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Colleagues,

Happy New Year and welcome back to campus! I hope your winter break was filled with rest, joy, and memorable moments. As we embark on the new year and a fresh semester, I'm happy to share that due to your hard work, overall enrollment continues to trend upward in both our [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) programs.

As always, in addition to our varied engagement with students, the winter semester will be filled with faculty searches, personnel reviews, and celebration of achievements. Here are a few highlights of the work being done by our associate deans this semester. Led by Associate Dean Mark Hoffman, many of our faculty and staff have developed sections for our college strategic plan. The next step will be soliciting feedback from units, college committees, and college faculty. You may review the draft at



[Strategic Planning - College of Education and Community Innovation - Grand Valley State University.](#)

Associate Dean Amy Schelling will be partnering to support accreditation site visit for our Legal Studies program as well as a self-study and accreditation reports for the education programs. Associate Dean Chasity-Bailey Fakhoury will continue to lead orientation sessions for our new faculty.

Our team is excited to continue supporting your efforts. You may view the brief bios and portfolios of each of our team members at <https://www.gvsu.edu/ceci/deans-office-staff-10.htm>.

We look forward to making 2025 a year of growth, engagement, and success. Here's to a fantastic semester ahead!

~Sherril

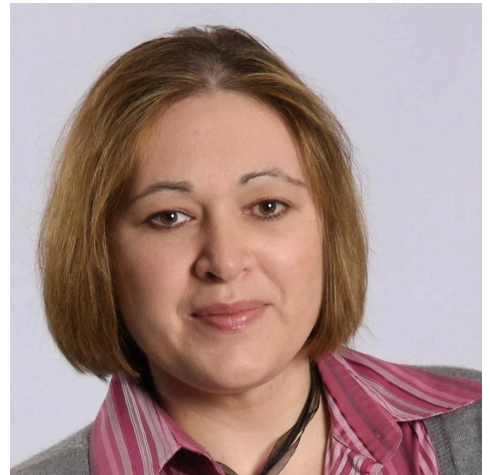
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## Celebrations

### Welcome to our Newest CECI Staff Members!

**Denise Cook** is a seasoned professional with extensive experience in grant management, fundraising, and education, including over a decade of living and working overseas. She currently serves as the Grant Manager who oversees the ESOL National Professional Development Grant, ensuring the effective use of funds to support professional development and enhance educational opportunities for English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in International Business from Ferris State University and is passionate about fostering educational, cultural, and community development through strategic grant management and innovative programming.



[More about Denise](#)



Hello, I am **Carrie Heishman**, and am excited to be a part of the GVSU CECI team.

Having lived in Grand Haven as a child and wanting to be closer to my family, my husband and I relocated to Michigan in the spring of 2022, and I am very happy to be back!

Previously, I was an elementary school teacher, having taught grades first through fifth. I also coached fourth and fifth grade basketball and volunteered with the Garden Club. I completed my master's degree in education in 2011 to better position myself in the field of education and higher learning.

Upon moving here, I decided to follow a different career path, in the interim, I took a position as a Customer Service Supervisor with Whole Foods Market and now I look forward to my new role and responsibilities here at GVSU.

In my spare time, I enjoy singing in my church choir, gardening, cooking, exploring parks, beach days, and being a Nana to four grandchildren.

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## CECI Service Awards

The **Service Awards Celebration** will be held on Tuesday, January 28 for those faculty and staff reaching their service milestone anniversary. Due to space limitations, the event is dedicated to award recipients. However, a recording of the ceremony will be posted on the Service Awards website after the event for everyone to enjoy. You are invited to share your warm wishes and congratulations with the colleagues being honored with a Service Award this year. Your kind words will be featured in a slideshow during the ceremony and posted online following the event. Congratulations to all!

