

GONZAGA
UNIVERSITY

Office of
Inclusive Excellence

Diversity Digest



Message from the
Chief Diversity Officer

Education Corner

Remembering Dr.
Martin Luther King Jr.

Faculty Spotlight

Staff Spotlight

Media
Recommendations

What's Happening!
Announcements &
Events

Message From The Chief Diversity Officer



Robin Kelley, Ph.D.
Chief Diversity Officer

Dear Beloved Community,

We are well into the new year, and we are in a season of change. I want to reflect on hope and the challenges ahead. We are invited to lean into our shared unwavering commitment to respecting the humanity of every person. This commitment is rooted in the Jesuit Catholic values of dignity, justice, and care for the whole person. At the heart of our mission is the call to create a community where everyone feels seen, valued, heard, and empowered.

January allows us to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his legacy. Also, as Dr. King, we can reaffirm our dedication to justice and equity. Dr. King's vision and actions tell of hope and the journey toward belonging. We are reminded that the path towards belonging is not just a goal but a long journey. As we walk that path together, we must demonstrate courage, empathy, and a willingness to challenge systems of inequity including giving up some power and privilege.

Dr. King's 2500 public speeches carried a thread of redemptive love and restorative action. His wish and dream was for a beloved community.

Dr. King's Beloved Community is his vision of a world where all people share in the wealth of the earth and care for one another. In this Community, poverty, hunger, homelessness, racism, and all forms of bias, discrimination, and prejudice would not exist. Instead, there would be a spirit of an all-inclusive humanity. There would be peace and justice for all.

By embracing our authentic selves and the authenticity of others, we are embracing humanity in all its forms. By doing so, we live out our mission to act as agents of change and hope, and in many ways, we strive for the Beloved Community.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to making our campus a place where everyone belongs. Let us continue to walk this path with open minds, hearts, and a shared resolve to build a brighter, more just future.

It is with my sincerest hope that you enjoy the January Diversity Digest.

With gratitude and solidarity,

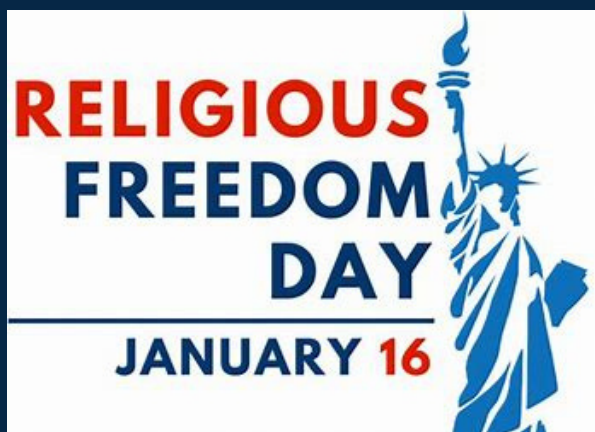
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin Kelley".

Robin Kelley, Ph.D.

EDUCATION CORNER

National Religious Freedom Day

National Religious Freedom Day is observed on January 16th in the United States. This day commemorates the adoption of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom in 1786, a foundational document. The statute guaranteed the right to freely practice religion and laid the groundwork for the First Amendment's protections of religious liberty in the U.S. Constitution. This day serves as a reminder of commitment to fostering a society where everyone can freely express and practice their faith without fear of persecution and discrimination.



While Gonzaga University is rooted in Jesuit and Catholic traditions, it actively supports students, faculty, and staff from a variety of religious backgrounds. The university's commitment to interfaith dialogue and inclusivity reflects its core values of faith, justice, and service.

Resources at Gonzaga University:

University Ministry, Center for Global Engagement, Religious Studies Department, and Student Organizations such as the Jewish Student Union, Muslim Student Association, and more.

<https://www.gonzaga.edu/college-of-arts-sciences/departments/religious-studies>

<https://www.gonzaga.edu/about/our-mission-jesuit-values/university-ministry/jewish-life>

EDUCATION CORNER

International Day of Education

Observed annually on January 24th, International Day of Education highlights the role of education in fostering peace and sustainable development. Established by the United Nations, this day emphasizes access to inclusive and equitable quality education, along with lifelong learning opportunities. These elements are recognized as vital for building resilient societies and empowering individuals.



