




**Viking Mentor
Appreciation Program
April 2021**

**VOCATION
WEEK**  **2021**

Grand View University wants to recognize and thank faculty and staff members who have made a significant difference in the life of a Grand View student. It is in these relationships that the transformational aspect of the Grand View experience comes to life. Both the mentors and mentees have been blessed by these connections and we want to celebrate them.

Students, you are wise to seek out and nurture deeper connections with faculty and staff members and we thank you for taking the time to nominate your mentor.

Ms. Jori Avery

Nominated by: Mary Yarkosky

“I just met Jori my senior year here at Grand View in her Gross Anatomy class. She encourages her students to not only do their best, but really learn the material for their own good. She has gone above and beyond to make an independent study course for me that has brought so much joy and passion into my life. She listens to me about my life outside of class and she is down to earth, which can be hard to find in a professor. She helped me realize that even if what I love to do is super weird, there is a spot in the world for me to do it.”

Nominated by: Esther Chol

“I went through a rough time in the fall semester. Jori was very understanding. Not only that, but her style of teaching in this pandemic made it easy to follow! She’s the best!”

Dr. Jason Bauer

Nominated by: Jermayne Myrick

“There are really so many different people that I want to put on this list because I could not be here without any of the professors or advising staff that God has blessed me with. All of these different people, including Jason Bauer, have gone above and beyond to make sure I had a bed to sleep in at night, and an equal opportunity to learn here at Grand View.”

Dr. Cathy Beck-Cross

Nominated by: Charity Dangelser

“When I came for my first visit at Grand View, Dr. Cathy made sure she was available for me to discuss the social work program. Even though I earned a full-ride scholarship to IA State, Dr. Cathy encouraged me to follow my heart and also advised me to talk to GV’s financial aid openly and honestly. This one tip changed the trajectory of my future and allowed me to become a GV Viking. Since, Dr. Cathy has provided a strong knowledge base and cultivated my interests and skills. I cannot thank Dr. Cathy enough for the one on one attention she has given all of her students!”

Dr. Luke Bennett

Nominated by: Parfait Muhoza

“Dr. Bennett has gone beyond the measures of being just my professor to an advisor and a mentor for every occasion. He believes in me regardless how many times I mess up or fall behind in class, and is willing to take an extra step and help in any way he can. The past year has been a whirlwind for me and I’m grateful for his presence and influence on my life.”

Ms. Laurie Butz

Nominated by: Macey Kleitsch

“Laurie made me feel welcome and comfortable here at Grand View right from the start. She has always been excited about both my achievements, and also my future ahead! She makes me feel like I have a purpose here at Grand View and she ensures me that she will do anything she can to help me reach my goals. She is a great advisor and an even better person!”

Ms. Laurie Butz

Nominated by: Allison Schubert

“She’s very encouraging and genuine. She wants the absolute best for all of her students. She’s also always willing to help, no matter what it is!”

Nominated by: Samuel Gregory

“She took time out of her day to come and help my brother and I after we got in a car wreck on the corner of Morton and E 14th. She made sure we were okay, and even picked me up as an advisor when she found out my advisor no longer worked at Grand View. She's gone above and beyond, and has been nothing but encouraging in helping me graduate on time.”

Nominated by: Roxi Nastase

“Ever since I came to Grand View, Laurie has always greeted me with a warm smile that makes me feel welcomed. She truly cares about students and how they are doing. Laurie reaches out to me frequently to see how I am doing and how my classes are going. She lets me know when there are opportunities on campus and she encourages me to consider them. Laurie has always been there for me when I needed her, at all hours of the day. She has helped me make difficult decisions by guiding me to the decision that will best benefit me. Laurie is enthusiastic, caring, and loving. She truly loves her job and it shows!”

Nominated by: Camryn Oakes

“Laurie always helps me plan out my schedule and is always there for me no matter what. I wouldn’t be so successful here at GV if it wasn’t for Laurie.”

Ms. Laurie Butz

Nominated by: Chris Hatch

“Has been very helpful since the first day I've been on campus. She is very supportive, has always helped me figure out my schedule and helped me to make sure I will be able to graduate on time.”

Nominated by: Stefanie Stanisic

“Since even before my first official day at Grand View, Laurie has helped me in so many ways! For the past four years she has been my go to person to ask for help and every time goes above and beyond on her assistance! For the past four years she has watched me grow into the person I am today and I couldn't thank her enough for always believing in me and being there if I needed help! GV is definitely going to be missed.”

