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- Mentor/Mentee Pairs – Please save the date for the Mentor/Mentee Kickoff Event on October 15th from 3-5pm in Kirkhof 2215/2216
- GVSU Advising Tailgate is on Saturday, October 18th at the GVSU vs SVSU game.
- Strategic Sunrise Date: November 10th, 2025 Time: 9-10 AM

We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events!



CLAS Advising Welcomes 3 New Advisors

James Fricke-Waters started with us on September 3. James comes to us from the University of Illinois-Chicago, where he was the Assistant Director of Advising in the College of Engineering. James will be advising for our Life Sciences majors, including Sport Management, Exercise Science, Biology, and Cell and Molecular Biology.

Sam Nellis and Maria Vilardo will both start on October 6. Sam has three years of advising experience as an Exploratory Studies advisor at MSU, and Maria has been working as an academic advisor for almost a decade, most recently at GRCC. Sam will work with our Arts team, working with majors in the Visual and Media Arts and Music,

Theatre, and Dance Departments, and will also advise Psychology majors. Maria will join our School of Communications team, as well as advising Exercise Science majors.

KCON Updates

We're excited to welcome our newest cohorts to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs for Winter 2026! This includes both our traditional and second-degree students — more than 150 future nurses in total. Over the next several months, we'll continue onboarding these students and supporting their transition into the program.

We're also wrapping up our five-week *Nursing 101* seminar series for pre-nursing majors. This series was designed to help students explore what it means to pursue a nursing degree at GVSU and prepare them for success as they begin their college journey.



Tech Committee

Navigate Pre-Advising Survey is now up and running!

This leads into our tech tip of the month. You can access the survey by going to the appointments tab in Navigate. Then select "Responded" in the blue writing all the way to the right of an appointment, then select "Questions" and you can view the responses to the survey there.

Training and Development

The Laker Academic Advising Network invites you to a Strategic Sunrise Conversation: "College as a Foreign Language" by Melanie Rabine-Johnson

Join the LAAN Training and Development Committee as we welcome Melanie Rabine-Johnson for this exciting Strategic Sunrise! This presentation explores college as a

foreign culture and language to new students, regardless of background and experiences, asserting that student-belonging is a sense of one feeling included and dignified by a community within a culture of norms and expectations. Using the 6 Principles of TESOL as they relate to academic advising, participants will gain transferable skills for working with diverse student populations so as to affirm a student's belonging regardless of background or experiences.

Date: November 10th, 2025

Time: 9-10 AM

Location: Zoom (link will be sent via email in late October)

Please RSVP HERE.

Well-Being and Belonging

Mentor/Mentee Pairs – Please save the date for the Mentor/Mentee Kickoff Event on October 15th from 3-5pm in Kirkhof 2215/2216. More information and calendar invite to come once paired! Mentors and Mentees should be contacted soon if they are paired.

GVSU Advising Tailgate is on **Saturday, October 18th** at the GVSU vs SVSU game. The game starts at 2:00pm and tailgate opens at 11:00am. The plan is to get a spot in G1 near the Bookstore.

LAAN will be providing hot dogs, buns, condiments, chips, and water. This event is BYOB and please bring your own chair. If you are able, please bring an appetizer or dessert to pass.

Guests, family, and partners are all welcome. Please **RSVP by Wednesday, October 15th** so we can get a food count at: https://forms.office.com/r/e24rBbTpMv

If you have any questions, please contact Jacki Jenkins (jenkjacl@gvsu.edu).



The Laker Academic Advising Network (LAAN) serves as a catalyst for promoting a culture of supportive and resourceful academic advising that engages the GVSU academic advising community, builds collaborative relationships across advising centers, and promotes evidence-based practices that enhance and streamline GVSU's dynamic academic advising services.

LAAN Website

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