



Annual Report

2022-23

Letter from the Assistant Dean

Friends of the Center for Community Engagement,

I am pleased to share the Center for Community Engagement's (CCE) 2022-2023 Annual Report. As an integral part of our university's commitment to fostering a culture of engagement and striving to create a more just and equitable world, our Center, alongside campus and community partners, endeavors to shape spaces of deep learning, authentic connection, generative relationships, and growth.

Over the past academic year, our programs and partnerships have continued to strengthen, evolve, and develop. Here are some key highlights from the last year:

Opportunity Northeast: Gonzaga's investment in Northeast Spokane continues to expand. This year saw the launch of programming at the Gonzaga Family Haven, spanning from after-school mentoring and sports outreach activities to monthly community meals to programs offering legal assistance, financial literacy, wellness activities, and much more. 45 staff and faculty colleagues and 80 graduate students discovered opportunities to partner and serve in our neighborhood through Northeast & Logan Immersions.

Community Engaged Learning (CEL): Gonzaga faculty offered 104 CEL sections – an 18% increase from last year and on par with years prior to the pandemic. We are seeing growing interest from faculty who seek to integrate CEL into new and existing courses.

Student Involvement: 2,500+ students engaged in academic and co-curricular projects this past year. CCE also partnered with the New Student Summer Orientation pilot to introduce ~1,200 incoming students to the Logan Neighborhood and public service opportunities across Spokane.

Educational Access: Our programs partnered with 12 local schools and educational partners, benefiting

~350 local youth through mentoring, tutoring, and enrichment activities. We continue to work with Admissions and other colleagues to reduce barriers to educational access for youth. Hundreds of neighborhood youth visited campus for events like Zags for a Day, Catalyst, the Americans and the Holocaust Memorial Exhibit, the STEM Fair, and Logan Elementary Campus Visit Day.

Awards and Recognitions: Gonzaga's dedication to community engagement was recognized in two national rankings. The university was ranked 17th for Most Engaged in Community Service by the Princeton Review (bit.ly/40vnXDk) and Top 10 in the country for Excellence in Service Learning by the U.S. News & World Report (bit.ly/3QAzvkd).

This is collective work and would not be possible without the dedication of our staff, faculty, students, and the support from our university leadership. We hope you enjoy the stories, pictures, and moments of relationship, connection, and learning from this past year. We are grateful for our partners who journey together with us in animating this mission of service and justice for the common good.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our mission and shared work.

In Peace,



Molly Ayers

Assistant Dean of the Center for Community Engagement of Gonzaga University





2,403
STUDENT VOLUNTEERS*



86
STUDENT LEADERS



55,646
HOURS OF SERVICE



104
COMMUNITY ENGAGED
LEARNING COURSES



21
DISTINCT PROGRAMS



3,651
MEALS SERVED IN
NORTHEAST SPOKANE



10th
FOR SERVICE
LEARNING EXCELLENCE
Source: US News & World Report



17th
MOST ENGAGED IN
COMMUNITY SERVICE
Source: The Princeton Review

* Includes duplicate count



Logan Block Party



GONZAGA
FAMILY HAVEN
Gonzaga Spokane



STEM Fair



Highlights from the Haven

After two years of planning, GU's programming at Gonzaga Family Haven launched in Fall 2022. Students, faculty, and staff supported the development of programs spanning from after-school youth mentoring and tutoring to legal and financial management clinics to wellness and workforce education programs.

\$576,000 in direct federal funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services enhanced Gonzaga and Catholic Charities Eastern Washington's (CCEW) ability to provide specialized, wrap-around programming and services for the Haven's residents.



This year we've provided...