Share your warm wishes

# CECI 2024 SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

## 30 Years

Brian Johnson, School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Legal Studies

## 25 Years

Mark Hoffman, CECI Dean's Office  
Barbara Lubic, Teaching and Learning

## 20 Years

Katie Humphrey, CECI Dean's Office  
Christopher Kierkus, School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Legal Studies

## 15 Years

Salvatore Alaimo, School of Community Leadership and Development  
Azfar Hussain, School of Community Leadership and Development  
Terry Stockton, Literacy, Educational Foundations, and Technology

## 10 Years

Erica Hamilton, Literacy, Educational Foundations, and Technology  
Raymond Higbea, School of Community Leadership and Development  
Lorie Tuma, School of Leadership and Development  
Michelle Wooddell, School of Leadership and Development

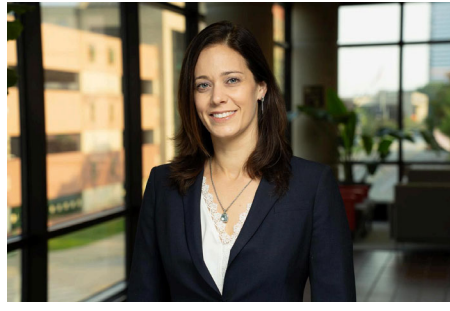
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## CECI Faculty Awards

Congratulations to the **2025 Faculty Award Recipients** for their hard work, excellence in teaching, outstanding contributions and service! The 2024-2025 Faculty Award Convocation will be held on February 18 at 4:00 p.m. in the Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium at the DeVos Center on the Pew Campus.



**Adrian Copeland**  
School of Criminology, Criminal  
Justice, and Legal Studies  
**Pew Teaching Excellence  
Award**



**Courtney Topic**  
School of Criminology, Criminal  
Justice, and Legal Studies  
**Pew Teaching with Technology  
Award**



**Ellen Schiller**  
Teaching and Learning  
**Glenn A. Niemeyer Award**

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## **The Graduate School Citations for Academic Excellence**

The Graduate School at GVSU recognized the outstanding achievements of individuals through the Graduate School Citation Awards for Academic Excellence. These awards celebrate graduate students and faculty members who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, leadership, and academic performance in graduate education.

# Citations for Academic Excellence

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM

Benjamin Fetterley, Health Administration  
Christopher Marco, Public Administration  
Sarah Coutts, Literacy Studies



## OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS

Jaimie Lomonaco, Literacy Studies

## OUTSTANDING FINAL PROJECT

Robert Samuels III, Literacy Studies

## OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION

Christopher Marco, Public Administration

## EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OR PROFESSION

Morgan Hanks, Public Administration

## EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO GVSU

Adam Prielipp, Public Administration



## EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

Sarah Laman, Public Administration

## Recognitions

### Faculty/Staff, Alumni, and Students

**Jason Trice**, CJ'01, will join Grand Valley's Board of Trustees for eight-year terms beginning in 2025. [GVNext article.](#)

**Mariah Walton**, MPA'18, has been appointed deputy city administrator for the City of Ann Arbor. [MLive article.](#)

**Salvatore Alaimo**, associate professor of nonprofit management, was interviewed by WalletHub for a [story about America's neediest cities](#).

**Amy Schelling**, associate dean of the College of Education and Community Innovation, was interviewed by MLive for a [story about the MI Future Educator Program](#), which offers scholarships to students who commit to teaching in a Michigan public school.

**Adrienne A. Wallace**, MPA alumna and associate professor of advertising and public relations, was elected to the Commission on Public Relations Education Board of Directors as a director-at-large. She will continue working as the delegate to the Journal of Public Relations Education in this role and as co-chair of the research committee.

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## Publications/Presentations

**Lorie A. Tuma**, associate professor in Hospitality and Tourism Management, attended *The Teaching Professor Conference on AI in Education*, exploring how artificial intelligence is transforming teaching and learning. Key takeaways included the use of AI to personalize student learning, streamline administrative tasks, and address ethical considerations in its implementation.

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## Community Engagement

### Michigan Literacy Project and Storehouse Partnership

A collaboration between Grand Valley's [Michigan Literacy Project](#) and nonprofit Storehouse of Community Resources has provided thousands of books for the next generation of PK-12 and special education teachers.

Amid the bustling activity, Megan Freudigmann, a CECI faculty member and one of the founders of the Michigan Literacy Project, is enthralled at watching her students comb through the Storehouse's vast inventory.

"I keep getting shivers when I look down the aisles because I see our students with their stacks of books," Freudigmann said. "I think about the impact and the lives that will be touched and impacted by these books, and it's just super exciting."



[Full GVNext Article](#)

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# Strategic Planning

The next step in CECI Strategic Planning: Comment on proposed objectives.