At Gonzaga University commitment to fostering global citizenship, social justice, and academic excellence are demonstrated through study abroad programs, DEI efforts, the Center for Global Engagement and more.

Resources:

[United Nations Goals and Progress:](https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4#progress_and_info)

https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4#progress_and_info

<https://unescochair-ghe.org/2020/02/13/unescos-futures-of-education-initiative/>

EDUCATION CORNER

Lunar New Year



The Lunar New Year marks the beginning of the new year on the lunisolar calendar. Due to the variation of the moon's cycle, the day of Lunar New Year varies. The Chinese zodiac system is also associated with the Lunar New Year which assigns each animal on a 12-year cycle. This year, the holiday takes place on January 29th for the year of the snake.

The holiday is most commonly observed in Asian countries, such as China, South Korea, and Vietnam. In the United States, the day is often associated with Chinese-Americans. Many people decorate and wear red, which signifies prosperity, and watch lion and dragon dances to ward off evil spirits to bring fortune to the new year. Celebrations and traditions are unique to each country and region.

Learn more about the Spokane Lunar New Year Celebration:

<https://www.spokaneunitedwestand.org/spokane-s-lunar-new-year>

Learn more about the Chinese Zodiac Animals:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Chinese-zodiac>

EDUCATION CORNER



Undocumented Student Support

Gonzaga University is dedicated to protecting student privacy, particularly regarding immigration and citizenship status, in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The University will not release personal information unless the student consents or as required by law, such as through a subpoena, warrant, or court order. Requests for such information, whether formal or informal, should be referred to the Office of General Counsel for review before any response is made. Gonzaga's commitment to privacy extends to ensuring that information about student immigration status is not shared with the Department of Homeland Security unless legally compelled. For guidance on handling these requests, contact the Office of General Counsel at (509) 313-6137.

For more information and resources:

<https://www.gonzaga.edu/about/offices-services/office-of-inclusive-excellence/our-work/undocumented-student-support>

REMEMBERING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



January brings a new year, a new semester, and a promise of new growth to Gonzaga. It is a time for resolutions, reflection, and rededication to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. It is also a time to celebrate the life, legacy, and honor the memory of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose birth we celebrate on Monday, January 20, 2025.

Martin Luther King was a seminal figure within the American Civil Rights movement and the single most revered African American among a pantheon of great African Americans civil rights leaders. With the possible exception of Nelson Mandela, no other civil rights figure is more revered and respected around the world for their contributions and sacrifices to the principle of civil rights for all. His timeless message of hope, unity, and racial equality was a call for justice not only for African Americans, but for all people regardless of race, color, or ethnicity.

In the tradition of the Mahatma, Mohandas Ghandi, Dr. King was both an activist, and a pacifist. Beginning in 1955, Dr. King, along with Edgar Nixon, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, and Rosa Parks led a boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama bus system, which many view as the beginning of the modern civil rights movement. In 1957, King became the first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). In 1963, one hundred years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln, Dr. King led a march on Washington, D.C, where on August 28, 1963, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, he gave what many have called the quintessential speech on civil rights, known today as the "I Have A Dream" speech. You can read the entire transcript of his speech, or listen to a recording of it at this [link](#).

In 1964, Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in honor of his stand against segregation and discrimination. The list of Dr. King's accomplishments continued during his brief lifetime and are too numerous to list, except to note that no one has achieved more in the area of civil rights than Dr. King, before or since.

In 1968, Dr. King and the SCLC organized the "Poor People's Campaign" to address issues of economic justice. The campaign was preceded by King's final book, "Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?" Unfortunately, On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King was killed by an assassin's bullet in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was slated to speak in support of black sanitation workers.



Dr. King with the Nobel Peace Prize

Dr. King lived and died to "remind America of the fierce urgency of now." So, in keeping with Dr. King's admonition to remember the fierce urgency of now, and in memory of Dr. King, let us read and remember a small portion of the words spoken by him on the mall in Washington, D.C. that hot, August day, in 1963:

"And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual:

*Free at last! Free at last!
Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"*

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Jane Tiedt, Ph.D., R.N.

