

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Information Technology Division

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER



GV Technology Summit: Registration Open & Submit Your Presenter Proposal Now

Join us on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, on the Valley Campus (Allendale) for the second annual GV Technology Summit. This free, university-wide event brings faculty, staff, and students together to explore how technology is strengthening teaching, learning, research, and work at GVSU.

Throughout the day, you'll hear from colleagues across campus, discover innovative ideas and technologies, and learn how others are using technology to enhance their teaching, research, and daily work.

Whether you're looking for practical takeaways, fresh ideas, or new campus connections, the GV Technology Summit is an opportunity to learn, collaborate, and be inspired.

Still Time to Submit a Presentation Proposal

We're building an exciting lineup of presentations, including a keynote from Dr. Imran Mazid and a panel discussion featuring GVSU faculty and staff who are using high-performance computing to advance research, teaching, and student success.

We're still accepting proposals for breakout sessions and poster presentations through September 15. Have an idea to share? Submit your proposal through the [Call for Presenters form](#).

Register to Attend or Volunteer

Sign up to attend, volunteer, or both and get the GV Technology Summit on your calendar before the back-to-school rush begins. [Visit the event webpage to get started!](#)

Explore Upcoming Training Opportunities: July sessions to enhance your tech skills

Summer is a great time to build your technology skills or learn something new. Explore training opportunities available to faculty and staff and consider registering for one of this month's featured sessions.

[Making PDFs Accessible](#)

July 20: 3:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Learn how to create accessible PDFs using Adobe Acrobat Pro. This 30-minute webinar covers the essential tools and techniques to help ensure your PDF documents are readable and navigable for all users, including those who rely on screen readers.

[PDF Tune-Up in 15 Minutes Using Blackboard Ally](#)

July 23: 3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

In just 15 minutes, learn how to transform scanned PDFs into accessible course materials using Blackboard Ally.

[Maximizing Productivity with Free Microsoft Copilot Features](#)

July 29: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Discover how to get the most out of Microsoft Copilot's free features. This session covers core capabilities, practical examples, and simple ways to use AI to save time and work more efficiently.

Watch for even more training opportunities coming in August.

Join the July AI Collective Meetup: Hear insights from Mike Williams of Zoom on emerging AI trends.



Join colleagues from across GVSU for the next AI Collective Meetup on Friday, July 31, from 1:00–2:30 p.m. at the futurEDlab in the Grandview Collaboration Hub (CEC 322) on the City Campus (Grand Rapids).

Hosted by the IT Innovation + Research team, the AI Collective provides a welcoming space to connect, explore, and experiment with AI. This month's meetup will feature Mike Williams, Senior Technical Sales Architect from Zoom, who will share updates on Zoom's expanding AI capabilities and upcoming enhancements. The session will also include faculty spotlights and community discussion. [Visit the AI Collective web page to learn more and register](#).

Nominate an IT Colleague for a 2026 Service Award: Submit nominations by July 31

Each year, IT recognizes outstanding team members in Service Excellence, Innovation, and Leadership. Nominations are open through July 31, 2026, and can be submitted by anyone across the university. The IT Community Advocates (ITCA) will review all submissions and announce recipients at the Fall IT Service Awards event on September 9, 2026.

Know someone in IT who goes above and beyond? [Visit the ITCA webpage to submit a nomination today!](#)

Meet Mitchell Holt

Network Engineer, IT Enterprise Architecture

Mitchell Holt joined Grand Valley in October 2024 as a Network Engineer on Information Technology's Enterprise Architecture team. In his role, he helps manage and support the university's wired and wireless network infrastructure, ensuring students, faculty, and staff stay connected across campus.



One of Mitchell's favorite parts of his job is seeing how technology improvements make a difference for the campus community. He is currently helping with a campus-wide network switch upgrade that is increasing network capacity in buildings across campus. In some housing facilities, available connection speeds have increased from 1GB to 20GB, providing students with faster and more reliable access to campus resources.

Mitchell earned his bachelor's degree in Network Security from Davenport University and is currently pursuing JNCIA-Junos and JNCIA-MistAI certifications related to the Juniper and Mist technologies used at GVSU.

Outside of work, Mitchell enjoys spending time with his wife and their two young children. When he has free time, he enjoys playing video games, Magic: The Gathering, and spending time outdoors hiking, backpacking, and camping.

Need IT Assistance?

Service Portal:

services.gvsu.edu

Phone: (616)-331-2101 or (855) 435-7488

Email: it@gvsu.edu



GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY.

1 Campus Drive
4490 KHS
Allendale, MI 49401

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