



In This Issue:

Dean's Message
Dean's Office Announcement
CECI Unit Spotlight
CECI Fall Kickoff
Important Notices
Celebrations
Important Notices
Publications/Presentations
CECIPalooza
University Governance
College Governance
Important Dates
CECI Resources
Newsletter Contributions



**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
AND COMMUNITY
INNOVATION**
GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY®

August 2025

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to the start of the 2025-26 academic year!

As we embark on a new academic year, we are reminded of the incredible impact each of us has on shaping minds, advancing knowledge, and building a vibrant campus community. This is more than the start of another semester—it's a renewed opportunity to inspire, to lead, and to grow together.

While we begin this year with a lot of uncertainty in an external landscape that continues to have significant impact on higher education, I encourage you to reflect on the rewarding nature of our profession. Our work is transformational and empowering, fostering social and economic mobility as well as intellectual and personal growth and development of our students and our colleagues.

Your dedication, creativity, and resilience are the foundation of our success, and we look forward to all that we will accomplish in the months ahead. Let's embrace this year with purpose, optimism, and a shared commitment to excellence.



~Sherril
CECI Dean

CECI Dean's Office Announcement



We are pleased to share that Dr. Daisy Fredricks has been promoted from Director of Teacher Education (DTE) to Assistant Dean, with primary responsibilities for initial certification teacher preparation programs.

While the DTE role is well established in higher education institutions that offer educator preparation programs, the size of our GVSU Teacher Education preparation program means that this role requires a large commitment of time and a high level of responsibility. For the past several years, we have worked to clearly identify the scope of work and level of responsibility allocated to this role at GVSU. The students and programs supported by this role span multiple units in the college and multiple majors across both CECI and CLAS with broad oversight of initial teacher education preparation, including responsibilities for supervision, staffing, and scheduling specifically to support the fieldwork component of our Teacher Education preparation program. This work continues to be critical to the mission of the college and our initial teacher preparation programs. The change in title and clarification of responsibilities better reflects the scope of work and breadth of the position.

Dr. Fredricks has been a faculty member in the Teaching and Learning (T&L) department since 2017, and serving as DTE since August 2022, supported by some release time and an overload stipend. However, due to the significant level of responsibility, expertise, and authority to effectively support and oversee our Teacher Education preparation programs, it is necessary and appropriate to transition this work to a dedicated 12-mo faculty with administrative duties position, housed within the CECI Dean's Office. Dr. Fredricks is uniquely qualified to continue this work in this new capacity.

As Assistant Dean, Dr. Fredricks will be responsible for leadership and oversight of the Teacher Education preparation program, working collaboratively with faculty/staff within CECI and CLAS, as well as with PK-12 community partners and professional organizations.

CECI Unit Spotlight



In June, the [W.K. Kellogg / Battle Creek Public Schools \(BCPS\) / GVSU Educational Transformation Partnership](#) team engaged with students from Battle Creek Central High School (BCCHS) on two college and career readiness experiences. All activities were made possible by the generous support of the [W.K. Kellogg Foundation](#).

BCCHS AP Biology at the GVSU Annis Water Research Institute (AWRI):

Lex Baxendale, CECI alumna, is currently serving as the Head of the BCCHS Science Department. Ms. Baxendale worked with Dr. Amanda Syers, senior education specialist at [AWRI](#) and CECI alumna, to develop a pre-visit lesson around water quality in the Kalamazoo River to prepare the students for their AWRI visit. While on the research vessel the *W.G. Jackson*, BC students performed a comparative analysis of the water quality and environmental indicators between Muskegon Lake and Lake Michigan. They met current undergraduate GVSU students doing research at the AWRI and discussed majors and career goals.



Excel Exploration on GVSU City Campuses: BCCHS rising seniors explored the GVSU City campuses. Students had the opportunity to choose an in-depth visit to the College of Engineering on the GVSU City Campus - Pew or the College of Health Professions and Kirkhof College of Nursing on the GVSU City Campus - Health. Time was spent learning about career options, touring the simulation, and manufacturing laboratories and specialized study spaces. The group lunched at Seidman Center College of Business where they met with the Shorouq Almallah, Director of the Richard M. and Helen DeVos Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation (CEI) in the Seidman College of Business, and visited the Financial Simulation lab set up to mimic a trading floor.



