Dean's Corner: The College of Education on the 50th Anniversary

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The College of Education on the 50th Anniversary

I have been extremely honored to serve as the College’s Dean throughout our memorable 50th anniversary year. Out of the twelve years that I have worked at Grand Valley State University, this year will stand out for me, largely because of the work of the College’s 50th Anniversary Committee, led by Dr. Linda McCrea, in hosting a series of outstanding events and activities that have reconnected me with our College’s history. My role in the College’s commemoration has focused on ensuring that the College’s rich history is preserved for future generations, so that those who follow will be able to access records such as oral histories, archival documents, video, and photographs to study and understand the life, ideas, and thoughts of individuals who have helped to shape the past.

As I prepare to leave the COE and become the President of Johnson State College in Vermont, I thought it important to say how much I have enjoyed serving as the Education Dean at GVSU. The hard-working faculty and staff have helped me achieve great things for our students and the university. These past years, I have personally benefitted from the opportunity to work with outstanding educators that have supported me in a continual process of learning and growing. My thinking about quality has expanded within and beyond the college and university as a result of my connections with a number of local agencies that are working to build educational capacity in our communities. The Literacy Center of West Michigan, Heartside Ministries, and Grand Rapids Center for Mindfulness are three wonderful examples of outstanding work that is taking place in our local communities (see pg. 2 for more information on a conference that you will not want to miss.)

Although I am leaving for Vermont, I will always be indebted to the students, faculty, staff of the College of Education. As I was reminded recently, I will truly be a “Laker for a Lifetime.”

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Dean, College of Education