

Diversity Digest



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Chief Diversity
Officer

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Message From The Chief Diversity Officer



Dr. Robin Kelley

Chief Diversity Officer

Dear Campus Members,

I'm happy to present to you the October 2024 issue of Diversity Digest. This month, we continue to celebrate Hispanic Awareness Month, World Mental Health Awareness Month, and Breast Cancer Awareness Month, all of which hold significant importance in our community. The Office of Inclusive Excellence celebrates diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging as fundamental values in our campus community. The Diversity Digest is a monthly update from the Office of Inclusive Excellence about inclusive work across Gonzaga University.

At our university, we welcome individuals from all backgrounds, identities, experiences, and cultures. Our shared and unique perspectives form a vibrant tapestry that enriches our community. The Office of Inclusive Excellence is dedicated to promoting Gonzaga's DEI commitments, fostering vibrant dialogue, understanding, and solidarity.

Your active participation is crucial in this journey. I encourage you to connect through the stories, information, and events shared in the digest. Let us strive to build bridges across diversity, to engage and challenge ourselves intellectually and personally.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement. I hope you enjoy the issue.

Robin Kelley, Ph.D.
Chief Diversity Officer
Office of Inclusive Excellence

Hispanic Heritage Month

Every year, the United States celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th to October 15th in honor of the contributions of our Hispanic & Latinx community. First celebrated in 1968 under President Johnson, this week-long celebration of heritage grew into a month-long observance under President Reagan in 1988. This celebration begins in alignment with the independence of multiple Latin American countries. On September 15th, we celebrate the independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. These countries jointly declared independence from Spain in what was formerly the Central American Federation on September 15th, 1821. This month also encapsulates the Mexican Independence Day on September 16th, Chile's Independence on September 18th, and Belize's Independence from the United Kingdom on September 21st. Parades like these resemble celebrations held in the respective countries as they celebrate their independence.



Source: <https://nycparadelife.com/tag/hispanic-day-parade/>

Celebrations in the United States include a myriad of events such as parades, art displays, concerts, performances, and much more! One of the most well-known celebrations in the United States exists in New York City where the Hispanic Day Parade is hosted in October every year to close out the month.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Did you know?

LANGUAGE BRINGS US TOGETHER

There are 21 countries that consider Spanish their official language: Spain, Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Equatorial Guinea.

Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world and in America and the second most studied language in the country, with over 50 million speakers and 5 million learners! The Royal Spanish Academy created the first Spanish dictionary in 1726 to standardize the language. A Spanish-speaking country is anywhere that Spanish is spoken by a large portion of the population. Spanish does not have to be the official language of a country to be considered Spanish-speaking. Countries where Spanish is an unofficial language include the United States, Western Sahara, the Philippines, Gibraltar, Belize, and Andorra.

Creole languages are a blend of the native tongue with an imperial influence language over a short period of time. Spanish has been a large influence on Creole languages, especially in Latin America. Judeo-Spanish, also called "Ladino", is a Jewish interpretation of Spanish spoken by a small population, mainly in Israel.

DIVERSITY

There is no single "look" for Hispanic people because of the diversity of their backgrounds and ethnicities, Hispanic/Latinx people can have a variety of skin tones, facial features, and physical appearances:

Latines come from 33 different countries in Latin America, each with their own traditions, customs, languages, and ethnicities. Hispanic people can be of any race and may have origins in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central and South America, the Dominican Republic, or other Latin American or Spanish origins.

POPULATION

The Census Bureau estimates there were 65.2 million Hispanics in the U.S. as of July 1, 2023, a new high, making up more than 19% of the nation's population.

Education Corner

World Mental Health Month

While October marks the transition from summer to fall, it is an important month as it recognizes **World Mental Health Month**. The World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) established World Mental Health Day on October 10, 1992. The objective of this day is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world, support mental health initiatives, and promote mental well-being globally. As mental health challenges affect millions of people globally, it is essential that this month promotes understanding, support, and the prioritization of mental health in policies and communities.



For further information go to [World Mental Health Day \(who.int\)](http://who.int) and [World Mental Health Day – October 10th \(wmhdofficial.com\)](http://wmhdofficial.com).

Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Breast Cancer Awareness Month is observed every October, as a time to raise awareness about the impact of breast cancer. This observance promotes early detection, education, and research around breast cancer. This month, we stand with survivors, those currently battling the disease, and their loved ones who support them.

