

# FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by News & Information Services



## High school students earn college credits at CHS

Kent County high school sophomores and juniors interested in a career in the health sciences field are receiving free college credit from area universities through the Health Sciences Early College Academy.

The academy, which is sponsored by Kent Intermediate School District, currently runs in conjunction with Grand Valley's College of Health Professions.

"This is the only program that allows students to acquire college credit while being enrolled in high school," said Duane Kiley, Kent ISD regional career technical education supervisor. "More importantly, this program allows students to interact in a college setting with college courses and professors, which gives them advanced preparation for their career in higher education."

The academy is open to sophomores and juniors in the Kent County area who have completed specific health sciences courses, have at least a 3.0 GPA, and are interested in continuing a study of health sciences throughout college.

The program really resonates with high school students from inner-city schools who may not

have the support system or opportunity to attain higher education, according to Roy Olsson, dean of College of Health Professions.

"This program exposes students to the academic transition from high school to college as well as the environment at Grand Valley," Olsson said. "Grand Valley has the benefit of getting a more diverse population of students interested in pre-course work in the health sciences."

Students can take classes at three different Kent County locations: Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, Grand Rapids Central High School and Byron Center Complex of Metro Health Hospital. The academy plans to expand courses to Ferris State University and Grand Rapids



Photo courtesy of Health Sciences Early College Academy

Students in the Health Sciences Early College Academy study a mannequin in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences.

Community College in the fall.

For more information about the Health Sciences Early College Academy, visit the Kent ISD website at [www.kentisd.org](http://www.kentisd.org).

## Across Campus

### 5K fun run to welcome Vietnam vets planned

Grand Valley's Student Veterans Organization will host a 5K fun run/walk on the Allendale Campus to celebrate and officially welcome home Vietnam veterans and their families.

The "Welcome Home 5K" is set for Sunday, March 28, at 2 p.m. Students, faculty and staff members, their families and members of the public are encouraged to participate. The course will start by Lubbers Stadium and continue by the Laker Turf Building through south campus, ending at the Student Services Building. Refreshments will be served in the Kirkhof Center following the event.

The idea behind this new event is credited to Diane Roper, Facilities Services staff member. Roper's husband, Steven, served in

the Army during the Vietnam War and the couple is active in local and national veterans organizations. Roper approached Work Life Connections, then the Student Veterans group became involved. Roper said a recent U.S. House resolution passed, asking communities to welcome home vets who never received a proper welcome after the Vietnam War.

Also helping with the event is Julie Yunker, GVSU Police Academy director. Yunker served in the Air Force before enrolling in college. She said police academy recruits will help staff the race course.

Grand Valley's March event also serves as a precursor to a larger event in Grand Rapids on July 3, when thousands of Vietnam vets and their families will be welcomed home at an event at Fifth Third Ballpark.

Participation in the Grand Valley 5K is free,

participants are asked to bring a baseball hat as a registration fee. The hats will be collected and given to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. John Koch, member of the Student Veterans Organization, said when veterans take bus trips to West Michigan Whitecaps games, many don't have hats to wear.

For more information about the fun run, visit [www.gvsu.edu/veterans](http://www.gvsu.edu/veterans); information and registration links are at the bottom of the Web site.

### Update given for Faculty and Staff Campaign

University-wide participation for the annual Faculty and Staff Campaign stands at 38 percent, with more than 875 faculty and staff members having made a gift or pledge.

*continues on page 2*