Associate Professor of Nursing

Associate Professor Dr. Jane Tiedt has been at Gonzaga University for over 29 years and has a clinical background in pediatrics, ICU, diabetes education, and more. Born in Monticello, Iowa, Dr. Tiedt completed her B.S.N. at the University of Iowa and M.S.N. at Gonzaga's School of Nursing. She worked part time at Gonzaga's School of Nursing while completing her Ph.D. in clinical nursing science at the University of Indiana with a minor in Native American Studies.



Dr. Tiedt is passionate about studying population health and supporting her students in being better nurses. Her husband is a part of the Siletz Tribe along the Oregon Coast which sparked her interest in tribal health. During her doctorate, she did her dissertation on the experience of Coeur d'Alene (CDA) tribal members regarding diabetes care and the healthcare system. She continues to engage with the CDA tribe in her class "Community and Populations as Clients". This is a course for Nursing seniors where they do projects with community partners and sites that serve vulnerable populations. The class has partnered with CDA tribal clinic to work on health promotion and disease prevention.



Outside of Nursing, Dr. Tiedt loves to travel. During this winter break, she will be visiting New Zealand for three weeks. She has visited many countries, including Mexico and Japan, and hopes to visit Iceland and Morocco in the future. Dr. Tiedt has participated in many projects abroad. She helped develop the Nursing Study Abroad Program in Scotland in 2016. She also participated, in collaboration with the School of Education, on a mission in Chikuni, Zambia in 2017.



Train-the-Trainer in Liberia

In collaboration with the Methodist Church, Dr. Tiedt helped establish a diabetes training program in Ganta, Liberia. The team received a grant to set up a two-year program. While she visited every six-months, she trained people on the foundation of diabetes care to allow them to train others. The program is still active and provides people with the tools to be successful. Although it was challenging, Dr. Tiedt is proud of the work she has done in this project.

Teaching in Vietnam

Dr. Tiedt worked as a visiting professor in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam for two-week intensive classes. She taught at the University in Vietnam under a medical college in the master's program where she applied her experiences to support nursing students at the college. This opportunity allowed her to combine her love for travel with education. Her experiences teaching abroad push her to teach students about cultural awareness and differences when working in the field of nursing.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Cyndi Donahue

Director of Leadership Training & Development

Cyndi is a business leader who serves with a collaborative approach. In her role as Director of Leadership Training at Gonzaga University's School of Leadership Studies, Cyndi is living her WHY to connect people with themselves and others for the betterment of our global community. By connecting leadership experts with companies, nonprofit organizations and government entities, we are training leaders to be aware of unconscious bias, improve emotional intelligence, and create psychologically safe environments that improve equity, inclusivity, and belonging. Cyndi founded the successful Amplifying Women's Voices series to increase workplace equity. The series is starting its fourth year with programs focused on strength-based leadership and how to help women rise in the workplace. She currently serves on the Girl Scouts of Eastern WA & N Idaho Board Development Committee, the Spokane Journal of Business Women in Leadership Committee, and the Leadership Spokane Alumni Committee. Cyndi speaks on leadership topics such as Finding Your Why and Listening Like a Leader, and is a two-time DisruptHR speaker who was honored to serve on the 2024 DisruptHR Spokane Advisory Board. Cyndi previously served as a Fairchild Air Force Base Honorary Commander to support our regional military and their families. She served on the Downtown Spokane Partnership Business Improvement District Board and was named a 2019 Top 20 Women in Business Leadership by Spokane Coeur d'Alene Living magazine.



Cyndi with Dr. Sherri Lynch at DisruptHR



Amplifying Women's Voices with members of the Fall 2024 Gonzaga Certificate in Women's Leadership cohort.

MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS



Education Reimagined

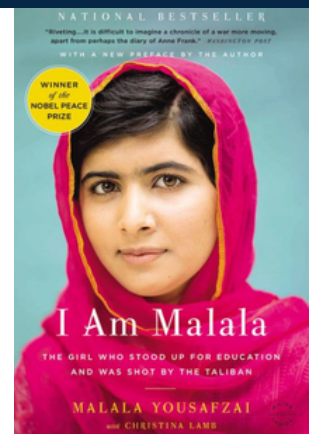
Podcast

The Education Reimagined Podcast is a series that explores innovative approaches and the future of education. Hosted by Kelly Young and supported by Education Reimagined, the podcast dives into rethinking traditional education systems to create equitable, learner-centered environments. Available to listen through platforms like Apple Podcast and through the Education Reimagines website.