Education Corner

Acknowledging September

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month: Observed in September each year, it is dedicated to raising awareness about pediatric cancer, the leading cause of death by disease in children. The gold ribbon is the international symbol for childhood cancer awareness.



Suicide Prevention Month: Observed every September to raise awareness about suicide, its causes, and prevention strategies. Suicide Prevention Week, typically the second week of September, focuses on education, reducing stigma, and encouraging open conversations about mental health. To bring light to the 1,100 college students who commit suicide each year, the Gonzaga University Student Body Association created 1,100 paper flowers and set them on Herak lawn as a tribute. Organizations such as NAMI [Suicide Prevention Month](#) | [NAMI](#) are incredible resources for more information.

Staff Spotlight



Adrian Reyes

Center for Cura Personalis
Director of Case Management

Adrian Reyes is the Director of Case Management for the Center for Cura Personalis. Adrian is a true son of Gonzaga, having earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and a Master of Arts degree in Communication and Leadership Studies from GU.

In his current role, Adrian manages a team of case managers to assist students connect with resources and services they need in a caring and compassionate manner. He is responsible for exercising independent leadership in assessing and evaluating complex student cases.

Prior to coming back to Gonzaga—he previously served as an admissions counselor for the Gonzaga’s Online Virtual Campus—Adrian worked as both a senior advisor and the Associate Director in the Center for Academic Advising and Retention at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, where he oversaw and evaluated the effectiveness of the Center’s initiatives.

While Adrian has had an extremely accomplished career in higher education, like most people who come from an immigrant background, Adrian had humble beginnings. Both his mother and father come from the town of Doctor Arroyo, in Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and while Adrian was born and raised in Walla Walla,

Staff Spotlight

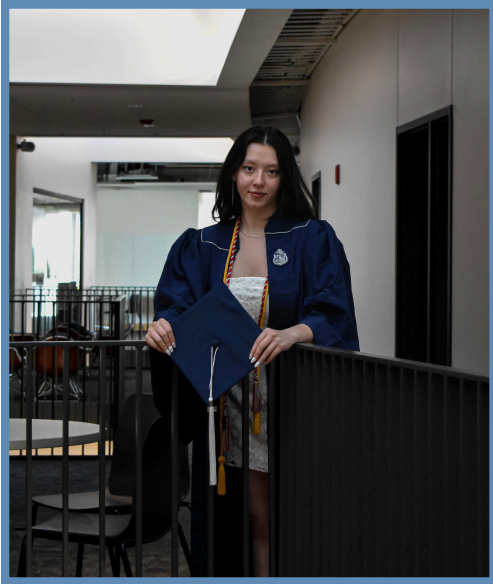
WA, his Mexican American roots run deep. Both sets of grand parents were migrant farm workers at some point in their lives, chasing crops across the country, and Adrian remembers being told stories by his maternal grandmother, who never left Texas, of picking cotton in the Texas heat. When Adrian's father finally settled down in Walla Walla, it was because Adrian's mother's refusal to keep living the migrant lifestyle for her family. Her stubbornness became a success story, as Adrian's father eventually had a career at the paper mill Boise Cascade and his mother worked for the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

When Adrian first came to Gonzaga in 1989, after graduating from La Salle High School in Walla Walla, Gonzaga was still a small school with barely 1200 students. But Spokane was the big city. Which taught him a few lessons.

- 1.** It's important to have someone to look up to. Everyone needs a mentor. Adrian emphasizes leadership and mentoring of students as an important goal for Gonzaga faculty and staff members, but also for students. To make a friend, be a friend.
- 2.** Never forget your roots. We are all from somewhere else, whether Europe, Asia, or the Americas. Join an affinity group at Gonzaga.
- 3.** Make connections. Connections can be anyone, from a similar or dissimilar background. Participate with those around you as they celebrate their own cultural heritage month.
- 4.** Finally, know your history. Our family and ethnic connections are both our past and our future. Never forget who you are or where you came from.

Student Spotlight

Meet our OIE Marketing and Communications Team



Alexis Ewing

Graduate Assistant

Alexis Ewing is a Graduate School student from Denver, Colorado pursuing her MBA with a concentration in Project Management. She graduated this past May with her B.S. In Engineering Management with a focus in Civil Engineering and a minor in business. During her time so far at Gonzaga, she was the Academics & Aesthetics Lead for ASCE's Concrete Canoe Team and teaches K-Pop Boundless Classes for the Gonzaga Dance Club. She has been an active member of Gonzaga's Asian American Union (AAU), and she served as the Night Market Chair last February, coordinating AAU's signature event. Outside of school, she has a passion for travel and loves trying new restaurants. She is looking forward to using her project management skills to support the OIE this school year.



