State Police. The students also presented their findings to current and former officers, including retired MSP detectives, prosecutor (and later judge), who originally worked the case in the 1960s and 1970s.



The first Cold Case class has been featured on local [Fox17 News](#), and our own [Grand Valley Magazine](#). Currently, the students are working on their second case as we begin accepting applicants for next year's class.

Important Updates

CECI Winter (Year-End) Meeting - April 17

Thank you to all of the faculty and staff who attended the CECI Winter (Year-End) Meeting. We had an awesome turnout with lots of great conversations with colleagues. The full presentation for the meeting can be found [HERE](#).

CECI Award Recipients and Retirees

Katie Scheuerle (SSW) - Administrative Professional Commendation
Lynnea Santoyo (LEFT) - Professional Support Staff Commendation
Juvenile Justice 20/20 - Community Engagement Award
Rui Niu-Cooper (LEFT) - Outstanding Contribution in a Discipline
Gail Zemmol (SCLD) - Internationalization Award
Joshua Sheffer (SCCJLS) - Outstanding Teacher Award
Kathryn Ohle (T&L) - Outstanding Mentor Award
Judy Williams (T&L) - Outstanding Service Award
Jackie Doyon-Martin (SCCJLS) - CECI Collaboration Award



Suzanne Richards (ELC) - 11 years of service
Cindi Smith Williams (ELC) - 15 years of service
Andrew Topper (LEFT) - 24 years of service
Olivia Williams (LEFT) - 18 years of service

Governance

The **Winter 2023 Election Results** are in and can be found on this [webpage](#).

COLLEGE

College Personnel Committee - Jackie Doyon-Martin, Chair

In April, the College Personnel Committee will be discussing the “pros” and “cons” of using Blackboard and/or Digital Measures for both 1) personnel portfolio preparation, and 2) personnel portfolio review. Our goal is to recommend one platform to the Dean’s Office (either Blackboard OR Digital Measures) for official CECI use for personnel portfolios, as using multiple platforms across Units over the past year has led to both confusion and frustration from involved stakeholders. Please share your thoughts/perspectives on which platform you find preferable (and why) with your unit CPC representative.

CECI is one of the colleges that uses Blackboard in some fashion as part of their faculty personnel processes. For those situations, there will be a pause to the conversions of Bb classic organizations to Bb Ultra until May 1, 2024. This will provide ample time for colleges and units to update any Bb templates that they use. This pause also provides time to consider where a personnel template on Bb can be simplified.

College Advisory and Communication Committee - Jamie Langlois, Chair

March was Go Orange with Kids’ Food Basket with the goal of raising awareness about childhood hunger. Thank you for coming together as a college and coloring 4,757 bags. Your efforts raised awareness across our college and put a personal touch into our community’s effort to help nourish children in Kent County.

CECI Awards – We received 45 nominations for CECI Awards!!! [Administrative Professional Commendation; Professional Support Staff Commendation; Emerging Community Engagement Initiative; Outstanding Contribution in a Discipline; Internationalization Award; Outstanding Teacher Award; Outstanding Mentor Award; Outstanding Service Award; and CECI Collaboration Award.] It is clear from your nominations that many, many CECI faculty and staff are involved in committed and innovative work. Thank you so much for taking the time to nominate your

colleagues. Emails were sent to each nominee with the nominations statement, and many responded with gratitude for being recognized.

CECI Governance Committees

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

Faculty Substitutes Needed during Sabbaticals

If you are willing and available to serve as a substitute for another faculty member that is on sabbatical, or to serve in a full-time capacity, please contact Karyn Rabourn at rabournk@gvsu.edu, or Elizabeth Stolle at stollee@gvsu.edu.

Fall 2023

Jacquelynn Doyon-Martin (SCCJLS) – College Personnel Committee

Leanne Kang (LEFT) – College Curriculum Committee and Pew FTLC Advisory Committee

Kelly Margot (T&L) – Faculty Facilities Planning Advisory Committee

Cray Mulder (SSW) – College Personnel Committee

Winter 2024

Naoki Kanaboshi (SCCJLS) – University Academic Senate and CECI Technology Committee

Karyn Rabourn (ELC) – Executive Committee of the Senate and CECI Faculty Governance

Rui Niu-Cooper (LEFT) – College Advisory and Communication Committee

Elizabeth Stolle (LEFT) – Faculty Salary and Budget Committee and CECI Faculty Governance

Vacancies

UNIVERSITY

University Curriculum Committee

COE – 2-year term

Writing Skills Committee

COE – 3-year term

COLLEGE

College Personnel Committee

LEFT – 1-year term

Staff Executive Committee

CEP – 3-year term

SCLD – 3-year term

SSW – 1-year term

T&L – 3-year term

Resources

[Student Support Flowchart](#)

[Organizational Chart](#)

[CECI Connections Guide](#)

[CECI Newsletter Repository](#)

[Experts Directory](#)

[Acronyms and Initialisms](#)

The logo for the WGUV Morning Show features a stylized orange sun with rays on the left. To the right of the sun, the text "WGUV" is stacked above "MORNING", which is stacked above "SHOW". The text is in a blue, serif font.

