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CECI Connections

NEWSLETTER

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

January 2026

Dear Colleagues,

As we begin a new year and a new semester, I want to extend a warm welcome and my sincere appreciation for the work you do each day in service of our students and communities. The start of a semester is always a moment of possibility—an opportunity to reconnect with our purpose.

This year begins amid a shifting and sometimes challenging federal landscape. While many of these changes are beyond our immediate control, what *is* within our control is how we show up for our students and for one another. I encourage you to ground yourselves in the values that define our college: care, curiosity, equity, and community partnership.

Mindfulness practices—whether brief moments of reflection, intentional pauses between meetings, or use of campus wellness and employee support resources—can help us stay centered and focused on what matters most: supporting student learning and well-being. I hope you will take advantage of these resources and extend that same sense of care to yourselves.

Thank you for your continued dedication and leadership. I wish you a healthy, focused, and meaningful start to the semester.

With gratitude,

~Sherril Soman
CECI Dean



CECI Unit Spotlight



JUVENILE JUSTICE
VISION 20/20



Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20 (JJV 20/20) celebrated 15 years of service and impact this past December. The organization was launched in 2010 and supported by **Dr. Kathy Bailey, professor in the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Legal Studies (SCCJLS) and JJV 20/20 treasurer**, as well as the JJV 20/20 executive team of Sandi Metcalf, president; Kevin Bowling, vice president; Dave Pelon '04 CJ, secretary, among many others from the community.

The core mission of JJV 20/20 has been to promote juvenile justice by supporting the effective administration of justice, providing education and training, advocating for sufficient funding, and *quality* data to maintain an informed, transparent system. The organization has advocated tirelessly for court-involved youth, asserting the need to avoid detention when possible, and employ effective treatment in order to ensure both child well-being and public safety. Their service has taken many forms, all of which has moved juvenile justice forward in Michigan.

Over the past 15 years, JJV 20/20:

- Hosted 45 statewide conferences and webinars, offering education, inspiration, and a sense of shared purpose to practitioners, students, and supporters across the state.
- Convened Michigan's first statewide strategic planning initiative for juvenile justice and juvenile justice data.
- Designed and launched a state-of-the-art, multijurisdictional juvenile justice case management system—complete with the first juvenile justice data dictionary and clear data-sharing agreements to ensure transparency across courts.
- Contributed expertise to numerous state juvenile justice reform committees.
- And built and maintained a website that has become a statewide hub for research, resources, and continuous learning.

The **JJV 20/20 executive team** did all of this with no budget, no dedicated funding stream, and no paid infrastructure. They were able to secure grants to cover expenses, and are sincerely grateful for the generosity of Grand Valley State University, supportive vendors, and, most importantly, the community. As this chapter comes to a close, JJV 20/20 is excited to see what the future holds in store. Congratulations to Kathy, Sandi, Kevin, Dave, and the entire JJV 20/20 team!

Celebrations



Congratulations to all 2026 CECI Faculty Award recipients! Join your Grand Valley colleagues at the **Faculty Awards Convocation** on February 10 at 4 p.m. in the Loosemore Auditorium (Pew Campus), for a ceremony to celebrate this year's university-wide awards for outstanding faculty achievements in teaching, scholarship, and service. Learn more about the event on the [Faculty Awards Convocation website](#).

[2026 Faculty Awards Convocation Honorees \(CECI recipients below\)](#)



Dr. Kathy Bailey
SCCJLS
Outstanding Community Service Award
(University Award)



Dr. Jen DeWaard
T&L
Outstanding Advising and Student Services Award
(University Award)



Dr. Karyn Rabourn
ELC
Outstanding University Service Award
(University Award)



Dr. Lindsay Stoetzel
LEFT
Pew Teaching Excellence Award
(Pew Award for Excellence)



Click on image to view
CECI recipients.

Congratulations to CECI faculty and staff who reached milestone anniversaries during the 2025 calendar year! These faculty and staff members will be honored later this month at the [GVSU Annual Service Awards](#) celebration. **Thank you for your many years of service!**