I Am Malala

Book

"I Am Malala" by Malala Yousafzai is a compelling auto-biographical book, co-written with Christina Lamb. Published in 2013, the book tells the story of the life of Malala, a young Pakistani girl who defied the Taliban to advocate for girls' education. It captures Malala's journey from her childhood in Pakistan's Swat Valley to her rise as a global symbol for education and women's rights.



Religious Freedom: The Contested History of an American Ideal

Book

Published in 2017 by Tisa Wenger the book this book offers critical insight into the complexities of religious freedom as a legal, cultural, and ideological framework. Wenger's work underscores how the concept has been wielded both as a tool for liberation and as a means of oppression.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Jewish Student Union

Formally known as the Jewish Bulldogs, the Jewish Student Union (JSU) officially became recognized as a cultural club in 2023. This transition was able to strengthen the role of the club as a safe and uplifting space for Jewish students of all backgrounds at Gonzaga University, as the club is dedicated to celebrating and growing Jewish identities.



Last year, for the first time the JSU Cultural Club Festival was held, attracting over 200 attendees who enjoyed traditional Jewish cuisine, engaging performances, and opportunities to learn more about Jewish culture. Following its success, JSU looks forward to hosting this year's festival, themed "Oneg Aviv" (Joy of Spring), on February 23rd.

President Tessa Divergilio explains why she joined the club, "I joined the Jewish Bulldogs my freshman year, mainly just looking for a community to celebrate the holidays with away from home. Over the years, I have become more involved and have loved watching the club grow and evolve. Just in my short time here, we got our very own Torah three years ago, and became the JSU and joined the UACC last year. I have found such an incredible community in JSU and am honored to lead the club this year! I hope that JSU will continue to grow and carry on the traditions we have created, especially with myself (President) and Peri (VP) graduating in the spring."

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Office of Inclusive Excellence

Stalking in the Media

About: January is Stalking Awareness Month. Join the Office of Inclusive Excellence for a munch and learn where we'll discuss the representation and romanticization of stalking in pop culture.

When: Wednesday, January 29th, 2025 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Where: Joann Jundt Lounge

Campus Events

Portland Trek Networking Social

About: Support current GU students exploring career opportunities in the Portland/Vancouver area while connecting with fellow Zags.

When: Tuesday, Jan 07, 2025 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Where: Golden Valley Brewery & Restaurant

Cost: \$15 per person

Contact: Erin Shields, shieldse@gonzaga.edu

Seattle Trek Networking Reception and Alumni Panel

About: Join alumni, parents and friends in supporting GU students in their career development process while networking with Seattle area Zags! A panel of alumni professionals will share their career insights and current trends from their industries, building connections between young alumni, those in career transitions, and experienced professionals.

When: Thursday, Jan 09, 2025 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Where: Renaissance Hotel, Madison Ballroom, 515 Madison St., Seattle, WA 98104

Cost: \$40 per person registration

Contact: Erin Shields, shieldse@gonzaga.edu

Spring Semester Classes Begin

When: Tuesday, January 14th

Welcome back, ZAGS!



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Campus Events

MLK Teach-In

About: Join us as we celebrate the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during a community discussion and commitment to continue building a beloved community for all. Students will gather for a march downtown to celebrate the work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and discuss the impact he had on our communities and what it looks like to continue to build on a "beloved community for all."

When: Monday, Jan 20, 2025 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Where: Spokane Convention Center

Cost: Free

Contact: grahamt@gonzaga.edu, 509-313-6368



Musical Theatre Dance Revue

About: This show will consist of a compilation of student choreographed and student produced musical theatre numbers.

- Recommended for ages 6 and up
- Performance Length: 60-90 Minutes with no intermission
- Seating Type: Reserved

When: Friday, Jan 24, 2025, and Saturday, Jan 25, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Where: Magnuson Theatre

Cost: Adult tier 1 (center) \$15, Adult tier 2 (wagons) \$10, Student/Youth \$8 (anywhere)





OFFICE OF **INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE**

Thanks for reading this month's Diversity Digest!

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