- **Regular community meals** that brought together nearly 100 residents monthly (Hosted by Campus Kitchens & Zag Dining)
- **A Sports Outreach mentoring program** offered two days a week (A partnership between the CCE, School of Education, and Athletics)
- **Legal Clinics** (Hosted by Gonzaga Law School)
- **A Family Health Resource Fair** offering physicals for youth enrolling in school sports, COVID-19 and flu shots, and personal hygiene items (Hosted by Gonzaga's School of Health Sciences)
- **Family Wellbeing Workshops** (Offered by the Marriage & Family Counseling and School Counseling)
- **The Essential Skills Women's Workforce Development Program** (Offered in partnership with the ZoNE, GU's School of Leadership Studies, Career & Professional Development, Human Resources & Organizational Development, SBA's Mozilo Program, and the CCE)
- **And so much more!**

Putting Inequality on the Map

Inspired by what he learned while attending this spring's Northeast Immersion, Opportunity Northeast Faculty Research Fellow **Dr. Vivek Patil** imagined a project that explored the intersection and geographic distributions of a number of key social indicators across Spokane County and the relationships between these indicators and past housing policy within the City of Spokane.

This project explores the relationships and geographic distributions of several social, economic, health and environmental variables across different census tracts and neighborhoods in Spokane County.

Through a series of interactive maps, Dr. Patil depicts the similarities and differences that are present across different neighborhoods on these variables. Dr. Patil's work highlights the importance of recognizing how historical decisions can continue to have disparate impacts on outcomes for residents today, and how intersectional many of these social variables are when explored at a neighborhood level.

Scan this QR code to explore Dr. Patil's interactive map:



A Catalyst for Belonging

In 2021, a dream came to life within Opportunity Northeast, which sought to create educational pathways for members of the Northeast Spokane community. A five-day college immersion program was born, engaging rising 9th- and 10th-graders, first at John R. Rogers High School and later expanding to North Central High School.

The goal, says Director of Strategic Partners **Bailey Wootton**, “is for youth to gain exposure to what college is like, from the academic coursework to the co-curricular activities that can be so pivotal to the educational experience, and begin envisioning themselves as a college student someday.”

Due to COVID restrictions, the first event operated like a day camp, but by year two, participants had the full experience of staying on campus to eat, study, take a class, participate in activities and sleep in a residence hall.

Participants have expressed feeling comfortable sharing parts of their identity that they may not be as open about in other spaces. One student said they experienced “a sense of belonging” among their peers and gained confidence in themselves and in college.

“It’s really special to see the youth grow over the course of the five days and become more confident in who they are and who they want to become. We’ve had several youth come back for a second year. Their increased comfort level and sense of pride being at Gonzaga illustrates the significance of these types of experiences,” Wootton says.



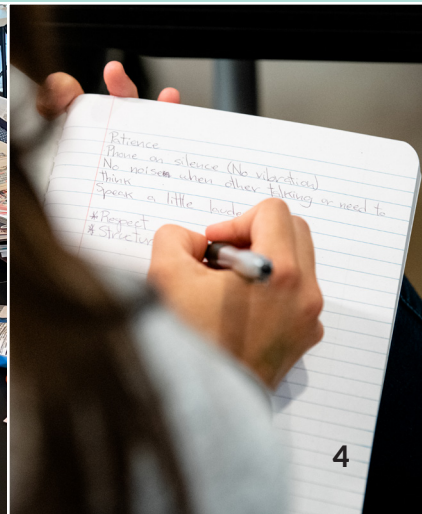
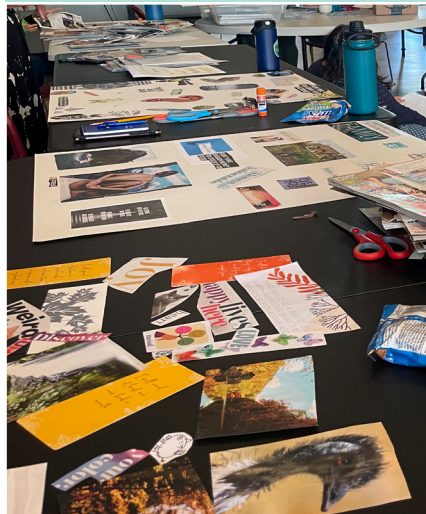
Building Skills for a Brighter Future

The ZoNE Essential Skills program is a six-week career development series that provides unemployed and underemployed women in Northeast Spokane the opportunity to develop their workplace skills and build their professional confidence.