Nominated by: Riley Mackey

“Laurie has been the best person I've met on campus. She is always willing to go out of her way to make sure I'm helped and happy. She's always got a smile on her face even if it's a Monday & she truly loves what she does. I can't imagine coming to Grand View w/o Laurie as my advisor and I know she told me not to nominate her but I had to. She encourages me in my faith and walk with God and she's the most selfless person I know. I know she would appreciate this, just to show how much I appreciate her.”

Nominated by: John Gingerich

“Always there to help out, no matter what time of the day it is. She always tries to make sure everything is perfect and if it isn't quite perfect then she does whatever she can to make sure it becomes perfect. Best completion coach at Grand View.”

Ms. Laurie Butz

Nominated by: Paola Gomez

“Laurie has helped me get ready for college. She has helped me get the classes I want and has given me some good advice.”

Nominated by: Jacob Howat

“She helps not only me, but anyone else with almost any problem that you may be having with Grand View especially with financial help. She so outgoing and inspires me to keep going.”

Nominated by: Tony Rodriguez Aguayo

“At the start of spring semester, I was feeling overwhelmed and burnt-out from the fall semester. I was dealing with two stress fractures and I just wanted to quit running and school. If I had not talked to Laurie, I would have dropped out of school. Laurie listened and cared for what I had to say and gave me great advice. After talking to Laurie, I felt like there was someone at Grand View that cared for my future and success. Laurie is an amazing, extremely helpful completion coach and counselor and she deserves all the best!”

Nominated by: Brady Wagner

“She literally is one of the reasons I am still at Grand View. When I was gone for military training she made my transition back into school seamless and it was like I never left.”

Nominated by: Megan McKee

“Laurie is so helpful and kind, she always makes me feel better when I'm stressed and always has an answer to any of my questions, and if she doesn't, she finds it. She has saved me so many times and is always there for us. I also just love seeing her and getting to talk to her because she genuinely cares about me and others.”

Ms. Laurie Butz

Nominated by: Lainey Olsen

“Laurie has consistently gone above and beyond for me whether it be helping me get in contact with a professor, send transcripts for scholarships, or sending me a list of class options that fit perfectly into my tight schedule at 11 pm on the night of registration. She is always a friendly face and greets me with such love every time I see her on campus. I know I can always go to her for ANYTHING! I feel so blessed to have been assigned her as my GV complete coach!”

Nominated by: Hailey Heck

“Through every situation I’ve had at Grand View, Laurie has always been there answering my emails and making time to meet with me - when no one else would. Not always about classes, she listens to anything you have to say and is glad to give you advice or just listen to you - whichever you may need.”

Nominated by: Parker Thode

“Always gives me help and guidance whenever I need any time of the day.”

Dr. Jaclyn Easter

Nominated by: Rachel DeBoer

“Dr. Easter is always willing to take time out of her day to chat. Throughout the past year, I have gone to Dr. Easter for a variety of things, including issues with other professors, personal issues, and academic advising. She never hesitates to help me through whatever the situation is. Dr. Easter goes above and beyond her role as a professor to support me in my education.”

Mr. Brad Erdmann

Nominated by: Ty Wenzel

“Brad goes above and beyond working Grand View maintenance. He always believes in me and helps me to set up my future. Grand View is a better place because of Brad.”

Dr. Bonnie Hall

Nominated by: Nicole Welch

“Dr. Hall made learning chemistry fun! She was enthusiastic and always has an uplifting spirit! Even though I was remote the whole semester, I felt comfortable speaking up and asking questions. She is very quick to respond to emails and is always encouraging to all! I had a hard semester with my health and then experienced a loss in my family the last week of class. During that time she went above and beyond to check in and see how I was doing and worked with me to not fall behind! I learned so much in one semester of taking her class. I also loved how everyone participated and shared many laughs during her class!”

Nominated by: Peyton Lanphear

“Best teacher ever. So understanding and willing to help.”

Nominated by: Sarah Jordan

“She has been encouraging and very helpful throughout this year. I have had some tough classes and Dr. Hall has always been great when it comes to asking questions about assignments and lab work. Even when she already has so much on her plate. Dr. Hall has been very instructive and is very knowledgeable in helping us in the lab and teaching us how to be able to do skills on our own for when we graduate.”

