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## Dean's Corner: New Leadership for the College of Education

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# New Leadership for the College of Education

Photography by Joanna Allerhand



*Richard M. DeVos Center*

It is my pleasure to step into the role of Interim Dean of the College of Education. I first joined Grand Valley State University (GVSU) in 2000 as an assistant professor in the chemistry department. Since then, I have had the opportunity to serve in a number of different roles at the university, most recently as Associate Vice President and University Registrar. In each of these roles, I endeavored to ensure students were always at the center of our work. As a university, everything we do centers around supporting our students. I look forward to continuing my support of GVSU students during my time in the COE. To introduce myself further, I sat down for an interview with Colleagues editorial staff, which appears on page five of this issue.

Also in this issue, you will see a commitment to the COE's vision that schools function as social and political entities. Our faculty and staff put this vision into practice by exploring how educators can serve as leaders to address social justice issues in local communities.

This issue highlights faculty work around social justice and discusses challenges associated with these efforts. Faculty are exploring what it would take to put equity front and center in initial teacher education and how action research can be used as a reflective tool for teachers in multicultural education classrooms. The articles in this issue also discuss the different meanings of social justice and current faculty research around bringing challenging topics into the classroom.

We hope you had a fantastic summer. From all of us at the College of Education, we wish you an amazing school year.

Best,  
Dean Sherril Soman, Ph.D.