Since the Essential Skills program began in 2021, over 30 women have participated, graduated, and gone on to new career and educational opportunities. Through this program, Spokane women not only develop a community of support throughout their neighborhood but have been given the opportunity to flourish where they otherwise believed they couldn’t.

Participants engaged in many topics including training on financial literacy, essential office skills, mindfulness, and career resources. They also had the chance to collaborate in creating a cookbook and take part in mock interviews held at Gonzaga University.

The Essential Skills program is made possible in part by generous funding from Spokane Teachers Credit Union and an OPRE grant through the Federal Administration for Children and Families.





Area Highlights:

1

Gonzaga University had the privilege this fall of hosting “Americans and the Holocaust,” a touring exhibit created in collaboration between United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Library Association, which investigates the United States’ responses to the Holocaust and participation in World War II.

Dustin Gomez, Foley Library program assistant, says that it is significant that Gonzaga was chosen because of the university’s Jesuit values that encourage people to put their education in action.

The exhibit brought 4,630 community members to campus, plus 630 youth from John R. Rogers High School, Garry Middle School, and Shaw Middle School.

“If there’s one thing I would hope it would be that the Spokane community would recognize the human element of the story, identify with it and then be able to take that and create good works out of it,” Gomez said.

To take a virtual tour of the “Americans and the Holocaust” exhibit, visit: bit.ly/3u31G3G

2

Gonzaga University has long been engaged in collaborative Ignatian advocacy efforts. Each year in the fall, the Ignatian Solidarity Network organizes the Ignatian Family Teach-in for Justice in the Fall, a place for members of the Ignatian family to be empowered, re-energized, inspired, challenged, and supported by a community that sees faith and justice integrally linked.

Five GU departments collaborated to send 18 delegates to the 25th Ignatian Family Teach-in for Justice held in Washington D.C. and focused on the issues of migration and environmental justice. Three of these delegates represented the CCE.



3

Youth from John R. Rogers High School, Yasuhara, Shaw, and Garry Middle Schools, and Gonzaga Family Haven visited Gonzaga's campus to learn about post-secondary education and experience college life for a day. Students had a memorable and fun experience as they toured the campus, met with student clubs and student support services, learned about different types of colleges, and spent valuable time connecting with their GU mentors.

"The whole day was awesome and changed my outlook on college," said one participant while reflecting on the experience.

4

The CCE hosts a Service Fair as a way for community partners and the campus community to meet and consider ways to collaborate. For many Community Engaged Learning students, this event is where they connect with a local non-profit agency and confirm their placement for the semester.

We are grateful to the organizations who attended and shared their mission with campus.

5

The CCE partnered with Sodexo's ZagDining to put on the annual Empty Bowls fundraiser. Attendees chose a ceramic bowl handmade by artisans from the local Spokane Potter's Guild, and used those bowls to taste soups. Three delicious soups were prepared by culinarians **Tiffany Berthan, Amber Scott,** and **Cheyenne Middleton.**

Over \$2,500 was raised at the event, directly benefiting the Campus Kitchens program.



Another Thread of Inspiration

Sometimes, a little open dialogue and pat on the back with a ‘glad we’re neighbors’ message is all it takes to connect in an entirely different way. Such was the case in February, when Gonzaga partnered with Spokane Public Schools’ Hoodie Project to meet with 5th grade students at Bemiss and Stevens Elementary Schools - and leave a warm, symbolic hug!

GU students arrived at the schools ready to speak about their college experience and plant a seed about the importance of preparing for post-secondary education. Four student athletes and five CCE students spoke about their choice of majors, volunteer commitments or athletic involvement, and pathways they took to college. They fielded lots of questions about how and why and what it takes to get to college and be successful.

“The 5th grade students were so eager to hear what our Gonzaga students had to say about their college experiences,” said Jill Candland, former youth programs manager at CCE. “When one of our Gonzaga students talked about their experience with ADHD and how they worked through challenges to get to college, several of the 5th graders responded that they are dealing with ADHD as well.”

The GU students also presented each 5th grade student with a GU hoodie along with encouragement to ask for help, work hard, and stay engaged in school.

“I think that having a Gonzaga hoodie has made them realize how welcomed and valued they are here at GU,” Candland added.

