

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Digital Transformation (DX) Update: From Listening to Action

Thank you to everyone who has already taken time to engage in GVSU's Digital Transformation (DX) work. Since our January newsletter, we've moved quickly from reflection to action, and your voices are actively shaping what comes next.

Over the past several weeks, faculty, staff, and students have shared feedback through suggestion forms, town halls, and informal conversations on how technology is supporting - or getting in the way of - teaching, learning, research, and daily work. These insights are guiding both near-term improvements and longer-term innovation across the institution.

What We've Been Working On:

Since launching this next phase of DX engagement, we have:

- Begun synthesizing early feedback gathered during the GV Technology Summit and follow-up outreach
- Hosted Digital Transformation Town Halls to surface challenges, ideas, and emerging priorities
- Identified recurring themes around usability, integration, classroom technology, and future-focused tools
- Started translating community input into focus areas that will inform the updated DX strategy

This work is an iterative process. Nothing is finalized yet — and that's by design.

What's Next:

In coming weeks, we will focus on:

- **Hosting focus groups** to deepen conversations and explore ideas together
- **Sharing early themes we're hearing** from across campus
- **Maintaining alignment with [Reach Higher Together](#) priorities** to ensure this work supports the university's broader goals

Why This Matters:

Digital transformation at GVSU isn't about chasing trends; it's about reducing friction, expanding access, and enabling innovation that meaningfully supports our community. Your participation ensures this strategy reflects your experiences and your needs.

Thank you for continuing to engage, challenge assumptions, and imagine what's possible. We look forward to sharing updates as this work continues.

Have questions about DX work? Reach out to DX Transformation Co-Chairs [Email Delgado](#) or [Eric Kunnen](#).



GV Technology Summit Returns November 3 Submit to Present & Register Today

After a successful inaugural year, the GV Technology Summit returns on November 3, 2026.

This university-wide event highlights how faculty, staff, and students are advancing technology in learning, research, and daily work across GVSU. Join the conversation—whether you're an expert, innovator, or simply curious. Join the conversation—whether you're an expert, innovator, or simply curious.

Date: November 3, 2026, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Kirkhof Center, Valley Campus

- Have a project or tech initiative to share? [Submit a presentation proposal](#) (breakouts, roundtables, or posters). Deadline for submission is June 30, 2026.
- Planning to attend? [Register to reserve your spot](#).
- [Bookmark the event webpage for ongoing speaker and schedule updates](#).

Start planning [NOW](#) to join us at the Summit! Questions? Email us at techsummit@gvsu.edu.



Planning Audio Visual (AV) Upgrades Using Department Year-End Funds? Submit Requests by March 20 for Evaluation

We would be happy to help you review what's possible and see if your request meets your department year-end funding requirements and confirm project scheduling feasibility. Please submit your project request to **IT no later than March 20, 2026**, by filling out the [IT Project Request form](#).

Have questions or want to talk through an AV project idea? [Contact PMO](#), we are happy to help.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: MORE GVSU IT HIGHLIGHTS!



February Faculty & Staff Training Opportunities

Did you know GVSU IT's eLearning Technologies team offers a variety of training opportunities for faculty and staff? Topics include Blackboard, Zoom, Adobe, Microsoft 365, and more. Explore current offerings and learn more at www.gvsu.edu/it/training.



IT Innovation + Research Fuels Young Innovators at Hackathon

In November, GVSU's IT Innovation + Research team partnered with Grand Rapids Public Schools' Museum School to host a three-week hackathon where high school students designed and built creative tech projects. GVSU student mentors guided participants through design thinking and prototyping, culminating in showcases where students shared their innovative solutions with peers and family. [Explore the recap](#).



GVSU IT Staff Recognized at Annual Service Awards

Grand Valley State University's annual Service Awards recognize employees celebrating milestone anniversaries. This year, GVSU IT honored Brandon Ridge and Brian Snyder (15 years); Autumn DeRoo, Shannon Hatch, Ben Rapin, and David VanSweden (20 years); and Dan Barricklow and Doug Wondergem (25 years) for their dedication and service to the university.

GVSU IT extends its heartfelt congratulations to these individuals!



Meet Steph Balaskas IT Training Specialist, eLearning Technologies

Steph Balaskas is an IT Training Specialist on the eLearning Technologies team and has been with GVSU for approximately two and a half years. In her role, Steph leads training initiatives for faculty and staff on the effective use of Microsoft applications, offering both group sessions and one-on-one technology consultations. She partners with departments across the university to support their IT needs and develops and delivers comprehensive training materials and workshops for Workday.

Steph finds the most rewarding part of her work to be exploring new technologies that enhance how people work, along with the opportunity to train, collaborate with, and gather feedback from colleagues to better meet their learning needs.

Before transitioning into higher education IT, Steph spent 10 years as a K–12 educator teaching middle-school mathematics. She holds a BA in Mathematics, a BA in Mathematics Education, and an MA in Learning, Design, and Technology, along with current certification in Secondary Mathematics.

Outside of work, Steph enjoys staying active through running, hiking, weightlifting, softball, kickball, and dodgeball, as well as spending time with family and friends.

Need IT Assistance?

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