Ashlinn Aguayo

Marketing and Communications Assistant

Ashlinn Aguayo is from Phoenix, Arizona and is a third year undergraduate student at Gonzaga University. Ashlinn is a Political Science major with dual minors in English and Digital Marketing. She is an awarded Dean's Scholar, Jefferson Scholar of the Political Science Department, and Mary Stuart Rodgers Scholar. She has continued her passions for leadership, service, athletics and academia as she competes on the Gonzaga University Women's Track and Field Team, is the Vice President of Marketing for The Women's Network club, Junior Senator for the Gonzaga Student Body Association, and Philanthropic Chair for Alpha Pi Phi.

Student Spotlight

Meet the Team Cont.



Maricia Hernandez is from Grandview, Washington and is on her senior year here at Gonzaga University. Maricia is a double major in Criminology and Psychology with a minor in Sociology. With her spare time she will be reading a book with a hot cup of tea. She currently holds a position with "The Womens Network" organization as Vice President of DEI. She previously worked for Center of Cura Personalis and decided to expand her love of others to the Office of Inclusive Excellence. She's excited to see the growth in OIE this year with a group of amazing people.

Maricia Hernandez

Marketing and Communications Assistant

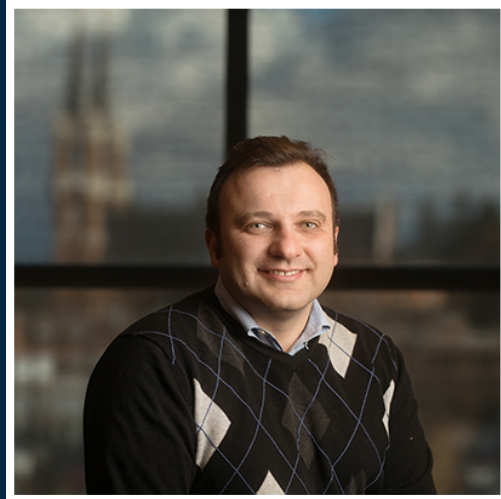


Odalys Sanchez Cedillo is a senior from Lakewood, Washington majoring in Business Administration with concentrations in Management Information Systems and Multicultural Marketing with a minor in Communication Studies. She is also the Migration Advocacy Liaison for the Center for Community Engagement, an Act Six Scholar, Palmer Scholar, and former Director of DEI for the Gonzaga Student Body Association. In her spare time, you can find her journaling, writing poetry, or crafting. Odalys is eager to continue employing her passion for marketing research, writing, and information technology through this role.

Odalys Sanchez Cedillo

Marketing and Communications Assistant

Faculty Spotlight



Pavel Shlossberg

Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs
Associate Professor of Communication and Leadership Studies

"I love working with the students I work with because we're not working just on skills, but on making them people for others."

-Dr. Shlossberg



View the full interview here.

Media Recommendations

Latinx Artists



Ivan Cornejo



Into artists like Stephen Sanchez? Check out Ivan Cornejo! The 20-year-old Mexican-American singer/songwriter has risen to fame in the past couple of years. His album, 'Mirada' claims No. 1 on Billboard's Top Latin Albums as of July 2024. Scan the QR code to access his Spotify directly.

If you're looking for some art, check out Cuban-born, artist Félix González-Torres (1957 – 1996). His art focused on minimalist visual vocabulary where he used everyday materials to evoke highly-emotional reactions from his audiences. Watch the video at the QR code to the right for a demonstration of his interactive art.

Félix González-Torres



María Fragoso



Check out contemporary artist, María Fragoso. Born in 1995, María is a Mexico-based artist who earned her BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2019. Her artwork features the use of saliva as a motif of love and human interaction. Notice how her art evokes a sense of connection between the character(s) and the viewer. Learn more about her here.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Office of Inclusive Excellence

Colleagues of Color Oct 9th

Speed Network Event

Wednesday Oct 9th, 2024

12-1 PM

Humanities Building, 153 College Common

Appetite for Autonomy Talk Oct 30th

Intersections of Autonomy: Reproductive Justice and Sexual Violence Prevention in Higher Education