Inland Northwest Community Engagement Institute

Hosted by the Partners in Campus and Community Engagement group, the Inland Northwest Community Engagement Institute returned to an in-person event in late May on Gonzaga’s campus.

The event brought together regional community leaders, non-profit organizations, and staff and faculty of higher education institutions to discussion community-engaged learning, share promising practices, and examine how

partnership could better respond to complex challenges facing our communities.

The Institute places a particular focus on the place we reside in, drawing inspiration from the geography of the region and emphasizing the responsibility that institutions of higher education bear to the communities in which they live.

In this way, the Institute highlighted several current and growing partnerships with local non-profits, highlighted the scholarship and



research of faculty, and offered three local walking tours through Gonzaga’s Campus Kitchen Garden, to the Gonzaga Family Haven, and a history of Spokane Riverfront Park.

Two faculty groups were also recognized for their excellence in community-based teaching and learning as well as for excellence in community-based research.



Breaking Down Stigmas

For 21 years, Gonzaga University Specialized Recreation (GUSR) has paired students with adults who have disabilities to form friendships based on respect and mutual support. Its design breaks down stigmas faced by people with disabilities, celebrating all abilities and advocating for inclusion.

Students and their partners meet weekly for activities, including practice for a play they perform at the end of each semester. Led by students, GUSR teaches life skills through sports, theater, dances, retreats and crafts, and brings visibility to Disabilities Awareness Week.

Having worked with students with developmental disabilities in high school in Carson City, Nevada, **Taylor Licon** ('26) joined GUSR in her first year and will be a coordinator this year.

"I loved watching them grow from year to year," Licon recalls. "Once I found out Gonzaga had a similar



program, I signed up immediately and have been in love with the atmosphere and the people since."

She and her GUSR partner, **Bruce**, spend time coloring, talking and dancing. "He is one of the sweetest people I know," she says. He loves to sing "Can't Help Falling in Love" by Elvis Presley – "and he is really good at it, too!" she notes.

Befriending Bruce and other GUSR participants, Licon says, "really opened my eyes to some struggles the disabled community goes through that I was not aware of before." Gonzaga students learn about the disabled-rights movement and the important improvements yet to be made.

"I left GUSR every Thursday feeling better than I did when I entered, and it is all because of the joyous environment you feel when you interact with everyone," Licon says. "It was the highlight of my week, and I cannot wait to be a part of GUSR for the next three years."



Justice in January

The Justice in January program is a year-long community-engaged learning program that invites students to *Humanize, Accompany, and Complicate* the issue of migration and the individuals and communities affected by migration in the U.S./Mexico borderlands.

During the year, students enroll in a 1-credit SOSJ course during the fall semester, participate in an

immersive experience in a border community over the winter break, and join in collective and individual advocacy efforts on and off campus in the spring semester.

This academic year, 8 students and 2 faculty engaged in this program, which took them to Tucson, Az., Nogales, Az. and Nogales, Sonora.

Participants accompanied migrants at the Kino Border Initiative's Comedor, listening to stories and

sharing in joyful activities, met with ranchers, an immigration lawyer, US Border Patrol, the Pima County Medical Examiner, and visited the San Xavier Del Bac Mission and the Tohono O'odham Nation, and for fun and to further complicate the issue of migration, sat in on an impromptu lecture on *Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery* at the Shalom Mennonite Fellowship.



Krista Colleagues

Five Gonzaga graduates were selected to be part of the 2023 cohort of the Krista Colleagues Program. After graduation, these students began their post-graduate service journey through various programs around the country and around the globe.

Krista Colleagues participated in a full-day pre-service retreat at The Hearth, alongside five Colleagues from Whitworth University. The Hearth is a retreat center created by **Jim** and **Linda Hunt** in honor of their late daughter, **Krista Hunt**, who served in Bolivia after graduating. The Krista Colleagues Project is made possible through the generosity and wisdom of the Hunts, who shared time with the students during the retreat and shared the story of Krista and how the Hearth came to be. Each Krista Colleague will receive a \$1000 Service Leadership Grant which they can apply to their professional and personal development during their service year.