The proposed objectives from the CECI Strategic Planning Working Groups are available for your comment. They can be [viewed on the CECI website](#). They are also available as a discussion board on the College's Blackboard Ultra page. (Look under "organizations" when you log into Blackboard.) You may comment anonymously. The discussion board opens through February 14.

# CECI Events

## Global Awareness Collaborative Colloquium

Winter 2025: Japan

February 17 - March 17, 2024

For dates, times, locations, registration, and event details, please go to the [GACC webpage](#).

## February 17 - Keynote Presentation

Dr. Naoki Kanaboshi, Professor in the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Legal Studies

University Club, DeVos Center

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

## February 19 - Grand Valley Symphony Orchestra

Louis Armstrong Theater, Allendale Campus

Beginning at 7:30 p.m.



# University Governance

CECI University Committees -

Representation

Representation List

Sliddeck

# College Governance

CECI Governance Committees

Governance Website

Representation List



## Faculty Council

Below are the Faculty Council meetings scheduled for the Winter 2025 semester. All committee meetings will be from 9:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m. via Zoom. All Faculty Council meetings are open to CECI faculty.

Wednesday, February 19

Wednesday, March 19

Wednesday, April 16

## College Advisory and Communication Committee

CACC is finalizing plans for the Kids' Food Basket competition with the Bag-a-thon scheduled for Wednesday, February 19 from 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Exhibition Hall near Loosemore Auditorium. A light lunch will be provided.

We are also finalizing the College Awards with information coming out soon.

Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday, February 19

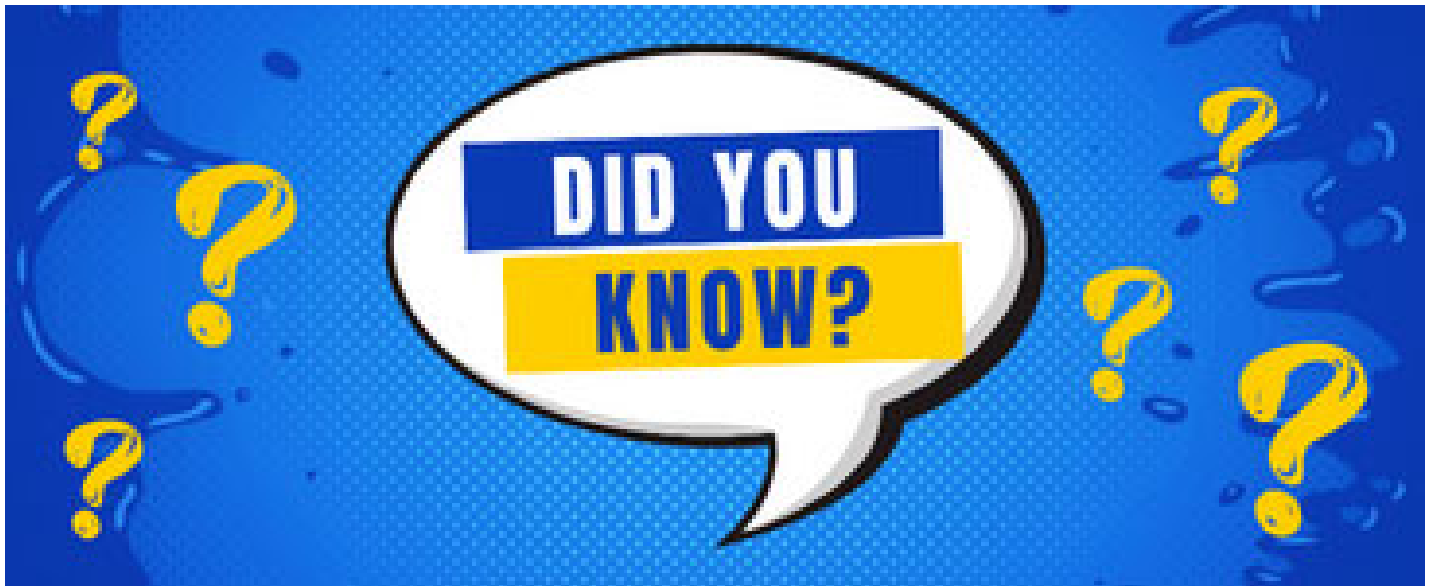
Wednesday, March 19

Wednesday, April 16



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.

