

GVSU Teaming With EMU To Offer Education Doctorate

Grand Valley State University has helped secure the first doctoral program offered totally in the Grand Rapids area.

The partnership doctorate in Educational Leadership is a joint venture between Eastern Michigan University and GVSU. The Eastern Michigan program is the only doctorate of its type specially tailored for working K-12 educators.

The inaugural program is scheduled to begin in the Fall of 1998.

"This program is in response to what has been an unmet need in the second largest city in the state," said Robert Hagerty, Ed.D., Dean of GVSU's School of Education. "Until this program begins, there is no residential doctorate program here in Grand Rapids."

Although the degree is granted by Eastern Michigan, the entire program will be delivered at the Eberhard Center on GVSU's downtown Grand Rapids campus, except for a 10-day orientation and team-building session at Eastern Michigan University's campus in Ypsilanti prior to the start of the program.

"There seems to be a need in this area for people to pursue their doctorate degrees, and by combining Grand Valley State University courses with Eastern Michigan courses we can offer a full complement of classes to accomplish that," GVSU

"It's unique for universities to cooperate and develop partnerships for people in the community."

—Robert Hagerty

President Arend D. Lubbers said. "It's a service for people we can now provide."

EMU will accept up to 25 candidates who have completed 33 credit hours of master's degree coursework for the inaugural program.

Grand Valley State professors will deliver 18 hours of study in the area of emphasis and the bal-

ance of the credit hours will be offered by Eastern Michigan instructors on weekends. GVSU professors will serve on each doctoral committee, which is chaired by an EMU professor.

"It will enable Grand Valley graduate faculty to teach doctoral classes and provide an opportunity to gain valuable experience in that area," Hagerty said. "There seems to be so much autonomy among educational institutions in Michigan that it's unique for universities to cooperate and develop partnerships for people in the community."

"This is a good use of resources with two universities combining the talents to meet a market need."

The initial cohort of 25 students is expected to be admitted into the program for the first year. The application deadline is April 7. Application information may be obtained by contacting EMU's Educational Leadership Department at 734.487.0255. ♦

Oral Deaf Curriculum Is Named '97 Program Of The Year

The Grand Rapids Public Schools Oral Deaf Program at Shawnee Park has been recognized as the best of its kind in the nation. The success of the curriculum designed for the hearing impaired is directly linked to its 20-year affiliation with the GVSU School of Education.

Shawnee Park was designated the 1997 "Program of the Year" by the Alexander Graham Bell Association and the International Organization of Educators of the Hearing Impaired. The program, which celebrates its 100th anniversary in 1998-99, also received the award in 1979.

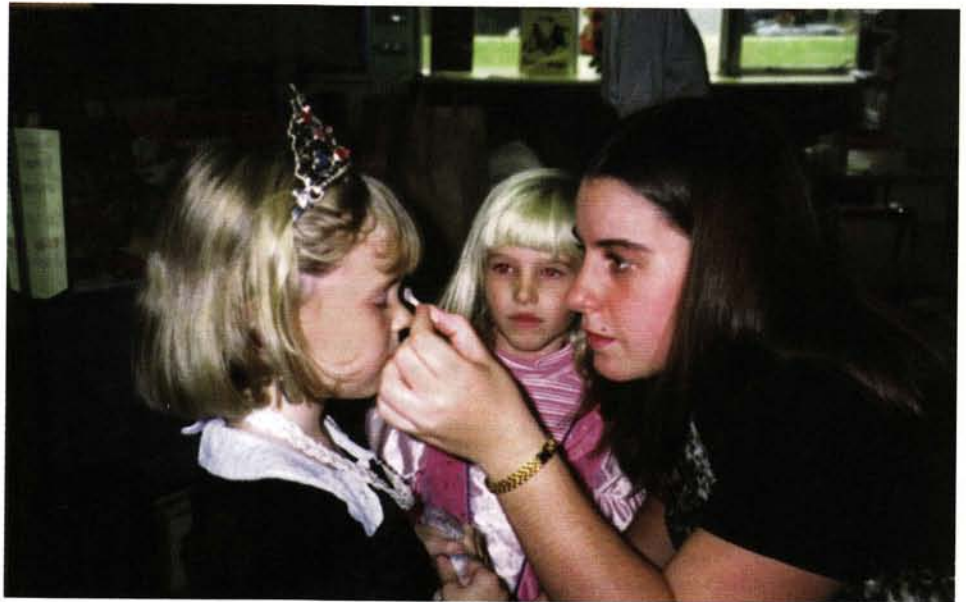
In receiving the award, Shawnee Park was commended for the academic levels of its students, quality of the program and staff and its relationship with colleges and universities.

Nearly 100 hearing impaired students attend Shawnee Park. Eleven members of the 18 person staff are Grand Valley State University graduates, including James Parker, supervisor of the Grand Rapids Public Schools Oral Deaf Program.

"Grand Valley is our lifeblood in terms of the success of children in our program," Parker says. "It's a hand-in-glove relationship, because our programs have worked so well together. We don't hire Grand Valley teachers exclusively, but we see them in training and find that they are usually able to make the transition much better."

The relationship between GVSU and the GRPS Oral Deaf Program began in 1976 with former GVSU professor Craig Carpenter.

"We couldn't do what we do without Grand Valley," said Julie Swanson, Shawnee Park faculty members and GVSU field coordinator. "The internship program gives us more adults per pupil and provides the interns with



Tammi Geysbeek works with hearing impaired students at Shawnee Park Elementary School.

intense training and experience with individual techniques.

"It's a very intense certification program, because there is a lot to learn about not only the language, but audiology and speech. This program couldn't be what it is today without Grand Valley people in the building."

The School of Education Hearing Impaired internship program provides additional support staff and many future educators for the program. The hearing impaired program is one of GVSU's three special education endorsements offered for initial certification. The other two are emotional impairment and mental impairment. ♦