Anthony V. DeVito II Memorial Award 2010

Michael A. Faber, M.A., has been selected as the 2010 Anthony V. DeVito II Memorial Award recipient. The DeVito Award is presented annually by the U-M Geriatrics Center to recognize outstanding service, dedication and commitment to excellence in geriatrics education in Michigan.

Faber is the associate director of the Older Learner Center at Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC). He fosters life-long learning through the numerous programs offered at the Older Learner Center utilizing professional instructors as well as peer volunteers. He has been instrumental in implementing, coordinating and providing instruction for GRCC's 32-credit gerontology certificate program. In addition, he provides oversight for the Caregiver Resource Network, a collaboration of West Michigan organizations that helps educate family caregivers about community resources. "I am grateful to have received this prestigious award. I hope that my continued work on behalf of the older adults of Western Michigan lives up to this tremendous honor," says Faber.

The GRCC Older Learner Center which Faber helped to establish in 1998 provides adults 45 and older with opportunities for life-long learning and life enrichment. Current offerings include a Computer Club, Senior Health Club, Health Education Programming, a Life History Club, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Educational Support Groups, and an Encore Careers in Healthcare project. Faber is also a member of the production team of Successful Aging, an award winning television program that is distributed nationally on video and DVD. He oversees a number of community-wide program initiatives including Senior Leadership Grand Rapids, which provides workshops to assist older adults to assume volunteer leadership roles in the community. In addition, Faber dedicates time to sponsoring public forums, conferences, professional trainings and events within the community on issues relating to an aging America.

Amanda Walter, B.A., public relations and communications coordinator of the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan submitted Faber’s name for the DeVito Award. “We are extremely pleased that the nominating committee recognized the positive impact Mike has made in West Michigan. He has worked to improve our community and help older adults age independently with dignity,” noted Walter.

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