This year's Krista Colleagues include **Emma Gashi** (AmeriCorps in Nevada), **Gracie McRae** (Teach for America in Hawai'i), **Joy Oakes** (Davis Projects for Peace in Kenya), **Lilia Klute** (Jesuit Volunteer Corps in California), and **Maria Truong** (Conservation Corps in Colorado).

Spring Immersions

Students spent their spring breaks in community with others right here in the Pacific Northwest! One group traveled to Sisters, Oregon to work on a home build project and to consider how a small tourist town experiences the challenges of housing insecurity. Another group traveled to Tacoma to learn about disability justice and then to the state capitol of Olympia to experience the policymaking process live.

Community Engagement Student Symposium

The annual Student Symposium on Community Engagement took place in April at Whitworth University, showcasing student engagement projects in Spokane from all regional institutions. Seventeen Gonzaga students participated, working on 6 different projects with topics ranging from education to climate resilience to advocacy work in the legal system.

At this event, **Mayor Woodward** acknowledged the great work of these students with their community partner organizations and their commitment to social justice. Senior students **Avery Kain** and **Tia Moua** were also selected as this year's recipients for the President's Student Civic Leadership award.

Awards and Recognition

Each year, we recognize our outstanding students, faculty, and community partners by identifying individuals and agencies who have made a significant contribution to the community and to Gonzaga University through their meaningful engagement. The following award winners represent recipients of the Washington Campus Compact Student Civic Leader Awards, Gonzaga University's Community Engaged Learning Awards, and our CCE Student Leader of the Year Awards. The Center for Community Engagement is so proud of the contributions these individuals and agencies have made to our campus and our communities.



Avery Kain
President's Civic
Student Leadership
Award



Tia Moua
Governor's Civic
Leadership Award



Mae Cramer
Obama Foundation
Search Voyager
Scholar

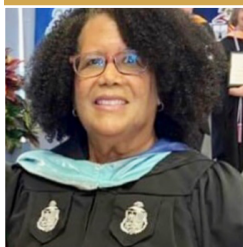


Hannah Vail
Sr. Virginia Claire-
Carvey Volunteer of
the Year Award

Clare Kennedy
Fr. Leo Robinson
Volunteer of the Year
Award



Abby Cota
Community
Engaged Learning
Student of the Year



**Susan
Poindexter**
Community
Engaged Learning
Faculty Member of
the Year



Joe Johnston
Publication of Note:
"Community-Based
Learning: Benefits
of Moving Beyond
the Classroom"



**Communities
In Schools**
Community Engaged
Learning Community
Partner of the Year

Social Justice Missioning Ceremony

On Friday, May 12th, the University honored 14 graduating students who made the commitment to serve with a post-graduate organization. The annual event kicked off Commencement Weekend on campus as these students were celebrated by family, friends, staff, and faculty members.

As part of the ceremony, **President McCulloh** offered opening remarks and **Andrew Newman** ('16, '21 J.D) offered the Alumni keynote address. Andrew spoke about GUSR's as formative impact on his service and leadership journey as an undergraduate student, which informed his decision to serve with Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Atlanta, GA at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School. Andrew offered a personal reflection on his year as a JV and offered encouragement to the graduating students.



14 graduates of the class of 2023 have committed to a year or more of long-term service with organizations around the country. Graduates will be volunteering through various post-graduate programs including Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, Teach for America, and AmeriCorps, among others:

Audrey Buller
Conor Burke
Ariana Chin
Emma Gashi
Matt Harkness
Avery Kain
Lilia Klute

Olivia Linke
Rory McCarthy
Gracie McRae
Joy Oakes
Joseph O'Hagan
Emily Shiraishi
Maria Truong



We would like to extend our gratitude to all the students, faculty, staff, community partners, alumni, and benefactors who allow us to continue our work of positively transforming our students and communities through community engagement.

Your support and partnership make this work possible and moves us closer to our vision of creating a more just and equitable world.

If you are interested in supporting the Center for Community Engagement in creating a more just and equitable world, you can make a gift on our website:

www.gonzaga.edu/supportCCE



Center for
Community Engagement

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