2025 CECI Service Award Recipients:

- **Dr. Kathy Bailey**, School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Legal Studies (SCCJLS) - **30 Years**
- **Dr. Rich Jellier**, Public, Nonprofit, and Health Administration (SCLD) - **30 Years**
- **Dr. Priscilla Kimboko**, Public, Nonprofit, and Health Administration (SCLD) - **25 Years**
- **Mr. Clay Pelon**, Center for Educational Partnerships (CEP) - **25 Years**
- **Dr. Sherril Soman**, CECI Dean - **25 Years**
- **Dr. Mary Bair**, Literacy, Educational Foundations, and Technology - **20 Years**
- **Dr. Scott Berlin**, School of Social Work (SSW) - **20 Years**
- **Dr. Cray Mulder**, School of Social Work (SSW) - **20 Years**
- **Mr. A. Scott Rood**, Hospitality and Tourism Management (SCLD) - **20 Years**
- **Mr. Tom Fellows**, CECI Undergraduate Advising Center (UAC) - **15 Years**
- **Dr. Jamie Langlois**, School of Social Work (SSW) - **15 Years**
- **Dr. Michael Scantlebury**, Hospitality and Tourism Management (SCLD) - **15 Years**
- **Dr. Leanne Kang**, Literacy, Educational Foundations, and Technology - **10 Years**
- **Ms. Kym Pawelka**, Office of Certification and Accreditation (OCA) - **10 Years**
- **Dr. Sally Pelon**, School of Social Work (SSW) - **10 Years**
- **Dr. Karyn Rabourn**, Educational Leadership and Counseling (ELC) - **10 Years**
- **Dr. Melissa Villarreal**, School of Social Work (SSW) - **10 Years**
- **Mr. Duane Zuber**, Hospitality and Tourism Management (SCLD) - **10 Years**



Lorrie A. Tuma, associate professor of Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM/SCLD), was recently appointed as an Auxiliarist in the [United States Coast Guard Auxiliary](#) (USCGAUX) — the uniformed, volunteer civilian service component of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Established by Congress in 1939, the USCGAUX supports the U.S. Coast Guard's mission through boating safety education, vessel safety checks, search and rescue support, and community outreach. Auxiliary members volunteer their time and expertise to promote safety, preparedness, and stewardship across America's waterways.

Dr. Tuma completed a rigorous and comprehensive onboarding and qualification process to be accepted into the Auxiliary, including the *Basic Qualification Course II*, the *Auxiliary Core Training series* (covering *ethics, civil rights, security fundamentals, and workforce readiness*), a *new-member examination*, and *required background screening*.

Much of this training was delivered online, with additional instruction and service activities conducted through her local Flotilla in Venice, Florida. As an Auxiliarist, Dr. Tuma will support Coast Guard missions while proudly representing GVSU through community-based service and leadership. She has formally identified the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary as the community organization she serves as part of her broader professional commitment to public engagement and civic responsibility at GVSU.



Adrienne Wallace, '05 MPA (SCLD), received the [2025 Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year Award](#) from the [Michigan Association of State Universities](#). Wallace is an associate professor and the advertising and public relations major coordinator at GVSU, and advisor of numerous student organizations. [More about Adrienne Wallace](#).

CECI In The News



CECI Teacher Education (TE) program students were featured in a [SchoolNewsNetwork.com article](#) about gaining hands-on experience in elementary school classrooms through a partnership with Grand Rapids Public Schools.



Chasity Bailey-Fahkoury, CECI associate dean and associate professor, was interviewed on [eightWest](#) about GVSU's 40th Anniversary of [Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Week](#) events. Dr. Bailey-Fahkoury serves as co-chair of the executive planning committee for MLK Commemoration Week, which is led by the Division of People, Equity, and Culture.



Selma Tucker, '11 MPA (SCLD), was recently appointed as the director for the city of **Grand Rapids' Community Development Department**. Tucker will oversee the city's efforts in supporting housing and community development activities, and his role will focus on resident needs, urban development, and fostering inclusive community growth. Read more about Tucker's appointment on [MLive](#).

Campus Events



More about WAVE

Upcoming CECI Undergraduate Student Wellness and Vibrancy Events (WAVE):

Tuesday, February 3: "Love Letter to Yourself Workshop"

- **What?** Join the CECI Advisors for some cookies and letter writing supplies to compose kind words to yourself!
- **Where?** CECI Advising Office Community Space, 321C DEV (3rd floor)
- **When?** Tuesday, February 3, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Open House Style: Come and go as you please)
- **Why?** You deserve love, kindness, and care during this season. Loving yourself first is key!

Tuesday, February 17: "Healthy Relationships Workshop" with University Counseling

- **What?** Join the University Counseling Center and the CECI UAC for a workshop on how to start, maintain, and be yourself in healthy relationships.
- **Where?** TBD
- **When?** Tuesday, February 17, from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- **Why?** Having healthy relationships is an important key to building a supportive, dependable, and joyful foundation. Let's learn together how to be more loving to ourselves and others!



Fulbright U.S. Scholar Information Session: Friday, February 13, 2026. Preparing for an upcoming sabbatical or other form of leave? Join the Fulbright Scholar information session to hear from GVSU colleagues about the Fulbright Scholar and Fulbright Specialist awards. You'll also meet GVSU's campus Fulbright liaison, Dr. Tooley.

Date: Friday, February 13, 2026

Time: 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Place: Kirkhof Center 2266 (Allendale Campus)

Please [register](#) in advance if you plan on attending. Email tooleyb@gvsu.edu if you'd like to connect about the application process or brainstorm possibilities.



