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Colleagues,

Summer has a way of reminding us that places are never static. Neighborhoods come alive with festivals and farmers' markets. Schools become sites for camps, enrichment, and new opportunities. Parks, libraries, businesses, and community organizations take on new rhythms as people gather, learn, and connect in different ways.

As I watch these seasonal shifts unfold, I am reminded that our work has always been deeply rooted in place. We prepare educators who help young people discover their potential. We partner with public servants and nonprofit leaders who strengthen communities. We work alongside organizations that create opportunities for individuals and families to thrive. Our classrooms extend well beyond campus because our mission is ultimately about helping people shape the places they call home. Every conversation, collaboration, and act of service contributes to stronger schools, more vibrant communities, and a brighter future for those who will follow us.



Thank you for the many ways you represent CECI throughout the summer months. Whether you are teaching, conducting research, supporting students, engaging with community partners, or finding time to reflect and renew, your work continues to advance our mission in meaningful ways.

I wish you a wonderful July and look forward to seeing you all in person at next month's startup meeting as we prepare for all that we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

~Sherril Soman
CECI Dean

CECI Unit Spotlight

Did you know that coordinating CECI's teacher internship requires collaboration across multiple departments and units? This experience takes place during the final semester of our teacher preparation program, when teacher candidates assume full responsibility for a classroom before graduating and becoming fully licensed educators.

While many faculty and staff contribute to the teacher internship, there have been relatively few opportunities to collaborate across departments or engage in shared conversations about how to best support candidates during their internships. To address this, faculty from the **Literacy, Educational Foundations, and Technology (LEFT) department and the Teaching and Learning (T&L) department** formed a 2025–2026 [Faculty Learning Community \(FLC\)](#) titled, ***Reflecting on the Teacher Internship Experience: How Do We Cultivate Social Justice-Minded PK–12 Teacher Identities?***

Meeting monthly, faculty began by learning about each other's work. This led to practical conversations that identified some overlap and redundancies in content, resulting in better coordination of course schedules and assignments within the overall prescribed phases and expectations of the teacher internship experience. This then extended into more philosophical and theoretical conversations around how our collective coordination and programming can cultivate social-justice-minded teacher identities.

The Learning Community plans to continue meeting in 2026–2027 to deepen collaboration across faculty. We aim to foster ongoing cross-departmental conversations that intentionally align coursework and design internship experiences. Our shared goal is to cultivate the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that support the development of social justice-minded teacher identities.



Pictured from left to right: Kevin Holohan (LEFT), Kathryn Ohle (T&L), Kelly Lormand (T&L), Leanne Kang (LEFT), Megan Freudigmann (T&L), Janelle Grant Ashbaugh (LEFT), MaryJohn Pachuta-Rysak (LEFT).

Celebrations



Click on photo to enlarge.

On June 25, the **Office of Certification and Accreditation (OCA)** had the opportunity to participate in a special one-on-one cooking class with GVSU's chef as a reward for achieving the highest number of participants in this past year's **Giving Tuesday** campaign. The hands-on culinary experience brought their team together as they prepared a variety of delicious, including cornbread, corn salad, salmon, chicken, and several other flavorful recipes. Beyond learning new cooking techniques, the event provided an enjoyable opportunity to collaborate, strengthen team connections, and celebrate their shared accomplishment.



Click on photo to enlarge.

Jackie Doyon-Martin, director and professor in the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Legal Studies (SCCJLS), recently received the [Broken People National Mental Health Hero Award](#) from the local nonprofit, [Broken People Peer Support Network](#). The award recognizes individuals who make a meaningful difference in mental health advocacy and community connection. The Broken People Leadership Team selects recipients who have demonstrated exceptional care and support for others. Jackie was nominated by former GVSU student Jules Eggerding (Legal Studies '20, Master of Criminal Justice '24).



Job well done to **Solomon Dukes and Grayson Rodgers, Public and Nonprofit Administration (PNHA-SCLD) students**, for helping bring the [Democracy Café](#) to communities across Grand Rapids. Through thoughtful conversations and community engagement, they're demonstrating how public service starts with listening and connecting with others. This new, mobile civic experience is bringing free refreshments, conversation and learning opportunities to Grand Rapids neighborhoods. [Check out the Fox17 news report for more on the Democracy Café.](#)



Rachel Gorman, Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM-SCLD) alum, was recognized by [Michigan Women Forward](#) as the "[Woman to Watch Honoree](#)" at this year's [WomanUp & Celebrate West Michigan](#) event. Gorman serves as president and CEO of the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, where she partners closely with community leaders, stakeholders, and member businesses to strengthen the region's economy, foster meaningful collaboration, and champion initiatives that enhance quality of life along the lakeshore.



