

Provost Post

News from Academic and Student Affairs for Persons of Quality

October 2016

“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” - Arthur Ashe

Dear Colleagues,

I thought about starting with a rousing quote about GRCC's promising future, which truly IS promising. Then I considered a philosophical quote about change, because we have experienced a lot of it this year, and next year will bring more.

Most days, though, we don't live in the extremes of exhilaration or abstraction. We live in the here and now, serving our institution, community, and students to the best of our ability.

In the quote noted above, Arthur Ashe was outlining how to achieve greatness, and his formula is straightforward and workmanlike. To help our students achieve their potential, we start where they are, use their strengths and experiences, and do all we can for them. Our approach to student success is straightforward and workmanlike.

I recognize and appreciate the work you do everyday.

Kind regards,
Laurie

Information about Course Evaluations for Students – A Video

In order to better inform students about the value of and the processes associated with their course evaluations – and, therefore, to improve response rates -- Denyse Bening from Institutional Research and Planning and Noah DeSmit from Media Technologies worked together to create the following video:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqSQphhsyCA>

The video is available for students on Blackboard under the heading of “Surveys and Evaluations,” which is where they also find their course evaluation links. The College is sharing the video with students in other communication venues as well. Many thanks to Denyse and Noah!

Inside This Issue:

- World Affairs Council
- 2016 Armen Awards
- Board of Trustees Candidates' Forum
- Institutional Review Board
- Did You Know?
- Supplement: Enrollment Efforts and Results



World Affairs Council *of Western Michigan*

A Note from
Erica Kubik, Ph.D.
Director of Programming

I wanted to alert you to exciting programming opportunities that are available to you and your students. The World Affairs Council of Western Michigan is dedicated to educating people in western Michigan about other countries, cultures and regions of the world, as well as providing a forum for discussion of critical foreign policy issues facing this country. We are a non-partisan, non-advocacy educational non-profit. We take no stand on any issue.

Our most well-known series is our award-winning Great Decisions Global Discussion Series, a national program of the Foreign Policy Association (FPA) of New York City. We have one of the best and largest Great Decisions programs in the entire country. And our Council has been a local sponsor of this series since it began in the early 1960s.

This series is well-suited for use in the classroom. Faculty have successfully used our programming in political science, area/language studies, general education, business, philosophy, peace/social justice studies, etc. Our programming is interdisciplinary, current, and credible—ideal in almost any classroom.

These Great Decisions discussions are held on Monday evenings at The Performing Arts Center at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids from 6:00-7:15pm in February and March of each year. The 2017 Series begins Monday, February 6th. And, to afford greater flexibility, we now host interactive webcasts on Tuesday mornings.

As an educational partner of the World Affairs Council, GRCC faculty, staff, and students attend the series FREE.

At the bottom of this article are the eight topics for 2017. Please note that these topics are very broad, but they will be narrowed down as our Committee meets and begins its planning of the series.

As we continue our planning for the year ahead, we'd like to give you advance notice of our upcoming programming. One way to stay connected is through our complimentary email membership, updating you on our programs like Great Decisions. To join our list, please email office@worldmichigan.org subject line, New Membership Educational Partner, with the following information:

Your name
Your College/University
Title/Position
Email
Snail Mail Address
Phone Number

Thanks and we hope to see you at our events!

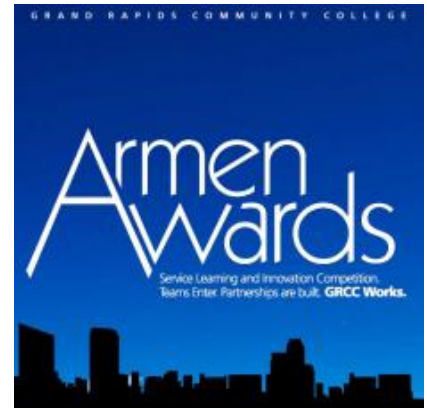
2017 Great Decisions Topics:

- EU
- Trade
- China
- Gulf Cooperation Council/Saudi Arabia
- Geopolitics of Energy
- Latin America
- Afghanistan/Pakistan
- Nuclear Security

2016 Armen Awards

A Note from
Sheila Jones, Ph.D.
Dean of Instructional Support

The Armen Awards has an outstanding history of supporting innovative practice through the generous support of Armen Oumedian. This year, again through Mr. Oumedian's support, Instructional Support will offer Innovation Grants to faculty incorporating innovative practices into their curriculum. These grants may be applied for through the process of completing a short web form outlining the project description and budget proposal.