After a conversation with GVSU Admissions, the students met colleagues at our community partner, the John Ball Zoo, who introduced them to the behind-the-scenes infrastructure required to house the pygmy hippos. The day had a backbone team of GVSU student counselors, including five BCCHS graduates and a Graduate Assistant who had done their student internship in BCPS. The familiarity and transparency about the transition between secondary to college made the Bearcats feel welcome, and the opportunity for our students to give back to their community was extremely motivating for everyone.

Partnership Awarded Additional Funding: Additionally, the GVSU CECI BCPS Partnership for Educational Transformation was just awarded an additional \$2.25M by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation to work with BCPS. Over the next three years, the team will collaborate with the district on education intern placements, mentoring early career teachers, and providing intrusive advising to BCCHS graduates attending GVSU.

CECI Fall Kickoff



CECI Fall Kickoff All-College Meeting
Monday, August 18, 2025
215 Eberhard Center - Pew Campus

- **8:00 AM - 8:45 AM | Professional Headshots**
- **8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Light Breakfast**
- **9:00 AM | Meeting Begins**

Important Notices



In preparation for the transition to **Workday Student**, a page has been created on the [Workday @ GVSU](https://workday.gvsu.edu) website that shows the proposed changes that outline current processes and how they will differ in Workday Student. The page will be updated as more information is announced. Please reach out to Mark Hoffman in the CECI Dean's Office if you have any questions.

What's Changing with Workday Student?

Celebrations

Congratulations to **Dr. Laila McCloud** and **Dr. Karyn Rabourn**, both faculty members in the **Educational Leadership and Counseling (ELC) department**, on being appointed as a [Presidential Fellows](#) for the 2025-26 academic year. The Presidential Fellows initiative, started in 2019 by President Philomena V. Mantella, was created to provide enhanced leadership development for faculty and greater engagement of faculty with university leadership. Dr. McCloud's project will focus on the first year academic experience, and Dr. Rabourn's project will focus on unit head leadership. *(Pictured below: Dr. Laila McCloud (left) and Dr. Karyn Rabourn (right).)*



Important Notices



**CECI Dean's Innovation Grant
Application and
Requirements**

**CECI Dean's
Innovation Grant
Website**

Submission deadline approaching for the [CECI Dean's Innovation Grant](#)! The Dean's Innovation Grant is designed to support **faculty** in developing innovative projects with the potential to secure external funding.

- **Eligibility:**
 - Faculty members (tenured, tenure-track, and non-tenure-track)
 - Collaborations between faculty (internal and external to the College) and students are highly encouraged
- **Grant Use:**
 - Funding may be utilized for activities directly related to the development of a competitive proposal for external funding
- **Grant Exclusions:**
 - Funding cannot be used for standard operational expenses such as salaries, equipment purchases that are not directly related to the proposal development, or travel that is not specifically for proposal development

CECI Dean's Innovation Grant Application Deadlines: Monday, September 15, 2025 and Sunday, March 15, 2026.



CECI Workday Expense Report Guidelines and Instructions Manual

The CECI Workday Expense Report Guidelines and Instructions manual was distributed last month to all CECI Unit Heads and PSS, so all CECI faculty/staff should have received a copy by now. ***Please contact your Unit Head/ADC if you have not received a copy of the guide or need it re-sent to you.*** The expense report guide was created to set basic guidelines and provide examples of how expense reports need to be completed within our college, effective immediately. Adhering to these guidelines and instructions creates a more consistent reporting process and greatly improves the clarity of budget reporting at both the unit and college level. ***We thank you in advance for following these guidelines!***

It is the responsibility of the individual faculty/staff member who has incurred any expenses for university business to complete an expense report for reconciliation (such as when a GVSU expense card was used for payment), or for personal reimbursement (such as when personal funds were used for payment) in a timely manner. ***Failure to adhere to the guide will result in reports being returned to faculty/staff for correction. (Please turn on "Tasks" and "To-Dos" notifications in Workday - This is the only way you'll be notified if your expense report is sent back to you for correction. Both expense reports and corrections must be completed in a timely manner.)***

Publications/Presentations

Amy Schelling, associate dean, represented CECI at a campus and community brainstorming session that focused on designing interdisciplinary programs that will meet the demands of a future powered by artificial intelligence. Hosted by the College of Computing on August 7, more than 150 attendees — students, faculty and staff from nearly every college, plus industry and regional partners — engaged in meaningful conversations on the importance of interdisciplinary education to meet workforce needs. Read the full article about the event in the [August 12 edition of FORUM](#).

Julia Snider, assistant professor in the **Teaching and Learning department**, recently published the article, "[Debunking Common Reasons for Excluding Students](#)," in the practitioner journal, [Inclusive Practices](#).