Congratulations to the **Master's of Health Administration (MHA-SCLD) program** for earning an eight-year reaccreditation from the [Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education \(CAHME\)](#). The reaccreditation recognizes the program's commitment to healthcare leadership education and the work of program director, Raymond Higbea, and all the faculty and staff. [You can read the full announcement from CAHME here.](#)

Campus Events



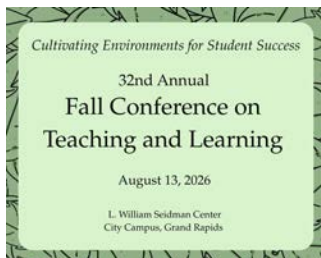
Get ready for the **9th Annual GVSU Summer Movie Night**, brought to you by PNC Bank — **Wednesday, July 22 at 7 p.m. in Lubbers Stadium!** This year, we will be playing Zootopia 2 on the videoboard! **Admission is free to the public!** Early arriving fans will score a giveaway item, courtesy of PNC Bank. [RSVP now](#) and you will be entered into pre-movie raffle drawings for a chance to win some awesome prizes! Bring your friends and family — this is the GVSU Athletics event of the summer! See you there for a night of fun and a fantastic movie at Lubbers Stadium!



GVSU Wellness Summit scheduled for Wednesday, July 29. The Wellness Summit is an all-day opportunity to invest in your well-being and explore the many dimensions of wellness at GVSU. Throughout the day, participants will have the chance to engage in numerous experiences, offered in a variety of formats, to help you be well at GV. More details will be shared soon.



The [GVSU Summer Scholars Showcase](#) is scheduled for **Friday, July 31, from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. in 1008 Seidman Center.** This showcase celebrates the scholarship, research, and creative work of undergraduate students who participated in summer research through programs such as [Student Summer Scholars \(S3\)](#), [Modified Student Summer Scholars \(MS3\)](#), [Library Scholars](#), [Kindschi Fellows](#), and [McNair Scholars](#). Each scholar will make a formal presentation in the form of a performance, poster, or an oral presentation. As many scholars will still be immersed in the research, or creative process, this Showcase is an exhibition of their work thus far and may differ from their final report and formal Student Scholars Day presentations.



Join Pew FTLC for the [32nd Annual Fall Conference on Teaching and Learning](#) on **Thursday, August 13, 2026.** This milestone event promises a day filled with insightful discussions, innovative teaching strategies, and networking opportunities. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow educators and enhance your teaching practice! Due to Eberhard Center construction, the event will take place at the L. William Seidman Center, which means capacity is more limited. Pew FTLC challenges you as a community to take this opportunity to practice living the mantra; if you sign up, show up. [Registering](#) means you are committing to attending the event. They understand emergencies arise, and if they do they simply ask you let Pew FTLC know you are no longer able to attend so they may enable others to attend.

Publications/Presentations



Sal Alaimo, professor of public and nonprofit administration in the School of Community Leadership and Development (SCLD), recently co-published the article, "[Determining brand equity of nonprofit organizations: An inquiry of Czech citizens](#)," in *Communications: The European Journal of Communication Research*.



Pakky Gerkin, professor in the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Legal Studies (SCCJLS), had his article, "**The Age of Impunity: White-Collar Crime and the Erosion of Accountability**," accepted for publication in the journal of [Critical Criminology](#), which is one of the top journals in the field.



Cathy Meyer-Looze, unit head and professor in the Educational Leadership and Counseling (ELC) department, completed the [Speak with Courage](#) course taught by Dana Black, a TEDX Chicago coach and actress. The course was offered through [Traverse Connect](#), and concluded with a Showcase at the City Opera House on June 30, 2026, in Traverse City, MI.



Rick Vandermolten, associate professor, and Cathy Meyer-Looze, unit head and professor, both in the Educational Leadership and Counseling (ELC) department, presented at the inaugural [GVSU CommCon Conference](#) on June 17. Their presentation, **Reaching and Resonating with Diverse Audiences: Inclusive Communication through the Process Communication Model**, explored how leaders can communicate more inclusively by adapting messages to diverse communication styles and perspectives. Participants learned how personality-based perceptual filters influence understanding, engagement and trust, and gain strategies to craft messages that are accessible and meaningful.



