



Rest In Peace Michael



Our friend and colleague Michael Young passed away last week at the age of 48. Michael was an active member of GVMC and participated in many leadership positions including our Executive Committee, Chairman of our Personnel Committee and a member of our Board of Directors.

Michael served for 20 years as City Manager of Rockford. He was very active in his community and the region. A true leader he believed strongly in cooperation and collaboration in local government. His funeral service on Monday was attended by almost 100 GVMC members as well as local government leaders from throughout Michigan. At the time of his death, Michael was President of the Michigan Local Government Manager's

Association.

He is survived by his wife, Melissa, daughters Michaela and Mackenzie and a son, Jake.

A special scholarship in his name has been established at Grand Valley State University. The scholarship was started by his friends and colleagues from local government. For more information or to contribute, please contact Michael F. Young, 90', 94' Memorial Endowment Scholarship, University Development, Grand Valley State University, L.V. Eberhard Center, 9th Floor, P.O. Box 1945, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-1945. You can also contact them by email at universitydevelopment@gvsu.edu.

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GVMC Awarded 2016 Regional Prosperity Grant

For the third year, GVMC was awarded a grant to be the fiduciary organization for the Governor's Regional Prosperity Initiative.

Through the RPI process along with many partners from the region working together we organized the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance. This group represents many different organizations from throughout our 13 county region.

The award letter from Christopher

Harkins of the State Budget Office, states, "Region 4 continues to illustrate success within the region and collaborative support". Our grant for 2016 is \$235,000.

The West Michigan Prosperity Alliance covers all of Michigan's Region 4. This area includes 13 counties, has 341 units of government, over 1.5 million residents. It is the second largest geographic area in the state and the second largest population.

To give a perspective on the

size of the region, it is approximately the size of the State of New Jersey. It includes 130 miles of Lake Michigan Shoreline and extends 75 miles to the heart of Michigan's lower peninsula.

We have a 33 member Steering Committee representing, transportation, work force, regional planning, economic development, higher education, community development, adult education, business, and philanthropic organizations. The group meets on a regular basis to promote cooperation and collaboration in Western Michigan.