

# JASON WERKEMA, PhD

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## HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR

### EXECUTIVE TEAM LEADER | BUSINESS OWNER | CREATIVE PROFESSIONAL

Collaborative and energetic higher education professional with 20+ years of leading staff and empowering students. Ability to cultivate relationships with diverse partners resulting in organizational improvement with measurable outcomes. Expertise in program and personnel management, creative problem solving, interpersonal communication, data analysis, educational technology, and conflict resolution.

## EXPERIENCE

### Dean of Education, 2022-2023

#### Compass College of Film and Media, Grand Rapids, MI

- Served as Chief Academic Officer with direct oversight of faculty, library staff, student affairs, student support, compliance, assessment, accreditation, budget, and curriculum
- Researched and presented feasibility study to executive team for online labs focused on XR technology, venture capital, marketing, AI, and VR training leading to a partnership with Calvin University
- Developed several new courses and policies, and managed campus learning management system
- Managed a platform shift from MS SharePoint to Google Drive resulting in greater organizational efficacy
- Completed program reviews of bachelor's and associate degrees leading to curriculum refinement
- Facilitated professional development trainings for staff and faculty resulting in greater CQ
- Chaired education department and all-staff meetings leading to better communication and deeper trust
- Actively contributed to executive team resulting in new staff, faculty, and improved organizational culture

### Dean, 2018-2022

#### Grace Christian University, Grand Rapids, MI

Professor, 2009-2022   Associate Professor, 2005-2008   Assistant Professor, 1999-2004

- Fundraised \$350k+ for educational resources and updated technology for students
- Served as Project Manager for four major campus renovations including Aldrich Athletic Center, Dean Academic Center (2x), and Baker Chapel
- Upgraded institutional audio/visual equipment (\$75k) through fundraising and grant-writing
- Updated technology in classrooms and added audio/video production spaces
- Directed assessment and accreditation activities for the School of Music, Worship, and Technology resulting in 10-year accreditation reapprovals with the Higher Learning Commission
- Managed the school's budget and established dozens of local and online business partnerships
- Installed and managed a 20-station iMac lab with Microsoft and Apple Pro apps (lab refreshed 5x)
- Produced 15+ promotional videos for the University's website and social media platforms
- Organized and directed 10+ community music concerts/fundraisers to advance the university
- Facilitated an international teaching opportunity in Tanzania, East Africa for faculty and students
- Developed new programs/courses that integrated music, web, audio, and video production skills
- Served as the point person for transitioning our curriculum from in-person to online during COVID
- Recruited, trained, and supervised a team of 20+ diverse faculty, staff, and student workers
- Researched and presented campus revenue strategies on a presidential task force
- Facilitated 75+ student internships with local, national, and international organizations
- Managed the student scholarship program and dissemination of \$500k+ in awards

- Actively participated on several university committees including Institutional Assessment, Educational Policies, Arts and Sciences, Full Faculty, Chapel, and Music, Worship, and Technology
- Developed and taught 12-15 credit hours per semester and taught music lessons

**Professional Musician, Grand Rapids, MI, 2000-2023**

- Small business owner with lessons given to 500+ students world-wide, 2000-present
- Created an educational website, [www.JasonWerkema.com](http://www.JasonWerkema.com) with 10,000+ annual visitors, 2023
- Gigging musician with 50+ performances/year and Fridays at *The JW Marriott*, Grand Rapids, MI, 2023
- Arranged and recorded a guitar piece requested by Billboard #1 top producer, Tommee Profitt, 2019
- Produced 75+ videos for [www.YouTube.com/user/JasonWerkema](http://www.YouTube.com/user/JasonWerkema), 1M+ views, 2012-present

**Adjunct Professor, Calvin University, Grand Rapids, MI, 2007-2012, 2017-2023**

- Developed curriculum, faculty presentations, classroom instruction, and mentored students

**Adjunct Professor, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids, MI 2002-2009**

- Developed curriculum, faculty presentations, classroom instruction, and mentored students

## EDUCATION

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**Doctor of Philosophy, Higher Education Leadership, 2009**

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

**Master of Music, 1998**

Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH

**Bachelor of Music, 1994**

Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, MI

**Associate of Arts coursework, 1991-1994**

Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids, MI

## TECHNOLOGY PROFICIENCIES

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**Productivity:** Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Google apps, Apple and PC platforms, and Zoom

**Web-based Course Management:** Blackboard and Populi

**Graphic Design:** Photoshop CS and Canva

**Video Production:** Final Cut Pro and Premiere Pro

**Audio Production:** Logic Pro, Pro Tools, and Reason

## TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

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**LinkedIn Learning:** Completed 20+ technology-based certificate courses, 2015-Present

**Cultural Intelligence:** Center for Cultural Intelligence, 2019

**Empowerment Coaching:** Grace Christian University, 2018

## HONORS

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Received first ever **Faculty Leadership Award**, Grace Christian University, Grand Rapids, MI, 2019

Nominated first ever **Servant Leadership Award**, Grace Christian University, Grand Rapids, MI, 2018

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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Ada Bible Church (Discovery Village Leader) • Cross Creek Charter Academy (Guest Musician) • Kentwood Public Schools (Parent Teacher Council) • Grand River Preparatory High School (Videographer)