CECI Community Connections

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.

This month featured Raymond Higbea, director of the School of Community Leadership and Development, and Mikhila Wildey, associate professor of Psychology and Licensed Psychologist at GVSU. Dr. Wildey discussed how their research with the Graduate

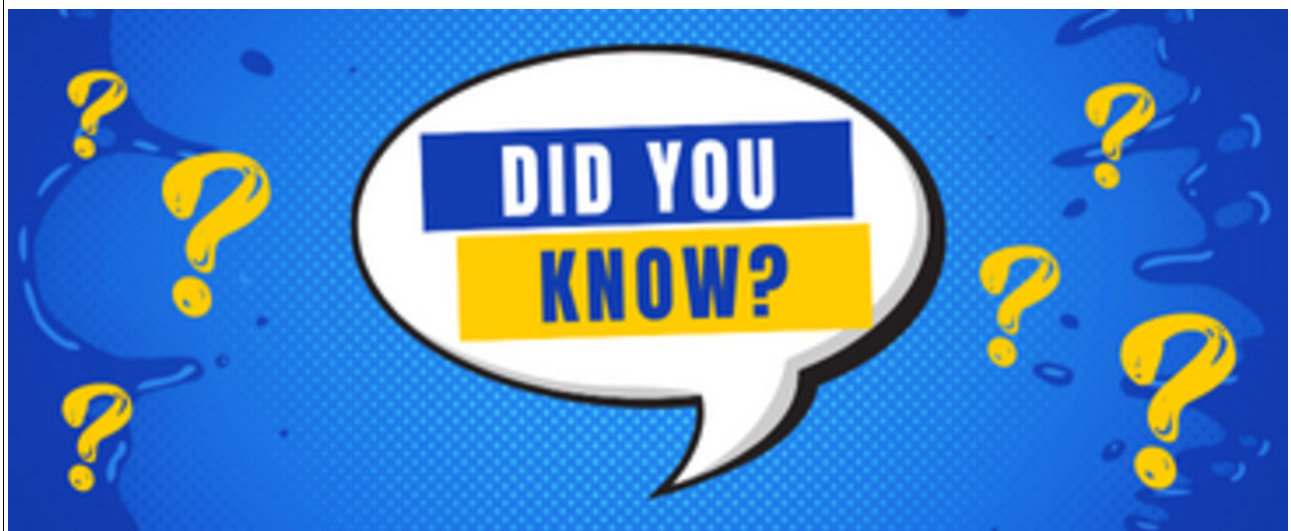
Student Mental Health Task Force produced an [article](#) published in the Journal of American College Health.

The CECI Community Connections's 'live and in-person' radio interviews are typically scheduled on the first Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. on 88.5 FM Grand Rapids or 95.3 FM Muskegon

If you would like to be our guest for a future segment, please contact [Rita Cooper](#).



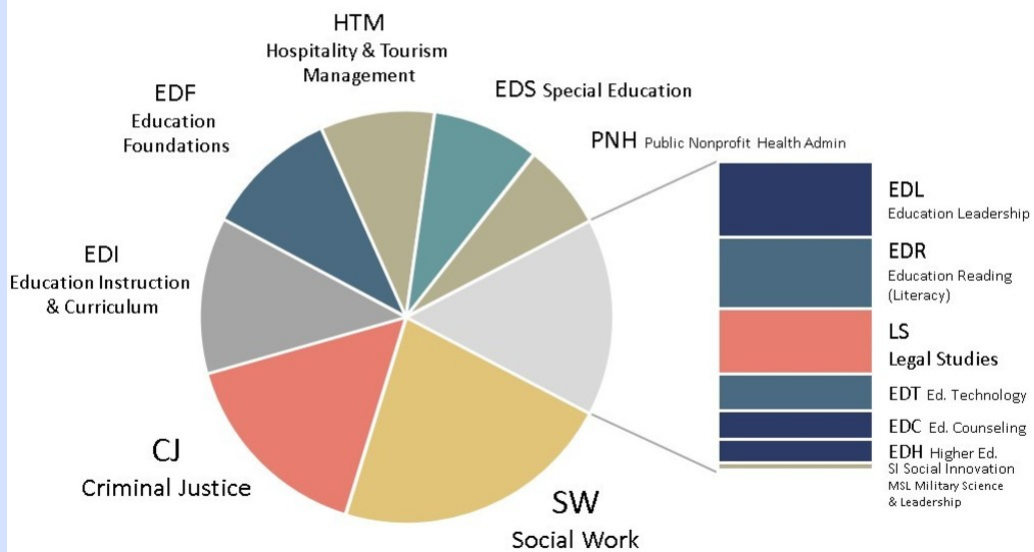
The [CECI Happenings](#) is an informational form that can submitted by any faculty, staff or student to promote an event, publication, etc.for our social platforms and newsletter.



