

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY Information Technology Division

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

Dear Faculty and Staff,

As we welcome our students back to campus, I am reminded of what makes the beginning of an academic year so special: it is a fresh start, a new chapter, and a chance to reconnect with our purpose and with one another.

Soon, our campuses will once again be filled with the energy, curiosity, and aspirations of our students. Some are taking their first steps into a new chapter of life; others are preparing for what comes next. Each arrives with different experiences, hopes, challenges, and dreams.

And each of us has a role in helping them succeed.

Whether you teach in a classroom, provide student support services, maintain our campuses, serve behind the scenes, lead a team, solve a problem, or make the countless things that happen at GVSU possible, what you do matters.

No single person or department creates the GVSU experience. We create it together.

Higher education continues to change, and our students are navigating an increasingly complex world. While there will undoubtedly be challenges ahead, I also see tremendous opportunity: an opportunity to rethink what is possible, remove barriers, strengthen connections, and create even better experiences for those we serve.

At GVSU IT, we are proud to be your partners in that work.

Technology will continue to play an important role in how we teach, learn, work, and support our students. But technology is not the goal. People are. Our responsibility is to use technology thoughtfully to make things easier, create opportunities, remove unnecessary obstacles, and help faculty, staff, and students do their best work.

This year, we have several important initiatives ahead.

Our new [Digital Transformation Strategy for 2026–2030](#) will help guide how we use technology, innovation, and new ways of working to strengthen GVSU. We will share more about the strategy and how the university community can engage over the coming month.

We will also continue preparing for [Workday Student](#), one of the most significant university-wide transformations currently underway. As students begin accessing the system later this year and into early 2027, faculty and staff will have opportunities to learn, test, ask questions, and help shape a successful transition.

And we recently launched [a new IT website](#), designed to make it easier to find the technology services, resources, and support your needs. I encourage you to explore it and let us know how we can continue improving your experience.

As we begin this new academic year, I hope we do so with optimism, curiosity, and a renewed sense of possibility. There is important work ahead, but there are also opportunities waiting to be created.

Thank you for all you do and for the many ways you contribute to the success of our students and our university.

Welcome back. Here's to a year of purpose, possibility, and progress and to what we can accomplish when we recognize that everyone belongs, every voice matters, and every one of us has a role to play.

Best,

Miloš Topić, Ph.D.
Vice President for IT and Chief Digital Officer

Help Students Build Digital Skills: Self-Paced Modules for Tech Success



All GVSU students and faculty have access to Digital Skills for College Success in Blackboard. This self-paced course includes three short modules:

- Essential Tech Skills
- Cybersecurity
- Blackboard and Online Learning Orientation

Each 20–25-minute module covers practical skills such as productivity tools, online communication, password security, and multi-factor authentication. Students who complete a module can download a certificate of completion.

Want to learn more? Watch a brief [introductory video featuring GVSU Nursing faculty member Tricia Thomas](#), who shares how the course has helped her students feel more confident and prepared and visit the [Digital Skills for College Success Knowledge Base article](#) in the Service Portal.

2026 GV Technology Summit: Presenter Proposal Deadline Approaching + Register Now!



The GV Technology Summit returns for its second year on November 3, 2026. All GVSU faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend free of charge and explore how technology is transforming learning, research, teaching, and work across the university.

An exciting agenda is taking shape, featuring a keynote presentation by [Dr. Imran Mazid](#), a panel discussion on high-performance computing, and breakout sessions covering topics such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and digital accessibility. The Summit will also feature poster presentations highlighting innovative work and projects happening across campus.

Interested in presenting? There's still time to share your work! [Submit a proposal by September 15](#) to be considered for a breakout session or poster presentation.

Ready to attend? [Register now](#) and add the Summit to your calendar. Come for the full day or join us for the sessions that fit your schedule.

Timely Reminders, Resources, and Updates

Get More from the Service Portal

The Service Portal is your one-stop resource for IT help, service requests, tickets, and Knowledge Base articles. A [new overview video](#) on the home page shows how to find services, submit requests, and access resources. *New:* [Request Classroom and Zoom Technology demos and training](#) directly from the Service Portal.

Boost Your Skills with IT Training

Explore technology training and resources for Blackboard, Zoom, accessibility, Panopto, Adobe, Microsoft 365, and more. View the schedule and register at [gvsu.edu/it/learn](#).

Zoom AI Companion Now Available

Earlier this year, we shared an opportunity for early adopters to pilot Zoom AI Companion 3.0, which brings expanded AI capabilities to the Zoom desktop application and web interface. Zoom AI Companion is now available to all who choose to use it, offering AI-powered tools such as meeting summaries and productivity features.

Laker Dock Retiring September 29

The Laker Dock app will no longer be available after September 29. Use other GVSU resources to stay connected and access university information.

Meet Dave Bengry Innovation Project Experience Designer IT Innovation + Research



Dave Bengry is an Innovation Project Experience Designer with the IT Innovation + Research team. He has been part of GVSU for about three and a half years, currently supporting I+R through project management, event management, and design work.

Dave enjoys working creatively at the intersection of technology and education. One of the most rewarding parts of his role is working with the [Student Technology and Innovation Guild \(STING\)](#) students and watching them create technology and experiences that their peers will use.

Dave holds a B.S. in Biomedical Sciences and a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT). Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his family, playing board games, and riding his bike at Millennium Park.

Need IT Assistance?

Service Portal:
[services.gvsu.edu](#)
Phone: (616)-331-2101 or (855) 435-7488
Email: [it@gvsu.edu](#)



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