Wednesday Oct 30th, 2024

12-1 PM

Location TBD

Inclusive Excellence Leadership Academy Application AY 2024-2025

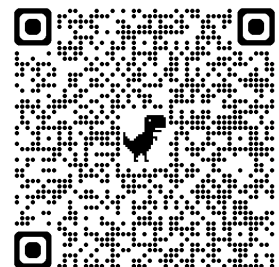
The Inclusive Excellence Leadership Academy (IEL Academy) builds on the DiversityEdu intercultural learning course, aiming to enhance intercultural fluency and cultural competence within the Gonzaga University community. The academy offers a multidisciplinary program that addresses topics such as **oppression, antiracism, equity, inclusion, privilege, implicit bias, and gender identities.**

Participants must attend a 1-hour orientation, complete 10 workshops (each 2.5 hours), and work on a cohort project. Graduates will receive an "Inclusive Excellence Certificate" and complete an Intercultural Development Inventory assessment.

APPLICATION DEADLINE November 1, 2024

To apply follow [this link](#) or scan the the code.

Questions contact: Robin Kelley: kelleyr2@gonzaga.edu or inclusiveexcellence@gonzaga.edu



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Announcements and Events

On Campus Events

Lavender Mass

About: Previously called the Mass of Compassion, Lavender Mass is scheduled each year around National Coming Out Day (October 11th). Working with Mission and Ministry, our Jesuit community, and faith leaders across campus, this service is an opportunity to connect the LGBTQ+ community to their faith. Our community has often been harmed or intentionally left behind in spiritual conversations.

When: Friday October 11, 2024 (4:30-5:30 p.m.)

Where: University Chapel

Lincoln LGBTQ+ Resource Center 20th Anniversary

About: Join us on campus as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Gonzaga's Lincoln LGBTQ+ Resource Center. Together, we will acknowledge and honor the history, the accomplishments and people that made this milestone event possible. The Lincoln LGBTQ+ Resources Center (LLRC) is focused on developing and sustaining Gonzaga University as a safe and welcoming community for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions by engaging in education, advocacy, outreach, and programming. Gonzaga University was the first Jesuit University to have a dedicated LGBTQ+ Center.

When: Saturday, October 12, 2024 (5:30-8 p.m.)

Where: Hemmingson Ballroom, 3rd Floor, John J. Hemmingson Center
Hosted dinner and drinks. Recommended attire: "garden party" dressy.

Queer Connections: Building Healthy Relationships

When: Thursday, October 24th (3:30pm-5pm)

Where: University Chapel

Reimagining Spokane Workshops, Environmental Justice

About: Through discussion and education, the Reimagining Spokane Workshops aim to foster a collaborative reconstruction of a more inclusive future for our Spokane community.

When: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 (5:30-7:00pm)

Where: John J. Hemmingson Room 220

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Announcements and Events

Spokane Events

It happened here: expo '74 Fifty years after

Location: 2316 W First ave

Fee: Admission \$12

When: Tue-Sun 10 am –5pm

For many in the Inland Northwest, the 1974 World's Fair remains the single most transformative event in living memory. Radically reshaping Spokane's natural and built environment, Expo '74 ushered in a new era for the city—one centered on urban renewal, commercial growth, and political progress. This 50th anniversary exhibition revisits the historical roots of Expo '74's stated environmental purpose and its popular "community spirit" legacy. Incorporating recognizable elements from Expo's built environment with museum artifacts and archival materials, visitors will engage with the familiar, nostalgic, and perhaps lesser-known stories found within the MAC's largest archival collection, seeing Expo '74 in a new light.

Fairwood Farmers market

About: A place to enjoy fresh, local products while also supporting the community.

Where: 319 W Hasting Rd

Admission: free

When: Every Tuesday 3pm-7pm

Van Gogh: The Immersive

About: Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience is a 360° digital art exhibition in Spokane that invites you to step into the universe of the Dutch genius, Vincent van Gogh. This captivating experience, a previous winner of USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice Award, is brought to you by the organizers of a collection of widely successful exhibitions present in cities across Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

When: Monday & Thursday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (last entry)

Friday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. (last entry)

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. (last entry)

Sunday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. (last entry)

Where: 808 N Ruby St Spokane, WA 99258

Fee: \$20.90-\$54.90

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Announcements and Events

Spokane Events

Reimagining Spokane Workshops

About: Through discussion and education, the Reimagining Spokane Workshops aim to foster a collaborative reconstruction of a more inclusive future for our Spokane community. The workshops will discuss different topics each week.