Registration is opening soon for this year's Student Scholars Day. The 30th edition of this showcase of student research and creativity will take place on April 8. This year's theme, **SSD at 30: Reimagining the Purpose of Our Scholarship**, invites students to explore how academic knowledge can inspire, educate, and catalyze when it is shared beyond traditional boundaries and platforms. **The registration period runs from February 9 to February 27**, and all faculty mentors and co-presenters must approve their students' presentations by this date. Additional details and guides on the registration process can be found on the [Student Scholars Day website](#).

Important Notices

AP Award Nominations



AP Awards - Nominations Now Open: Submit a nomination for an Administrative Professional (AP) staff member for this year's AP Awards in one of these six categories:

- AP Achievement Award
- Commitment to Diversity Award
- Commitment to Students Award
- Innovation Award
- Outstanding Team Project Award
- Service to Community Award

The submission deadline for 2026 AP awards nominations is Friday, February 13, at 5 p.m. To learn more and nominate an AP colleague, visit the [AP Awards website](#).



Election time is here and the call for nominations is now open! Please self-nominate for an open university or college committee that interests you. If you wish to nominate a colleague, please confirm that they are willing to serve on the committee before submitting their name. For incumbent committee members with expiring terms, if you wish to be on the ballot, please self-nominate. **The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, January 28, at 11:59 p.m.**

The [Winter 2026 Election Information webpage](#) shows the open seats that will be on the upcoming ballot, along with term lengths, descriptions of each committee, and standard meeting times. We ask that all incumbents review the information provided for accuracy. Contact [Rita Cooper](#) if something needs updating. You can also find the Winter 2026 Election Information webpage under the Faculty tab on the CECI homepage.

After verification, nominees will be added to the Confirmed Candidates lists. Although not required, we encourage nominees to submit a personal statement relevant to the position. These will be linked to their names in the Confirmed Candidates lists. Please forward your personal statement to Rita.

Voting will be open from Monday, February 9 to Monday, February 23 at 5 p.m.

If you have any additional questions about university or college committees, please email [Emily Nichols](#) or [Karyn Rabourn](#), co-chairs of Faculty Council.



CECI Dean's Innovation Grant Application

Now accepting submissions 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 Deadline: Sunday, March 15, 2026.

University Governance

2026 University-Level Committee Openings

(Nomination Deadline: Wednesday, January 28 at 11:59 p.m.)

College Governance

2026 College-Level Committee Openings

(Nomination Deadline: Wednesday, January 28 at 11:59 p.m.)



The **CECI Technology and Innovation Committee** invites you to attend our January Big Byte webinar: **Level Up Your Collaboration: Using Zoom Workspace & Microsoft Teams**

This workshop introduces faculty to practical, time-saving ways to collaborate using Zoom Workspace and Microsoft Teams. We'll explore how these platforms can streamline communication, support shared projects, organize files, and create more efficient team workflows. Directly following this Big Byte is the CECI Tech and Innovation Committee meeting, which all are welcome to attend!

Presenters: Justin Melick, Stephanie Balaskas, and Keifer McCrackin

Location: [Zoom Webinar](#)

Time: January 27, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Looking for additional information? Our new [CECI Big Byte org](#) is now live in Blackboard! Take some time to catch up on previous sessions, share questions/ideas with your hosts on the Discussion Board, and find the link to join our Zoom webinars.

Important Dates

IMPORTANT DATES!



January 19-24 - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Week | [Full schedule](#)

January 27 - CECI Big Byte - **Level Up Your Collaboration: Using Zoom Workspace & Microsoft Teams** | 11:30 a.m. | [Zoom](#)

January 28 - University/College Committee nomination deadline | 11:59 p.m. | [CECI website](#)

February 6 - Credit/No Credit/75% Tuition Refund Deadline | 5 p.m.

February 10 - Faculty Awards Convocation | 4 p.m. | Loosemore Auditorium

February 13 - Fulbright U.S. Scholar information session | 4:30 p.m. | Kirkhof Center

February 13 - AP Awards nomination deadline | 5 p.m. | [AP Awards website](#)

February 24 - CECI Big Byte - **Ethics, AI, and Education: Fueling Ethical AI in Teaching** | 11:30 a.m. | 203E DEV (panel session)

February 27 - Student Scholars Day registration deadline | 11:59 p.m. | [SSD website](#)

March 8-14 - **GVSU Spring Break** | No classes, campus/offices open normal business hours

March 24 - CECI Big Byte - **ADA Compliance and SAR-Related Topics** | 11:30 a.m. | Zoom

April 13 - CECI Winter 2026 All-College Meeting | 8 a.m. | 1008 Seidman Center

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 January 2026 edition of **CECI Connections**:

Kathy Bailey, Jackie Doyon-Martin, Bill Herbst, Mark Hoffman, Noah Houchlei, Sherril Soman, Victoria Stubbs, Lorie Tuma.

Submit a story for the February edition [here!](#)

You may also send items to share in future editions of *CECI Connections* directly 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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