Amy Schelling, CECI associate dean, and Adrianna Donahue, GYO graduate teacher certification program director, along with Mary Kay Murphy from the West Michigan Teacher Collaborative (WMTC), presented, "**Pathways to Teaching: Establishing Partnerships that Recruit and Retain the Educator Workforce**," at the [National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification \(NASDTEC\)](#) annual conference in Indianapolis, IN, on June 16, 2026.

Important Notices



NAME CHANGE NOTICE: The Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence (CSCE) is now the **"Faculty Research and Innovation Center (FRIC)."** Units included within FRIC include: the Office of Research Compliance and Integrity, the Office of Sponsored Programs, the Technology Commercialization Office, and the Johnson Center for Philanthropy. Along with a new name, FRIC also has a [newly designed website](#), and has updated its dissemination and mini grant offerings to help better support faculty.



[View map](#)

Major impacts coming up for the intersection of Lake Michigan Dr. NW and Winter Ave. NW: In the next couple of weeks, the traffic signal at Lake Michigan Dr. NW and Winter Ave. NW will be removed to begin preparations for the bridge from the Seward Ramp to the YMCA. **This area will be a 4-way stop through December.**

[NEW] Mid-July to end of July – road closure on Pearl from 131/Scribner to Seward. Detour to Fulton. Utility work will be occurring just north of Burger King.

Additionally, **Lake Michigan Dr. from Seward Ave. to Mt. Vernon will be closing at end of August through December.** Access to Seward Ramp - access from west if construction allows, or from Fulton/south side.



Fall 2026 Final Grading Change: The Provost's Office and the Office of the Registrar are working together proactively to make plans for grading at the end of the Fall 2026 semester.

The Fall 2026 semester begins Monday, August 31. Based on current scheduling guidelines, this is the latest the fall semester could ever begin. This means that grades would be due on Tuesday, December 22 at noon. The university will be closed for Winter Break Wednesday, December 23-Sunday, January 3. Staff will be back at work on Monday, January 4, and the Winter 2027 semester will begin Monday, January 11.

Given that the grading process takes about three days to complete, it has been decided to **move the university grading deadline to Monday, December 21 at noon for the Fall 2026 semester only.** Undergraduate academic review will occur on Monday, December 21-Wednesday, December 23. Graduate academic review will occur early in the week of January 4, 2027.

The Provost's Office and Office of the Registrar recognize that **faculty with exams near the end of finals week will have less time than normal to complete their grades.** Hopefully knowing ahead of time will allow them to plan their exams/culminating experiences in a way to minimize stress in the grading process.

A notification will be sent to all instructors prior to the beginning of the fall semester as well as several reminders as the semester nears completion.

University Governance

University Committees

Representation List

College Governance

Important Dates

IMPORTANT DATES!



July 22 - GVSU Movie Night feat. *Zootopia 2* | 7 p.m. | Lubber's Stadium - Allendale Campus

July 29 - GVSU Wellness Summit | *details TBA*

July 31 - GVSU Summer Scholars Showcase | 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. | L. William Seidman Center

August 7 - **Classes End** - 2nd 6 and 12 weeks

August 10-11 - **Examinations** - 2nd 6 and 12 weeks

August 13 - Pew FTLC Fall Conference on Teaching and Learning | L. William Seidman Center

August 17 - Final Grades Due from Faculty by 12:00 p.m. - 2nd 6 and 12 weeks

August 24 - CECI Fall Kickoff Meeting | 1008 L. William Seidman Center

August 31 - Fall 2026 Semester Begins

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 July 2026 edition of *CECI Connections*:

Neal Buckwalter, Jackie Doyon-Martin, Bill Herbst, Mark Hoffman, Leanne Kang, Kaithlyn Koomson, Cathy Meyer-Looze, Amy Schelling, Sherril Soman, Victoria Stubbs

Submit a story for the August edition here!

You may also send items to share in future editions of *CECI Connections* directly to Bill Herbst, Director of Communications, at herbstw@gvsu.edu, and/or Victoria A. Stubbs, Office Assistant, at stubbsvi@gvsu.edu.

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

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