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Introduction for AP Award, delivered at the GVSU Luncheon in April 1996

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INTRODUCTION FOR AP AWARD

"Grand Valley State University recognizes and supports the concept that staff members are the primary contribution to institutional goal achievement. To highlight this concept one Administrative/Professional staff member is elected each year to receive an achievement award for making that year's outstanding efforts.

The award is a plaque appropriately inscribed "For Outstanding Performance for 1995" and the name of the recipient. This plaque is the property of the awardee. In addition, the recipient's name is added to an institutional plaque displayed prominently in the Oak Room.

Any member of the Administrative/Professional staff may be nominated for this award. The nominees are judged in part on these qualifications:

- duties fulfilled in an outstanding fashion
- personal/professional growth which improves performance of self and unit
- cooperation with other units on campus
- contributions to University as a whole, including community-related activities that reflect well on Grand Valley
- interpersonal skills and relationships with fellow employees
- innovative approach to changes, problems, and responsibilities

This year's recipient is well-known on both campuses and is highly respected by all fellow employees. The recipient is regarded widely as a person of outstanding professional values and capabilities. This person possesses a strong sense of humor, dedication and creativity.
The recipient has been employed at Grand Valley for many years and is an individual who readily volunteers to work on university committees, including the Administrative/Professional committee. This is a person with thoughtful insights, comments and conscientious work habits -- one who is great to be around and who can converse intelligently on a wide variety of topics.

This year's recipient has taught adjunct courses in graphic design and has coordinated internships with numerous Grand Valley Art Department majors for 24 years. He has been a member of the Grand Rapids Civic Ballet Board of Directors for 9 years and the Grand Valley University Club Board of Directors, working on the committee to establish the University Club at The Meadows Clubhouse. He is a member of the Holland Area Arts Council, the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, the International Sculpture Society, the Meijer Botanical Gardens and the Broadcast Designers Association. He is also a member of the Masonic Lodge of Middleville.

He has received numerous awards from the National Association of Educational Broadcasters and the Broadcast Designers Association. He received the People's Choice award at the 1995 Institute for Contemporary Arts competition, "Best of Show" in Fine Arts Category at both the 1995 Michigan State and Ottawa County Fairs, had a sculpture displayed at last year's Grand Rapids Festival at the Van Andel Museum, and has a photograph on permanent exhibit there documenting the museum's construction.
As an example of his personal interest in the students on our campus, the recipient saw a need to show visiting international students what this country has to offer. Over the past four years he and his wife have hosted 8 students from the Academy of Economics, Krakow, Poland -- taking them on trips to Chicago to the Museum of Science and Industry, to the top of the Sears Tower, sailing on Lake Michigan and visits to Detroit. He welcomed these students into his home at Thanksgiving time, provided them with bikes to help them get around, and even accompanied them to the bank to help them obtain IDs so they could cash checks.

As former head of our public television station's Art Department, this individual now supervises the studio facilities for West Michigan Public Broadcasting. He coordinates all local productions, including Grand Valley Sports, West Michigan Week, Ask The ... and the stations' monthly theme-night broadcasts. He has been responsible for studio support for every TV Auction throughout the stations' history, including the one to begin in a few weeks. And just this year he has launched a series of television "Art Fillers" designed to showcase the art and talent of local artists.

Professor Don Kerr said in support of this nominee, "The Department of Art and Design can give our students the theoretical material and most of the skills necessary in starting a career, but this person has afforded them the actual practice and experience that launches them into the world. Our program is to a large extent the success it is because of the significant contributions he has made."

Please join me in honoring a person who truly exemplifies the qualities deserving of this award, Jim Jerkatis.