Dr. Bonnie Hall

Nominated by: Gabriel Ferreira

“She does much more for me than she has to because she is the team advisor and it is like I was her real advisee.”

Nominated by: Bayron Valdez

“Bonnie is an excellent adviser who helps me to face my biggest challenges here at the university!”

Nominated by: Sofia Torres

“Bonnie has gone above and beyond to make me feel like I belong here at Grand View; she helped me find my current work study job. Whenever I'm in a situation or just stressed about school, she is the first person I talk to because I know she will make it better. She is always on top of getting things done and so much fun to be around.”

Nominated by: Alli Rupert

“Dr. Hall is awesome! Even with her extremely busy schedule, she always goes above and beyond for her students. She is insanely intelligent, charismatic, and I am super grateful to have gotten to know her throughout my experience at Grand View.”

Nominated by: Trang Khong

“Dr. Hall is research mentor for my research in chemistry class. I did not have good lab skill at the beginning of class, she teaches me how to improve lab skill and learn new lab skill. In the research class, she is encouraging me to do research alone even though I had less lab skill than my partner. She helps us figure out our research problem when we got stuck. She is also an instructor for my advanced biochemistry class, her lecture are helpful. She shows us how, when and where the information in book is apply in life through the problem set.”

Dr. David Hannum

Nominated by: Nichol Ballantyne

“Dr. Hannum has gone out of his way many times to ensure that I am doing well with my personal life. He also makes sure that I know I am not alone in struggling with my military & post-military experiences. He was the first professor I had at GV as a transfer student and made me feel welcome.”

Nominated by: Duy Ly

“Dr. Hannum is really enthusiastic about teaching and giving his students a lot of helpful tips in daily life. His lectures are never boring. He initially asked his students for origins so that he could relate their places to the lecture practically. I like how this professor appreciates every students' opinion.”

Ms. Debra Johnson

Nominated by: Marena Bonanno

“Deb has coached me through the transition into becoming the president of the Education club. She has also gone above and beyond in the classroom to provide real world experiences to her education students.”

Rev. Dr. Ken Jones

Nominated by: Taylor Suntken

“Dr. Jones's classroom was the first classroom I felt welcome and safe enough on campus to come out as trans/non-binary and use they/them pronouns in his class. His acceptance of me prompted me to coming out fully on campus as I knew I had one professor to back me up. Dr. Jones is also the ONLY professor on campus who uses my correct pronouns and goes out of his way to make sure that I feel safe on campus. I know that his door is always open if I need someone to talk to. His classroom truly is a safe place for all students.”

Mr. Steven Kellogg

Nominated by: Nichole Redd

“He actively listens to my concerns and needs. He didn't get me in the door and forget about me. He follows up often, he remembers little things, it proves he is invested not only in my educational success but my future happiness. He embodies Grand View and all that it represents. He shares his wins and losses in hopes that I don't have to make similar mistakes. He has gone above and beyond to make sure I fit in at Grand View. Steven loves what he does and it shows. He is very inspiring, his care and compassion is something I will always remember.”

Dr. Grant Knotts

Nominated by: Brittni Suraci

“My first semester at GV was a rough one to say the least. Without judgement or hesitation Grant has always been an amazing listener and took me under his wing. When I was having trouble contacting my advisor he stepped up and helped me. Such an amazing mentor!”

Dr. Adriana LaGier

Nominated by: Maddie Ahlstrom

“Dr. LaGier is always very enthusiastic during her classes, which helps me engage in class. Especially with some classes being moved online recently, I feel like I am still able to stay focused and on track in her classes. She is organized and detailed which is helpful to me, being a busy student-athlete.”

Dr. Michael LaGier

Nominated by: Danielle Petersen

“Dr. LaGier is my academic advisor. I recently had a stressful situation with my classes and he was there to help me through it. It was a situation that required immediate attention and he did not waste any time to get it resolved. He always encourages me through my major and makes sure I stay on track to graduate. He deserves to be recognized for going above and beyond & truly caring for his students!”

Ms. Kristin Larson

Nominated by: Zander Leman

“Kristin has provided a kind and encouraging atmosphere within the theatre department. Every time I have a class with her, I look forward to it.”

