# Faculty Impact

## Valeria Long: Always Learning

In her eighteen years at Grand Valley State University, Valeria Long has worked at the Van Andel Research Institute, the Steelcase Library, and the Frey Foundation Learning Center, where she is currently the liaison librarian to nursing, public health, and the diagnostic and treatment sciences.

Long likes being at the center of the action, so it makes sense that she works with the health sciences; these programs are growing rapidly and it is critical to educate students to make informed decisions.

“I tell students that someday soon, they’re going to be medical professionals and I might be their patient! So I have a personal invest­ment to teach students what good information looks like and how to find it. It’s important and exciting work,” Long explained.

In 2016, Long was recognized by Uni­versity Libraries colleagues with the Library Excellence Award, which is awarded to a faculty or staff member who goes above and beyond their job description. Her colleagues mentioned that she “is a strong advocate for students and a champion for the Libraries. She mentors colleagues, demonstrates leadership at all levels, and is a friend to all.” The following year, Long was recognized by health science librarians from across the state with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association.

Her favorite part of the job? “Working with students and witnessing those a-ha moments when they learn something new. Librarians are always learning, and that’s always been a draw for me. We’re geeks that way.”

Valeria retired in March of 2018. Happy trails, Val!