

Welcome, Colleagues

The faculty and staff of the School of Education at Grand Valley State University hope you enjoy our first edition of *Colleagues*.

It is a bi-annual publication for and about you — the education professional.

Colleagues will explore pertinent issues in education that affect us all by featuring outstanding graduates, students and faculty from the School of Education. We will be asking topical questions of key figures in education and providing you with some thought-provoking editorial content.

Upcoming editions will showcase new or alternative styles of teaching and learning methods, monitor legislative issues affecting education and acknowledge your opinions and viewpoints.

Colleagues will also keep you abreast of the latest happenings around the GVSU campus as our program offerings and lifelong educational opportunities continue to grow.

In short, *Colleagues* is all about our colleagues.

If you know of outstanding GVSU graduates improving the quality of education at their schools and want to share those success stories with *Colleagues*, let us know about them. Your response — via e-mail, U.S. mail or any other kind of mail — is encouraged.

Again, welcome!



The 1997-98 GVSU School of Education faculty and staff.

GRADUATE TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM TAILORED FOR WORKING PROFESSIONALS

Today's new teachers aren't all recent college graduates working their first jobs. More and more, professionals from a wide range of career fields are returning to school to become teachers.

They are earning their teacher certification from GVSU's Advanced Studies in Education.

Students enrolled in the GVSU Graduate Teacher Certification program have included lawyers, international bankers and dentists, among others. The insights these professionals bring from their practical career experience can greatly enhance their objectives as teachers.

"They're all returning adults who have been

graduated for at least three years," said Dr. Dorothy Armstrong, who oversees the program. "By definition, they all have been in different fields and that experience is important. You learn a lot of lessons in life.

"A former stock broker teaching economics brings a great deal to the classroom. That real life experience is a significant component to us. We see it as an enhancement."

The Graduate Teacher Certification program spans one year for the elementary level or for secondary education. Additional study can lead to the master's degree.

"Everything old is new again," Armstrong

said. "We're trying to integrate what we learn about teacher preparation and understand not only how to teach, but what school is all about and the end objectives. We teach them how to be instructional leaders."

The School of Education also continues to certify post-degree students through its traditional undergraduate curriculum. To help decide which program best fits their needs, candidates should register for one of the post-degree information sessions held twice each month. A schedule of sessions is available from Advanced Studies in Education, (616) 771-6650.



One Campus Drive,
Allendale, MI 49401

Colleagues

Published by The School of Education
141 Au Sable Hall
Grand Valley State University
Phone: 616.895.2091
Fax: 616.895.2330
Internet: colleague@gvsu.edu

Managing Editor: Cynthia Mader, Ph.D.
Project Coordinator: Don VanderVeen
Layout and Design: Kelly J. Nugent
Editorial Board: Robert Hagerty, Ed.D.;
Cynthia Mader, Ph.D.; Joseph Price, Ph.D.;
Sherrill Pryor, Ed.D.; Joy Harrison;
Jean Enright; Kathleen VanderVeen
Text: Don VanderVeen; Robert Hagerty, Ed.D.;
Cynthia Mader, Ph.D.
Photography: Don VanderVeen; John Corriveau;
Eduardo Sanchez-Rojas; Frank Lundell

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