

GVSU's Andrew Booth Receives MAPA's Ron L. Nelson Award of Achievement

Dr. Andrew D. Booth, DHEd, PA-C, chair of Grand Valley State University's Physician Assistant Studies department, received the Ron L. Nelson Award of Achievement from the Michigan Academy of Physician Associates (MAPA) on October 16, 2026 at the MAPA Fall Conference. It is MAPA's most prestigious honor.

The award is named for Ron L. Nelson, PA-C, a Michigan PA who spent his career caring for rural patients. He served as president of both MAPA and AAPA and mentored many of the profession's future leaders. It goes to someone whose influence on the PA profession in Michigan has been broad and significant, and Booth's career fits that description well.

Booth began serving the profession while still a PA student. Since then, he has held nearly every leadership role MAPA offers: Region IV Representative, President (2006–2007), Finance Committee Chair, AAPA delegate, and Chief Delegate to the AAPA House of Delegates (2008–2011). He has also advocated at the Capitol, meeting with legislators to advance PA practice and explain PAs' contributions to team-based care.

At GVSU, Booth has taught since 2007 and has chaired the department since 2012. He led the program's move to a competency-based curriculum and expanded its work in simulation and interprofessional education. He also helped secure federal HRSA funding for GVSU's Northern Michigan distance pathway, which recruits and trains students to practice in rural communities. About 90 percent of graduates from the pathway's most recent cohort now practice in rural northern Michigan.

"This is leadership with a measurable effect on both the PA workforce and patient access," one colleague wrote in support of his nomination.

Booth has also spent more than a decade at the Oasis of Hope Center, serving on its board and caring for underserved patients as a volunteer PA. As another colleague put it, his "commitment ultimately returns to the patient."

His colleagues say he has shown them "that advancing the PA profession requires sustained presence in classrooms, boardrooms, legislative offices, and community clinics."

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Booth on this well-deserved recognition.