

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kathryn A. Rogalski

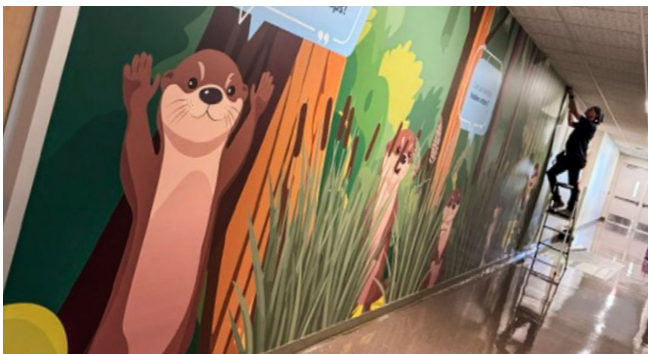
October 2026

GRCC Students Give Back During Inaugural Day of Service

On Sept. 26, approximately 40 GRCC students participated in our first Day of Service volunteering with community organizations throughout West Michigan. Working alongside partners including Noorthoek Academy, Critter Barn, Grand Rapids Children's Museum, Community Action House, Kent County Parks, Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, Dwelling Place and Gilda's Club Grand Rapids, students had an opportunity to give back while learning more about the communities we serve.

Occupational Therapy Students Bring Learning to Life

Students in GRCC's Occupational Therapy Assistant Class of 2027 have created a Children's Sensory Walk on the fourth floor of Cook Hall, bringing classroom learning to life in a creative and engaging way.



Featuring our River Raider, the sensory walk incorporates activities that encourage movement, balance, coordination and emotional regulation. Through hopping, pushing and other activities, children can develop strength, spatial awareness and attention while having fun.

Campus Safety Week Highlights Resources and Preparedness

During Campus Safety Week, Sept. 21–25, our GRCC Police Department partnered with several departments to help students and employees better understand the resources available to keep our campus safe.

Activities included information about our Rave emergency notification system, active assailant response training, Behavioral Intervention Team reporting and campus facility access. Sgt. Jesse Heard, Officer Zack Penniman and honorary Lt. Ollie the Otter also connected directly with students during a resource event in the RJF lobby, distributing safety information and 168 donuts!

My appreciation goes to our GRCC Police Department and campus partners for their continued commitment to providing a safe and welcoming learning environment. The college's Annual Security Report will also be shared with the Board.

Celebrating Heritage and Community Connections

On Oct. 8, GRCC's Woodrick Center for Inclusion and Multicultural Affairs brought together students, employees, community leaders and local organizations for a celebration of culture, heritage and community.

We were especially pleased to welcome Board of Trustees Chair Salvador Lopez as the keynote speaker. His remarks emphasized the importance of honoring our roots, embracing our heritage and maintaining strong connections to the communities that shape our lives.

Events like this remind us how much we learn from one another and the importance of creating a college environment where everyone feels connected and welcomed.

Celebrating Leadership Across GRCC

Congratulations to Omar Gonzalez, associate director of Admissions and Enrollment, and Lyndsie Post, executive director of Marketing and Communications, on graduating from the 2025–2026 Michigan Community College Association Leadership Academy.

Both represented GRCC in this yearlong professional development experience focused on preparing leaders across Michigan's community colleges. They were recognized during MCCA's Student Success Summit in early October.

We are fortunate to have talented leaders throughout our college who continue to invest in their own growth and bring that learning back to GRCC.

GRCC Women's Cross Country Captures Conference Championship

Congratulations to our GRCC women's cross country team on capturing the Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCAA) Western Conference Championship on Oct. 2 at the Gainey Athletic Complex! The Raiders earned their second conference championship in three years.

Marketing and Communications Earns Seven Regional Awards

Congratulations to our Marketing and Communications team for earning seven Medallion Awards from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR).

These awards recognize excellence in marketing and public relations among community and technical colleges across the region and reflect the creativity and talent of the team responsible for sharing GRCC's story.

Mary Meadows, associate director of Marketing and Communications, and Kailee Potgeter, social media coordinator, represented GRCC at the district conference and awards ceremony.

Thank you to the entire team for the great work you do to tell the stories of our students, employees and college community.



Strengthening Relationships with State Legislators

Over the past month, GRCC welcomed several state legislators to campus, including Representatives Carol Glanville, John Fitzgerald and Pat Outman.

These visits provide an important opportunity to share firsthand the work happening across our college, introduce legislators to our students and programs and discuss the state policies and investments that support community college education.

We also appreciate the opportunity to thank our legislators for their advocacy on behalf of GRCC and the students we serve. Building these relationships is essential as we continue to advocate for accessible, affordable education and workforce training opportunities that meet the needs of West Michigan.