Aaron Yore-VanOosterhout, interim director of the [Bellamy Creek Program \(BCP\)](#), and **Jacquelynn Doyon-Martin**, director of the **School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Legal Studies (SCCJLS)**, were guests on the Shelley Irwin show, discussing the progress of the Bellamy Creek Program as it enters its second year. You can [listen to their segment on the Shelley Irwin Show here](#). Yore-VanOosterhout and Doyon-Martin [last spoke on the show in August of 2022](#), discussing the need for additional funding to support college-in-prison programming. Since then, the Bellamy Creek Program has secured \$1.25 million in state contracts, and nearly \$200,000 in private grants and awards.



Pictured above from left to right: Jacquelynn Doyon-Martin, Amy Schelling, Julia Snider, Aaron Yore-VanOosterhout.

CECIpalooza



FREE
SUMMER CONCERTS
THROUGHOUT
WEST MICHIGAN

2025 Summer
Concert List

This summer, there are over 200 FREE concerts in parks and squares across West Michigan! Would you, as an individual, department, or group, like to invite your CECI colleagues to visit one of these concerts in the park? If so, check out the [free concert list](#) compiled from local government and chamber of commerce websites, then send your invitation and venue information to cecidean@gvsu.edu. Also, please suggest where we might meet at the venue, before the concert. The Dean's Office will post the invitation and information on their webpage and share it on their social media platforms.

Concerts take place on all days of the week with start times usually between 6 and 7 p.m., and last about 90 minutes, with musical styles ranging from alt country to zydeco. Venues are family-friendly with guests bringing their own chairs and food. Most also have food trucks on site and some allow or serve wine and beer.

These concerts present a fun opportunity for us to mingle with each other and introduce our family and friends to colleagues.

University Governance

CECI University Committees

Representation Slidedeck

Representation List



University
Committee
Representative
Announcements/
Updates

Update from Christine Kenney (T&L), CECI Faculty Facilities Planning Advisory Committee (FFPAC) Representative:

The FFPAC plays a key role in identifying issues with teaching spaces and recommending improvements to ensure accessibility and functionality. To help us with our charge, if you experience any issues in your classroom or workspace, please submit a report using the [FixIt website](#).

Also, if you'd like to check out your assigned classroom or search for rooms based on specific attributes, visit the [Classrooms website](#).

College Governance

CECI Governance Committees

Governance Website

Representation List

IMPORTANT DATES!



August 15 - 2nd Quarter [CSCE Dissemination Grant](#) applications open for submission
August 18 - CECI Fall Kickoff Meeting | 8:00 AM | 215 Eberhard Center
August 20 - [GVSU Faculty/Staff Fall Kickoff Celebration](#) | 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM | Seidman Ctr.
August 22 - [University Address](#) | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Haas Center for Performing Arts
August 22 - [Laker Kickoff](#) | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM | Lubbers Stadium
August 25 - **Fall 2025 Classes Begin**
August 27 - [Rainbow Social](#) | 6:00 PM | Parking Lot H1 (Valley Campus)
August 29 - Last Day to Add, Register, or Pay for Fall 2025 Semester | 5:00 PM
September 1 - Labor Day | **No Classes - GVSU CLOSED**
September 3 - [Global Laker Festival](#) | 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Kirkhof Center Lawn
September 15 - [CECI Dean's Innovation Grant](#) applications due
October 1 - [Faculty Workload Plans \(FWPs\)](#) due in [Digital Measures](#)
October 2 - [GV Technology Summit](#) | 12:00 PM | DCIH

CECI Resources

[Acronyms](#)

[CECI Connections Guide](#)

[CECI Newsletter Repository](#)

[Experts Guide](#)

[Organizational Chart](#)

[Student Flowchart](#)

CECI HAPPENINGS

[CECI Happenings](#) is an informational form that can be submitted by any faculty, staff, or student to promote an event, publication, etc. that they would like shared to CECI social media platforms and/or the newsletter.

Newsletter Contributions

Thanks to all those who contributed to the August 2025 edition of *CECI Connections*:

Rita Cooper, Jackie Doyon-Martin, Shawn Evans, Christine Kenney, Mei Mah, Sherril Soman, Victoria Stubbs.

Submit a story for the September edition here!

You may also send items to share in future editions of CECI Connections to Victoria A. Stubbs at stubbsvi@gvsu.edu.

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

Connect with us!



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