<https://www.grcc.edu/centerforteachingexcellence/armeninnovationgrants?wssl=1>

Grants of up to \$500 may be awarded to both full-time and adjunct faculty interested in further developing or implementing a new High-Impact Educational Practice into their classroom during the winter 2017 semester. Applications will be accepted through November 15, 2016, and the awards will be announced before the end of the fall 2016 semester.

The Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) has several resources available to faculty interested in developing a project. A resource tab describing the High-Impact Educational Practices can be found using the following link:

<http://www.grcc.edu/centerforteachingexcellence/resources/highimpacteducationalpractices>

Faculty may contact the CTE at CTE@grcc.edu to set up a time to discuss the development of a project and specific drop-in sessions will be available to highlight several of the practices.

We are excited about this opportunity provided to the GRCC, and look forward to the good work that will result from the grants.

Board of Trustees Candidates' Forum



Five community members are vying for three open seats on GRCC's Board of Trustees. The GRCC Faculty Association and Academic Governing Council are continuing their tradition of hosting a candidates' forum, which will be held on Tuesday, October 25 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Sneden Hall Multi-Purpose Room (108) on the DeVos Campus. Please consider attending this important event, which is also open to members of the public.

Institutional Review Board

A Note from
Donna Kragt, Dean of
Institutional Research
and Planning

The Institutional Review Board oversees all human subjects research conducted at GRCC. The only exception is research done solely to improve practice at GRCC with the results not reported or used in any external setting (including graduate classes and conference presentations).

In its broadest sense the purpose of the IRB is to protect the rights and safety of human subjects. In fulfilling its task the IRB members examine research proposals to arrive at an independent determination that the research will meet the following ethical criteria:

- Risks to subjects are minimized.
- Risks to subjects are reasonable in relation to anticipated benefits.
- Selection of subjects is equitable.
- Informed consent is sought from each prospective subject or the subject's legally authorized representative.
- Informed consent is appropriately documented.
- When appropriate, the research plan makes adequate provision for monitoring the data collected to ensure the safety of subjects.
- When appropriate, there are adequate provisions to protect the privacy of subjects and to maintain the confidentiality of data.
- Additional safeguards are included to insure that members of vulnerable populations (e.g. children, prisoners, pregnant women, mentally disabled persons, or economically or educationally disadvantaged persons) are not the subject of coercion or undue influence.

2016 – 2017 Institutional Review Board Members

- Robert Leunk, co-chair
- Donna Kragt, co-chair
- James Peterson
- Jennifer Borrello
- Kevin Dobreff
- Lisa Dokpe
- Luann Keizer
- Sheila Jones
- Sophie Rubin
- Tim Hoving
- Vicki Maxa
- Cedric Williams

A GRCC research application must be submitted by all GRCC faculty and staff who plan to use the results of their research in partial fulfillment of a degree or certificate at another college or university. In addition, all outside researchers who wish to use GRCC faculty/staff/students as part of an external research project must be approved. IRB approval generally takes 3-4 weeks from application submission. For more information see www.GRCC.edu/irb

Did You Know?

In 2014-15, GRCC ranked 63rd among all community colleges in the awarding of associate's degrees (from all disciplines). A grand total of 2,144 were bestowed during that year!

Nationally, the largest number of associate's degrees are awarded in the liberal arts and sciences. In 2014-15, 36% of all associate's degrees awarded were in this area – a total of 367,618 nationally. GRCC ranked 35th among all community colleges in the awarding of associate's degrees in arts and sciences, with a total of 1,402.

Source: *Community College Week*, August 31, 2016