Housing & Homelessness

When: Wednesday, October 2, 2024
(5:30-7:00pm)

Where: SNAP, 3102 W. Whistalks Way

Refugees & Immigrants

When: Wednesday October 9, 2024
(5:30-7:00pm)

Where: Spokane City Hall,
Briefing Center + Chase Gallery,
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.

Health Equity

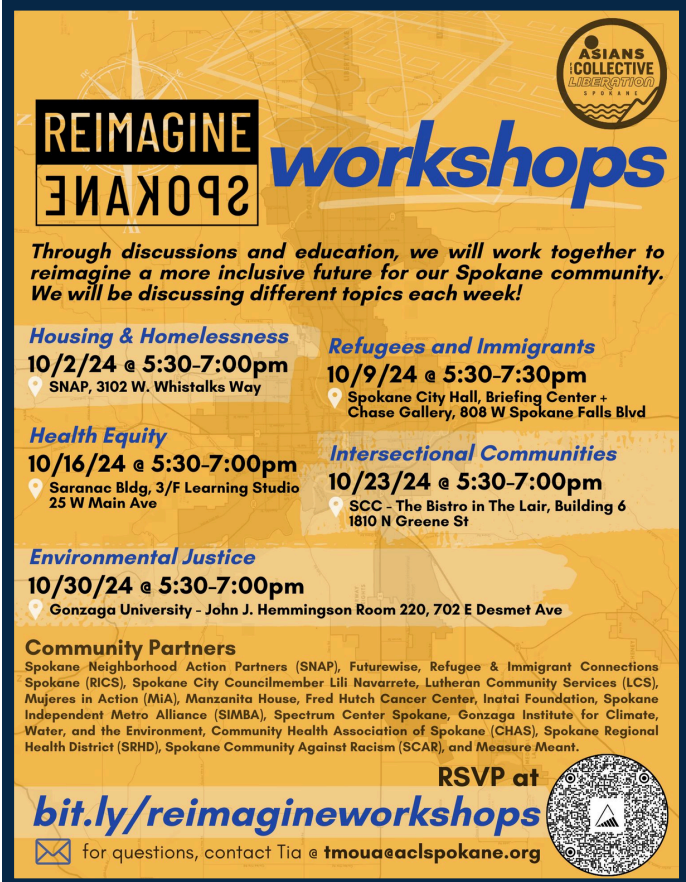
When: Wednesday, October 16, 2024
(5:30-7:00pm)

Where: Saranac Bldg, 3/4 Learning Studio
25 W. Main Ave

Intersectional Communities

When: Wednesday, October 23, 2024
(5:30-7:00pm)

Where: SCC - The Bistro in the Lair,
Building 6, 1810 N. Greene St.



REIMAGINE
Spokane *workshops*



Through discussions and education, we will work together to reimagine a more inclusive future for our Spokane community. We will be discussing different topics each week!

Housing & Homelessness 10/2/24 @ 5:30-7:00pm SNAP, 3102 W. Whistalks Way	Refugees and Immigrants 10/9/24 @ 5:30-7:30pm Spokane City Hall, Briefing Center + Chase Gallery, 808 W Spokane Falls Blvd
Health Equity 10/16/24 @ 5:30-7:00pm Saranac Bldg, 3/F Learning Studio 25 W Main Ave	Intersectional Communities 10/23/24 @ 5:30-7:00pm SCC - The Bistro in The Lair, Building 6 1810 N Greene St
Environmental Justice 10/30/24 @ 5:30-7:00pm Gonzaga University - John J. Hemmingson Room 220, 702 E Desmet Ave	

Community Partners
Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners (SNAP), Futurewise, Refugee & Immigrant Connections Spokane (RICS), Spokane City Councilmember Lili Navarrete, Lutheran Community Services (LCS), Mujeres in Action (MiA), Manzanita House, Fred Hutch Cancer Center, Inat'ai Foundation, Spokane Independent Metro Alliance (SIMBA), Spectrum Center Spokane, Gonzaga Institute for Climate, Water, and the Environment, Community Health Association of Spokane (CHAS), Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD), Spokane Community Against Racism (SCAR), and Measure Meant.

RSVP at bit.ly/reimagineworkshops

for questions, contact Tia @ tmoua@aclspokane.org





OFFICE OF
INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

Thanks for reading this month's Diversity Digest!

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Email us at inclusiveexcellence@gonzaga.edu