

Critical Mass: Organic-Organometallic Collaboration at the largest PUI

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“Building small-molecule crystallography into the teaching curriculum and research at Grand Valley State University has been a recent and evolving process. From its’ inception and critical growth from a single, pioneering faculty member (Shannon Biros, functional organic materials), small-molecule crystallography is now impacting the research and curricular work of GVSU faculty in numerous ways. As is well known in PUI institutions that attempt to support inorganic chemical research, the ability to do crystallography has traditionally been a large barrier to productive, scholarly competition, even against much less well-supported R1 institutions. Through collaborative interactions between organic and inorganic faculty at GVSU, a program of high-impact, small-molecule crystallography work is presented, synthetic and crystal-growth work executed completely by undergrads, and in a number of cases, by local-partner community college student researchers.”