Ms. Molly Lauck

Nominated by: Kristina Brown

“I am a junior and still go to Molly. She has continuously been a huge help and has saved my sanity several times.”

Mr. Alex Piedras

Nominated by: Germain Sagbo

“Whenever I need something or advice he is the one I can turn to. You will never not catch Alex with a smile on his face. (even with a mask you can tell his facial expression). I can be having a bad day and when I see Alex all of that flips.”

Nominated by: Tyderick McGruder

“Alex is my go to guy. Whenever I got a question I know he can answer it or guide me in the right direction. I know I can always count on Alex for help.”

Nominated by: Omar Ordaz

“Alex and I go way back to when I wasn't such a nice person in high school. Even then he'd always encouraged me to do well at school and to better myself. After high school, I went straight into the workforce while attending community college at night. I still keep in touch with Alex, and if you know Alex he is involved in a lot of things such as helping the community. Again he was always right there guiding me in getting involved in the community. When it was time for me to transfer to a university from community college, I immediately thought about Grand View since Alex was here, and reached out to him. Since my arrival, Alex again was there ready to guide me in the right direction, and making sure I have the right tools to succeed. Like he has done in the past to students like me, he is a great leader out in the community and a great example of the type of people we need in our community.”

Ms. Pamela Rees

Nominated by: Brenda Humburd

“She is my mentor and so are the rest of her staff. She makes sure I learn what is available for each subject and I Love Her Dearly!”

Dr. Michelle Schulze

Nominated by: Denise Gonzalez

“Michelle has been extremely supportive and helpful as I navigate through my education. Fall 2020 semester was a very difficult one for me. Michelle took time out of her busy schedule to check up on me and chat about assignments I needed to catch up on and those that were due soon. I will forever be grateful for this as not many teachers care to do this for their students.”

Ms. Susie Stearns

Nominated by: Mackenzie Roberts

“Susie has helped me in my four years at Grand View. She helped me secure an internship for the summer of 2020. When COVID hit, she helped me figure out another plan and secure another internship. I am currently applying for jobs and meeting with Susie weekly to update her on my progress. She has helped with resume, cover letter, interview prep, and always gives great advice. She is truly one of the best people on Grand View's campus. She is always excited to see me and I am always excited to see her!”

Dr. Jill Sudak-Allison

Nominated by: Rachel Espinosa

“This was my first semester at Grand View and Dr. Jill made me feel welcome and like I belonged at GV. She went above and beyond to answer students’ questions, was really encouraging, and took time to give really thoughtful feedback.”

Nominated by: Aubrea Thompson

“Dr. Jill made sure everyone in the class understood the material and she always presented it in a way that was easy to grasp and relate to our lives. She also always gave thoughtful feedback & listened to any complaints, comments, or issues we had & would just listen when we wanted to talk & share something. She was also very encouraging and believed in every single one of us & she made sure to enjoy what she was teaching in order to get us to enjoy it & look forward to learning the material as well. She made me feel welcomed & like she wasn't just a teacher but a friend I could reach out to.”

Dr. Zeb Sullivan

Nominated by: Tanner Abbas

“Dr. Z went above the standards of a normal teacher. He cares about his students and gives every ounce of effort into making sure his students are learning the material and are able to apply it. Not only that, but his outlook on life is extraordinary and I have learned so much just in a short amount of time.”

Dr. Zeb Sullivan

Nominated by: Ali Woodward

“Dr. Z has been a mentor for me since the day I visited Grand View. He was a huge part of my decision to come to GV as he took extra time to meet with me to talk about the Kinesiology program. Each day he comes to class pumped up and ready to give his all to his students. It is so evident that he loves his students and will do anything in his power to help us succeed. It is encouraging to see how Dr. Z balances teaching, his gym, and his family life. That is something I aspire to do well in the future. Recently, Dr. Z has given me guidance on choosing a chiropractic program to enter after I graduate in the spring. He never told me where to go or what the right decision was, but helped me pursue all options, get to visits even if they were during class time, and will be proud of me no matter where I end up. I am thankful there are many professors like this at GV, but I am even more thankful Dr. Z will always be in my corner today and in the years to come!”

Nominated by: Joseph Bell

“Being a brilliant mentor and friend. Helped me in my career as a professor and a reference that allowed me to get a perfect job for me.”