**UPDATED BIO**

Dr. Philomena (Philly) V. Mantella is the fifth president of Grand Valley State University (GVSU). In 2019, Dr. Mantella was named the first female president in school history and oversees Michigan’s third-largest public university, with more than 22,000 students, 3,000 faculty and staff across three campuses, and six regional centers.

Dr. Mantella’s strategic vision for Grand Valley, Reach Higher 2025, positions the university to address the challenges of our time with an eye on the future, relevance, and growth amid disruption. During her tenure, she has expanded the university’s offerings and potential learners with programs aimed at non-traditional and underrepresented students. This led to GVSU welcoming their largest and most diverse incoming class ever in the fall of 2023 and has the school seeing an overall increase in enrollment at a time when higher education faces monumental challenges and steep demographic declines.

Dr. Mantella believes it is critical for universities to embrace the intersection of education, talent and economic development. This has led to the business community forging unprecedented partnerships with GVSU including the [Laker Accelerated Talent Link](https://www.gvsu.edu/latl/), [Corewell Scholars](https://www.gvsu.edu/bhshgrant/), [Veterans Advance](https://www.gvsu.edu/veterans/gvsu-veterans-advance-77.htm), [HBCU/HSI partnerships](https://www.gvsu.edu/giving/grand-valleys-hbcuhsi-consortium-725.htm) and [K-12 Connect](https://www.gvsu.edu/k12connect/). These are co-created with employers and educational partners to expand educational opportunities, enriching the talent pipeline to meet critical workforce needs now and in the future.

Dr. Mantella also founded the REP4 alliance to accelerate systemic change in education. REP4 serves thousands of underrepresented students across ten institutions in a new model where students create prototypes for the future of education while shaping their own educational path. This effort is being touted as an unprecedented example of educational reform.

Dr. Mantella’s background includes broad strategic experience comprised from more than 30 years in higher education administration, serving as an officer at many public and private universities across New York, New Jersey, Michigan, and Massachusetts. Most recently before coming to GVSU, she served as Senior Vice President of Enrollment and Student Life at Northeastern University. In this role, Dr. Mantella was responsible for leading strategic planning, admission, revenue growth and repositioning of the University. She was credited for being the primary driver of Northeastern’s rise from a Tier 3 university to a Top 40 national university during her tenure.

Dr. Mantella earned a Ph.D. in college and university administration from Michigan State University and master’s and bachelor’s degrees from Syracuse University.