

Professor Thomas Jackson Retiring

Tom Jackson is ending a 22-year career at Grand Valley when he retires in December.

Jackson came to Grand Valley in 1977 as director of the Developmental Skills Institute. He joined the School of Education in 1985 and has served as coordinator working with teacher assistants. The program sets students in a classroom setting prior to their student teaching experience.

"Teacher Assisting helps ease the transition into student teach, and we view it as a vital part of our program," Jackson said. "It gives students exposure to the classroom and allows them to see if teaching is for them."

Jackson, 60, has seen enrollment more than triple since he first arrived at Grand Valley.

"The campus has taken a whole new shape since I've been here," Jackson said, noting the development of the downtown campus, the additional buildings in Allendale and satellite campuses throughout West Michigan.

He plans to spend time with his family — including wife, Joann, daughters Kimberly and Sonya, son Marcus, and four grandchildren — travel, play golf and remain involved with the Thomas & Joann Jackson Minority Scholarship fund drive after he retires.

"I've just enjoyed being affiliated with Grand Valley," Jackson said. "I've been able to practice my art, and that's teaching."



Thomas Jackson



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