

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DIVISION

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

Grand Valley Receives 2026 CIO 100 Award

Grand Valley State University has been named a 2026 CIO 100 Award winner by Foundry, recognizing the Information Technology Division for leadership in advancing teaching, learning, and research through the innovative use of technology.

Grand Valley was selected for this award for its work on [ProfAI, an internally developed innovative AI-powered solution reshaping how course content](#) is created and delivered. This recognition reflects a broader institutional commitment to advancing technologies that support student success and academic excellence.

Developed through GVSU's futurEDlab, where students, faculty, and staff collaborate to explore and experiment, ProfAI represents a new model for instructional innovation. Led by IT Innovation + Research Innovator in Residence Joseph Van Harken, in partnership with faculty and students, ProfAI transforms traditional lectures and course materials into engaging, accessible video-based microlearning experiences.

[Read more about the CIO 100 Award in the GVNext article](#) and the [GVSU IT News Highlight](#).

Congrats to Joseph and all who played a role in the development of ProfAI and are leading the way in using technology to turn "what if" into what's next at GVSU.



Joseph VanHarken,
Innovator in Residence

2026 GV Technology Summit:
Registration Open & Submit Presenter Proposals Now

Mark your calendar for the [GV Technology Summit](#) on **November 3, 2026**, from **8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at the Kirkhof Center on the Valley (Allendale) Campus.

Sponsored by IT, this university-wide event brings together faculty, staff, and students to explore how technology is shaping the future of teaching, learning, and work at GVSU.

Introducing Our Keynote: Dr. Imran Mazid
We're excited to welcome Dr. Imran Mazid as the keynote speaker for the 2026 GV Technology Summit.

He will explore innovation, engagement, and the future of teaching with technology. In his session, *AI Anxiety to AI Agency*, Dr. Mazid will help faculty, staff, and students build confidence in using AI across teaching, learning, and everyday work. [Learn more about Dr. Mazid](#) and [watch the keynote preview video](#).

Submit a Presentation Proposal (Due June 30, 2026)
Have you been part of a project or technology initiative worth sharing? Consider presenting at the Summit. We welcome proposals from faculty, staff, and students.

Presentation formats include breakout sessions, roundtable discussions, and poster presentations. [Submit a presentation proposal](#).

Register for the Summit
Registration is now open to all GV faculty, staff, and students. If you're unable to attend the full day, you're welcome to participate in any sessions that fit your schedule. [Register for the GV Technology Summit](#).

Questions? Email techsummit@gvsu.edu.



Dr. Mazid Keynote Preview Video

Fix-Your-Content Day Coming May 5

IT's eLearning Technologies Team is partnering with experts from Student Accessibility Resources, Blackboard, University Libraries, and University Marketing to offer a Fix-Your-Content Day in support of the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) initiative](#).

Grab your laptop and stop by the Pere Marquette Room (2204) in Kirkhof Center on the Valley (Allendale) Campus anytime between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on May 5 to:

- Learn how to interpret Blackboard Ally accessibility indicators
- Address common accessibility challenges
- Use accessibility checker tools effectively
- Apply best practices to improve the accessibility of your digital content (images, documents, PDFs, video captions, and more)
- Refresh course materials, update library resources in Blackboard, and explore curriculum enhancements

Whether you stay for 10 minutes or two hours, you'll leave with practical updates and greater confidence that your materials are accessible to all learners. If you can't attend, [other accessibility training options are available](#).



Technology Acquisition Year-End Purchasing Deadlines

If you are considering making technology purchases prior to year-end, please note these deadlines:

June 8, 2026: Last day to submit Tech Acquisition quote orders
Internal Service Deliveries for Technology Acquisition quote orders must be submitted and approved by your cost center manager no later than 12:00 p.m.(noon) on Monday, June 8, 2026. **If the items ordered have not arrived at campus by June 30, the ISD will be moved and billed in the next fiscal year.**

June 22, 2026: Last day to submit Tech Acquisition orders for catalog/stock orders
Internal Service Deliveries for Technology Acquisition catalog/stock orders must be submitted and approved by your cost center manager no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Monday, June 22, 2026. **Pending stock availability, catalog/stock items ordered before Monday, June 22 at 12:00 pm (noon) will be billed in the current 2025-2026 fiscal year.**

Orders for fiscal year 2026-2027 will be accepted on July 1, 2026. Please visit the [Technology Acquisition website](#) for guidelines and policies.

 GVSU IT: CONNECTING AND ENGAGING ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY

We're always looking for ways to partner across campus and create opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to share input on how technology is used today and where it's headed next. Here are a few recent highlights:



Artificial Intelligence (AI) Town Halls and AI Collective Meetups

IT helped lead the conversation at two March Artificial Intelligence (AI) town halls, guiding breakout sessions and discussions rooted in feedback from more than 1,000 survey responses. Together, participants explored key focus areas that will shape GVSU's responsible, mission-aligned approach to AI. [Visit the Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) at GVSU website for resources and more opportunities to engage in this conversation](#).

In addition, the IT Innovation + Research team has launched AI Collective Meetups. Hosted at the futurEDlab on the City (Grand Rapids) Campus, the AI Collective is a recurring, inclusive, low-pressure forum that brings together faculty, staff, and the IT Innovation + Research team to collaborate across disciplines. It's designed as a space to connect, discover, discuss, explore, and experiment with AI in a low-stakes environment. [Sign up and learn more on the AI Collective webpage](#).



Microsoft & Google Tools Open Forums

In March, two in-person open forums were held to show how GVSU uses Microsoft 365 and Google Workspace. These sessions gave participants an opportunity to learn about the assessment process and share their perspectives.

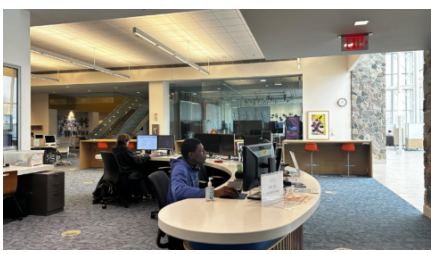
An additional virtual session will be held **TODAY** (April 15) at 3:00 p.m. [Join the virtual Microsoft & Google Tools Open Forum](#).

Important: No changes to Microsoft or Google services are planned currently. Both platforms remain available, and additional listening sessions will be offered in the coming months.



Digital Transformation (DX) Strategy Work

Since January, we've been engaging faculty, staff, and students to gather feedback, analyze insights, and shape the next phase of [GVSU's Digital Transformation \(DX\) Plan](#). In the coming weeks, we'll share early themes from town halls, suggestion forms, and focus groups. Feedback is still welcome! Email DX Co-Chairs [Emil Delgado](#) or [Eric Kunnen](#) to share your thoughts.



Combat Phishing at GV

Keeping the university safe online is a top priority for IT. Recently, Luke DeMott, Assistant Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer, shared insights on recent phishing scams in the March 23 *Lantern* article, "[Experts Provide Advice to Combat Phishing at GV](#)."

[Learn more about recognizing and reporting phishing on the phishing awareness webpage](#).

Need IT Assistance?

Phone: (616) 331-2101 Email: it@gvsu.edu Service Portal: services.gvsu.edu