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Results from the National Alumni Career Mobility Survey (NACM) survey provide strong evidence that participation in internships or field study has a positive effect on alumni attitudes on their career preparations at GVSU. While this is expected, participation in internships or field study colors alumni perceptions of their entire educational experience, well beyond career preparedness. Alumni who report remembering participation in internships or field study are more positive about their educational experience on 52 of NACM's 57 Likert-scale questions. For further details...

NACM Internship Effect

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**January 22** - Big Byte Webinar (2:30 Zoom Webinar and 3:30 Committee Meeting)

**January 28** - Annual Service Award Celebration

**February 17** - GACC Keynote Presentation - Japan (12:00 - 2:00 p.m.) - University Club

**February 18** - [Faculty Awards Convocation](#)

**February 19** - Big Byte Webinar (2:30 Zoom Webinar and 3:30 Committee Meeting)

**February 19** - Kids' Food Basket Bag-a-thon (11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) - Hagers-Lubbers Exhibition Hall

**February 19** - GACC - Grand Valley Symphony Orchestra (7:30 p.m.) - Louis Armstrong Theatre

**March 19** - Big Byte Webinar (2:30 Zoom Webinar and 3:30 Committee Meeting)

**April 14** - Year-End Winter Meeting - Seidman 1008 Multipurpose Room

# Important Dates

## FALL PERSONNEL ACTIONS

- August 26 - Fall Personnel Portfolios due to Unit Heads by 11:59 p.m.
- October 25 - Unit Head submits appropriate fall personnel documents to Dean
- October 31 - Dean forwards fall personnel documents to CPC
- November 15 - CPC submits fall personnel recommendations to Dean
- December 20 - 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 recommendation is due
- January 31 - Provost sabbatical decision is due

## WINTER PERSONNEL ACTIONS

- January 8 - Winter Personnel Portfolios due to Unit Heads
- February 23 - Unit Heads submit appropriate winter personnel documents to Dean
- February 29 - Dean forwards winter personnel documents to CPC
- March 29 - CPC submits winter personnel recommendations to Dean
- April 19 - Dean submits winter personnel recommendations to Provost
- June 1 - Provost makes winter personnel decisions and notifies all appropriate people

## ANNUAL SCHEDULE

Please note that Spring/Summer will be due back before Fall and Winter				
Semester	Phase	To	Available	Edits Complete By
SS25	Round One - First Dibs Rooms	Departments	9/23/2024	10/18/2024
SS25	Round One - First Dibs Rooms	Deans	10/21/2024	10/25/2024
SS25	Round One - QC	Records	10/28/2024	11/8/2024
SS25	Final Round - Open Rooms	Departments	11/11/2024	12/4/2024
SS25	Final Round - Open Rooms	Deans	12/5/2024	12/6/2024
SS25	Schedule Viewable (Course Changes)	Live/Viewable to Students	12/9/2024	
SS25	Schedule Viewable (Course Changes)	Planner Available	3/1/2025	
SS25	Advanced Registration (Course Changes)	Registration Live	3/17/2025	
F25.W26	Round One - First Dibs Rooms	Departments	9/23/2024	11/8/2024
F25.W26	Round One - First Dibs Rooms	Deans	11/11/2024	11/15/2024
F25.W26	Round One - QC	Records	11/18/2024	12/6/2024
F25.W26	Final Round - Open Rooms	Departments	12/9/2024	1/31/2025
F25.W26	Final Round - QC & Roomless	Deans	2/3/2025	2/7/2025
F25.W26	Final Round - QC & Roomless	Records	2/10/2025	2/28/2025
F25.W26	Schedule Viewable (Course Changes)	Planner Available	3/1/2025	
F25.W26	Advanced Registration (Course Changes)	Registration Live	3/17/2025	

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# Resources

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

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Thanks to all those who contributed to the November 2024 edition of CECI Connections:  
Dean Sherril Soman, Mark Hoffman, Lorie Tuma, Denise Cook, Carrie Heishman, and Karyn Rabourn

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

[cecidean@gvsu.edu](mailto:cecidean@gvsu.edu) | (616) 331-6821 | [gvsu.edu/ceci](https://gvsu.edu/ceci)

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## Connect with us!



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