CECI Demographics for Winter 2023

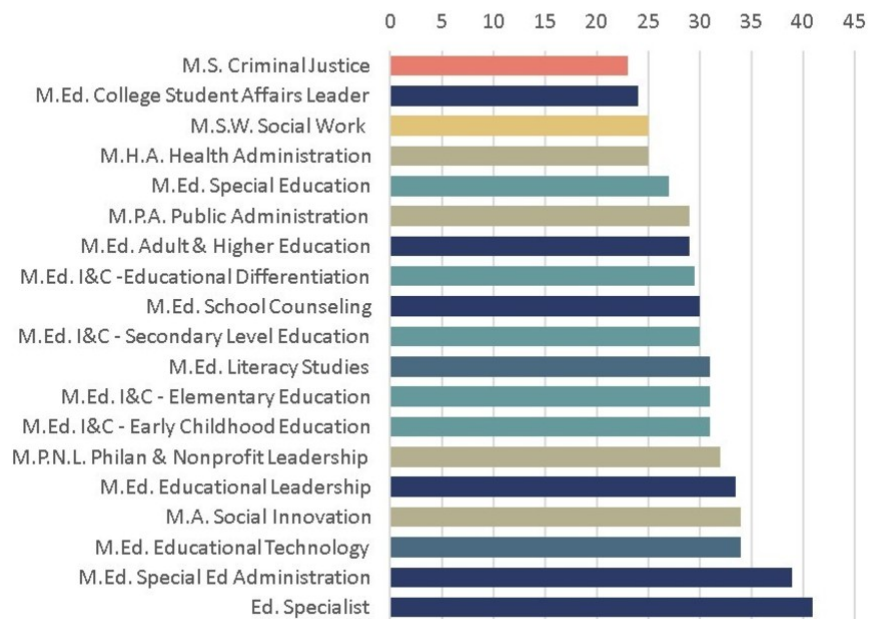
Source: Institutional Analysis with the "census day" being the end of the first week of the Winter semester. (That is, students that declare their major during the semester are not counted until the "census day" of Fall Semester).

Registration (Student Credit Hours)
by Course Prefix



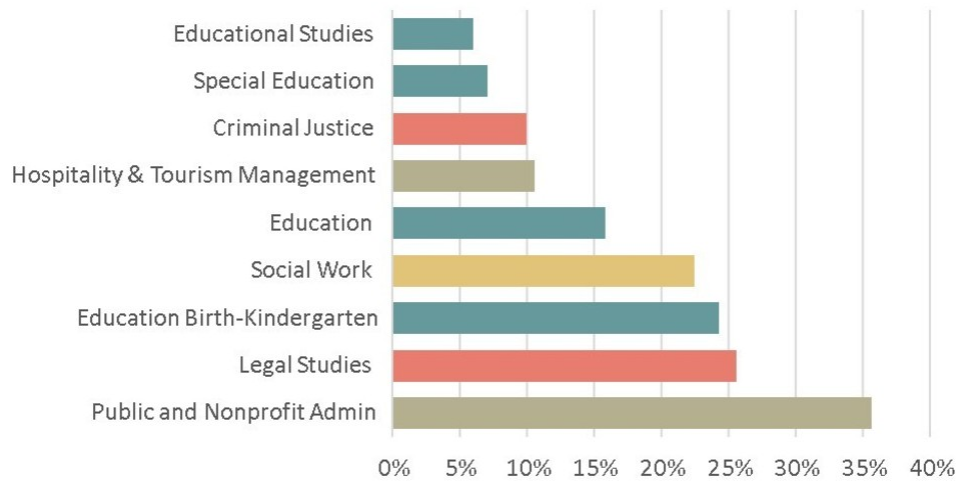
Winter 2023

Median Age of Students in Graduate Programs



Winter 2023

Percent of Students Age 25 and older by Major



Winter 2023

Meet Rhett!

Have you seen Rhett? Where have you seen him? What is he doing? Rhett is traveling around CECI. Send a photo to Jamie at langloja@gvsu.edu if you find him.



April 18 - [The Graduate Showcase](#)

April 21 - [Reach Higher Showcase](#)

April 22 - GVSU Spring Open House, formerly known as Laker Experience Day

April 28 – 29 - [Commencement](#)

May 1 - Final Grades Due by 5:00 p.m.

May 8 - Classes Begin

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

cecidean@gvsu.edu | (616) 331-6821 | gvsu.edu/ceci

Connect with us!



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