



Grandparents University June 28-30, 2011



Audience

MSU alumni, staff, faculty, donors, their parents, children, grandchildren and the general public.

- The 2011 program had 437 adults and 436 children from over 30 US states and Canada.
- Full scholarships were extended to 10 low income families.

Funding

- Grandparents University is a self-supporting program. Registration fees cover all expenses. Scholarships are available to low-income families.

Objectives

- Engaging and strengthening relationships with alumni, donors, friends of the University and their children.
- Exposing children to different career possibilities.
- Showcasing MSU, its faculty and facilities.
- Encouraging future participation with the University.

Description

Grandparents University is a three-day educational experience on the MSU campus designed for grandparents (or other adults) and grandchildren (ages 8-12) to spend time together while sampling college life. Grandparents U participants live in a residence hall, attend 4 classes across campus, and sample the many highlights of MSU. Grandparents and their grandchildren attend programs together, customizing their experience by selecting classes that fit their family interests. Over the course of the program, they share hands-on learning activities led by world-class MSU faculty and staff members, and create lasting memories in a fun, educational environment.

Outcomes

- 61.7% of the 2011 Participants rated their experience as excellent. 35% as very good. Grandparents University has participant, faculty and volunteer feedback from surveys over a multi-year period.
- Over 100 faculty, students and staff participate each year.
- More than 70 different daytime class sessions and 15 evening activities offered.
- Grandparents University 2011 was organized and supported by the alumni relations officers of the MSU colleges of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Arts

and Letters, Communication Arts and Sciences, Education, Engineering, Music, and Social Science; the Eli Broad College of Business; The Graduate School; Honors College; International Studies and Programs; James Madison College; Lyman Briggs College; the School of Packaging Alumni Association; the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities; and the MSU Alumni Association.

- Program began in 2006 as joint effort between the Colleges of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Natural Sciences.

Additional Significant Information

- Grandparents University at MSU has received National coverage in USA Today and statewide coverage through the Detroit Free Press.
- Grandparents University programs at University of North Texas and West Chester University were brought to their institutions by MSU alumni who are now faculty members at these institutions.
- Grandparents University programming staff has consulted with Central Michigan University, Albion College, Saginaw Valley State University, Grand Valley State University, Kansas State University, University of Minnesota, University of Montana among others to help them coordinate their own programs.

Contact Information

Name Kathryn Reed or Barb Susa-Fineis
Title Grandparents Planning Staff
Address 408 Agriculture Hall/300 Spartan Way
Phone 517-355-0282/517-432-2211
Email kreed@msu.edu/susab@msu.edu
Program website www.grandparents.msu.edu

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY