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LEADERS CALL FOR FLEXIBILITY AND UNDERSTANDING AS WE DEAL WITH NEWEST WAVE

When faculty gathered for the Spring 2022 Faculty Conference, all eyes were on the emerging omicron variant of COVID-19. The ongoing challenges and stresses of living and learning in a pandemic were a key focus for remarks from leadership, and attendees heard a clear call for shared responsibility for maintaining the ongoing health and success of Gonzaga.

Vice Provost for Student Affairs **Kent Porterfield** shared data that showed significant compliance with vaccine mandates by undergraduate students (96%) and announced at least two additional booster clinics in February and March for students to receive their booster within 14 days of becoming eligible. Employees, too, may also receive their booster through these clinics (held in Cataldo Hall) if they are not already boosted.

New guidance for student isolation and quarantine practices consistent with CDC recommendations was shared, along with operational modifications necessary to handle increased demand anticipated with the surge of the highly contagious variant. As we previously experienced, students are expected to need additional care, including accommodations, meal services, testing, mental health support and other services. Academically, as well, faculty have been asked to offer additional support and flexibility, such as virtual office hours, assignments for students unable to attend class, and broader use of virtual presentations.

There was a robust call by faculty and administrators alike for strong enforcement of masking requirements, and direction on how to report noncompliance.

Interim Provost **Ken Anderson** echoed the call for flexibility, understanding and patience over the next several weeks as the omicron variant comes and hopefully, goes.

"We need your goodness to shine through," he said

He announced that the academic strategic plan has been temporarily placed on hold given pressing pandemic issues.

Anderson encouraged faculty to contact their dean to change course modality, if possible, and underscored that, while not ideal,



Associate Professor Karen Rickel teaches a sports management class, appropriately distanced.

necessary changes can be managed through a commitment to flexibility and working together.

"We know how to work together as a team and support each other," he emphasized.

Citing the success of GU's efforts in managing the virus over the past two years, President **Thayne McCulloh** acknowledged we are not in the same place we were in 2020, or even earlier this academic year and that we approach our ongoing work with optimism and hope. "Patience and grace," were the watchwords President McCulloh used as he outlined the challenges facing all higher education institutions in the face of the new variant.

"We must try to reduce the incredible burden our health system is bearing," he said, noting that while we all want things to be simple, straightforward and predictable, "we do not have that level of control." Options and choices must be considered. He emphasized that significant increases in case numbers are expected over the next few weeks, but that experts forecast it will disappear quickly.

Building on relationships developed earlier in the pandemic, GU has secured additional testing services from InCyte, coordinated with Providence for booster clinics, and continues to seek the Spokane Regional Health District's guidance and recommendations on managing the campus environment. It's quite feasible

that students will have to isolate in their dorm rooms, he said, noting that "we don't want sick students in class, and faculty will want to ensure access to course materials to enable all students to stay on track for academic success."

Additional semester priorities McCulloh discussed included:

- Provost search, with finalists expected to be identified by March
- Staff turnover, hiring, retention, compensation
- Strategic Enrollment Management planning
- Adjunct faculty compensation
- Faculty Handbook administrative review
- VP/Chief Human Resources Officer search
- Program planning for the next residence hall, informed by lessons learned from the pandemic
- Preparing for the next major fundraising effort, with projects and initiatives that match benefaction priorities

"We are going to work together, diligently, as quickly as we can to effectively manage in the face of this new variant," he said. "We are committed to working together as a community."

Offering Women and Children RAYS OF SUNLIGHT

Thanks in large part to the vision and heart provided by Gonzaga senior civil engineering student Jess Vazquez, local women's and children refuge Transitional Living Center has installed solar panels on the roof of its nearly 125-year-old building, saving half its normal energy cost, which in turn is being pumped back into programs to help women emerge from poverty and homelessness.

So says **Edie Rice-Sauer**, Transitions executive director.

Vazquez had volunteered at Transitions as part of a Christian Leadership class a few semesters back. She cared for children, giving time to mothers working on bettering their own situations

When Vazquez and her Gonzaga Sustainable Energy clubmates began researching their next project in fall 2020, solar energy rose to the top of their list. They partnered with RE-volv, a California-based nonprofit that works to provide solar energy access to those

who are excluded from the benefits of the clean energy economy, to find an appropriate local nonprofit in need of an energy assist, says **Sarah Frisby**, senior civil engineering student.

Transitions was the first nonprofit to respond to club inquiries. It had already bought into renewable energy, installing solar panels on 15 of its 24 Home Yard Cottages and on its Women's Hearth downtown drop-in center in 2017-2018.

The Transitional Living Center is a 50,000-square-foot building on a hillside in north Spokane, built in 1898 as an orphanage, Rice-Sauer says. RE-volv assessed the structure, which had a good roof and a large portion of its operating costs in electric heat, which made it an excellent candidate for solar power.

Gonzaga students partnered with Spark Northwest, a nonprofit focused on increasing access to renewable energy, which helped fund the project through a grant and will ensure that the current and future solar energy projects at Transitions are executed successfully.

"This installation is a 40-kilowatt solar system, which will save \$116,000 over the course of the panels' life," Vazquez says.

The Gonzaga Sustainable Energy Club connected with RE-Volv through the Center for Community Engagement and worked closely with **Jim Simon** and the Sustainability Office on the project. By the way, it was this club that spearheaded the project to add solar panels on top of the Sustainability House a few years back.

Vazquez will graduate in May and assume her role as an environmental engineer with RIDOLFI, Inc., in Seattle, working on initiatives aimed at environmental cleanup and remediation.



Gonzaga students provided the impetus to install solar panels on the roof of the Transitional Living Center for Transitions in north Spokane.

Murdock grant

to help new Gonzaga field ecologist with startup funds



Field research is a key component of the newest Murdock grant.

A \$25,400 grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust will help a new biology professor at Gonzaga University hit the ground running.

The "Start-up Research Package" matches funds from Gonzaga to provide equipment, supplies and summer research stipends for the new faculty member, who will take up duties in summer 2022. The new hire, currently being recruited, will be a field ecologist whose research and teaching address issues of conservation and resource management.

"This support from the Murdock Trust makes a huge difference in our ability to attract excellent teacher-scholars and give them what they need to be successful at Gonzaga," said **David Boose**, chair of the biology department.

"We prioritize getting students involved in authentic research in the field," Boose said. "Startup funds help faculty get their projects going right away, gathering data that can then support applications for competitive grants in the future."

In doubling what Gonzaga offers for early start-up funds, the grant allows the department to compete with larger institutions for top faculty talent.

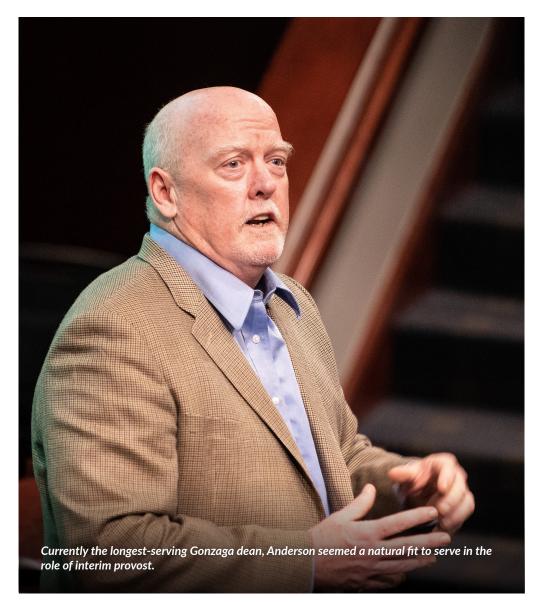
"The Murdock Trust has been a major supporter of the sciences at Gonzaga

for more than 25 years," Boose said.
"From buildings and facilities, to grants supporting individual faculty research, to start-up grants like these, the Murdock Trust has been fundamental in creating a top-tier undergraduate research environment at Gonzaga, and our students continue to reap the benefits of that. We are extremely grateful for all of their support."

Biology is the second-largest program in the College of Arts and Sciences, with more than 360 majors, 33 minors and 28 full-time faculty and staff.

After Four Decades at GU, Interim Provost Steady at the Helm with Good Feel for Campus Pulse

He'd still give most anything for a chance to have played in the 1981 NIT



Ken Anderson says he is not a good linear thinker.

With a wry smile, "My wife, Sue, always put the toys together at Christmas," he says.

That's why you often find the new interim provost sitting down in Hemmingson or at Starbucks at Ruby and Sharp to start his day. Not for a good cup of coffee – he doesn't drink it. But to find undistracted contemplative time to survey information about his day and put it together in a logical way.

"I don't mind people interrupting and giving me something better or more effective to think about," he adds. But by the time he leaves his spot, his plan for the day is set, at least until the first new challenge of the day presents itself.

Colleagues often describe Anderson as a thoughtful leader.

He first set foot on campus in 1979, a strapping 6-foot-6 transfer basketball player from Los Angeles Harbor JC. He fell in love with the beauty of Spokane and Gonzaga's campus. It was an exciting time for a young athlete, with GU moving from the Big Sky league (i.e., Pocatello, Bozeman, Moscow) to the West Coast Athletic Conference (now WCC) with competitors in Los Angeles, San Diego and the Bay Area.

He secured his bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Gonzaga and earned his Ph.D. from Nebraska. He returned to GU in 1986 to start his teaching career.

He would later serve as associate dean and acting dean, and since 2016 has been dean of the School of Business Administration, which is celebrating its centennial this year.

But for the moment, Anderson has moved out of Jepson and back into College Hall to assist a "highly competent team of professionals" in keeping the academic side of the house moving forward until a permanent provost is seated in fall 2022. Seasoned business professor and administrator Molly Pepper is directing the day-to-day operations of the business school in his stead.

Spirit asked Anderson to list some of the highlights of the various roles he has served here.

As a player:

"Above and beyond the relationships, some of which we've sustained to this day, I think it was knowing we were pretty good; knowing maybe we put Gonzaga's basketball program on a path, at least from a cultural perspective, to continue to do good things, whether that be how we played or how we balanced academics and athletics," he says.

In 1980-81, the Zags posted a 19-8 record and thought for sure they'd get a postseason nod. Gonzaga even printed tickets to host a first-round game in the National Invitation Tournament. But disappointingly, a call never came.

Anderson was the team's sixth man, first player off the bench. During his senior year, starting guard Tim Wagoner was injured at Pepperdine with four games left in the season. Anderson went in and never came out . . . for the rest of that year. Had the WCAC had an award for best 6th man in the league, Anderson's teammates believe he would have been the chosen one.



As GU's NCAA Faculty Representative (1997-2011):

The WCC was transitioning from a small, informal structure to a more mature organization, and Gonzaga played a significant role in that move. "It was never easy, but we moved the conference forward, like with the expansion to 10 teams with BYU and Pacific, and some behind-the-scenes things we did with men's basketball to help the schools and the conference do better on a national level," Anderson says. And the conference as a whole has continued to be among the most viable academically.

As a professor:

"Teaching is the interaction with students and the opportunity to help someone improve. Some of the things I teach might be brand new, some common sense. Some will help you today, some, if remembered, might not help until years later. But the part of me that wants to help people be better is key," Anderson says. He has regularly taught a projects class, which serves as a consulting service for area businesses. "For many students, they have spent a lot of their educational lives figuring out what will be on the test, trying to reduce uncertainty. We turn them loose in this class and there is nothing but ambiguity. It provides a great transition to life after Gonzaga, which sometimes lacks structure and direction. So they must take their skills and do a little discerning, as the Jesuits would say," says Anderson, who teaches this class with colleagues Maureen Duclos and AJ Hawk. "It can be a great learning experience."



As dean:

"My reward is in knowing that we have not only continued our tradition of outstanding education, but we've built on it and adapted to changing and challenging times, with increased competition, diminished resources, changing demographics, and a fundamentally different landscape. People want different things out of education than they wanted 15-20 years ago. We provided it regardless of what's happening around us. It's a credit to great people in the business school," Anderson says.

And as someone who has spent most of the past 43 years as a participant in the Gonzaga model, Anderson observes the University's most significant change has been its maturity as an organization. "With that comes tremendous growth in numbers of students and employees, in brand and name recognition, in capabilities of our people, and in growth of our structures and processes.

"But what hasn't changed is that we have great people, whether we're talking students, faculty, staff, alumni or community. That is the cornerstone of all of our success as an institution."





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ZAGS CELEBRATE CONNECTION

During 10th Annual Gonzaga Day 2022



Gonzaga University will observe its 10th annual Gonzaga Day Feb. 12 as Zags Celebrate Connection, the formal theme for the 2022

A major initiative for this Gonzaga Day is launching the Zag Business Directory, an opportunity for GU alumni to connect with each other, "whether you might be looking for a CPA in New York, a winery in California or a restaurant owner in Denver," says **Drew** Rieder, director of regional chapters in Gonzaga's Alumni Relations office. One may register to be included in the Zag Business Directory at www.gonzaga.edu/businessdirectory.

In addition, there will be many game watches around the world as the men's basketball team entertains West Coast Conference rival St. Mary's in the McCarthey Athletic Center at 7 p.m. PST. In Spokane, Jack 'n' Dan's

and the Logan Tavern will both host game watches that evening, another opportunity to

The Alumni Relations office is asking Gonzaga alumni and friends to post pictures, stories and fond memories on social media, tagging each post with #GonzagaDay.

"We want to create an opportunity for alumni everywhere to celebrate what it means to be a Zag, which is something every Zag understands." Rieder savs. "You run into someone in Florence, in an airport, at a WCC game or NCAA tournament event and there is an instant connection, which we are all blessed to experience."

Gonzaga Day also is a time to reflect on the past year and acknowledge and celebrate the bright spots in our lives. On campus, Gonzaga celebrates the opening of the John

and Joan Bollier Family Center for Integrated Science and Engineering, which becomes the center of STEM academic enterprises, as well as the centennial of the School of Business Administration, founded 100 years ago to help stock a fledgling city with business leaders, bankers, accountants and professionals in economics, finance and trade.

Past Gonzaga Days have served as a catalyst for university initiatives, service projects, launching the Zag Nation mobile app and revealing construction plans for Gonzaga's John J. Hemmingson Center.

For more information about Gonzaga Day 2022, go to www.gonzaga.edu/GonzagaDay, or contact Rieder at riederd@gonzaga.edu, or 509-313-4233.

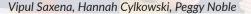
Exemplary Teamwork Epitomized by Mission, Innovation Award Winners





Foley Library's Jenn Klein and GUEST's Vivi Windsor are recipients of the Staff Assembly's Outstanding Service in Support of Mission Award, presented during the December Open Meeting. Klein was cited for her joyful, caring approach to her work, and for volunteering to host Magis conversations with students through Community Standards.







Windsor was described as gracious, classy and detail-oriented, serving in particular the UW-GU Health Partnership's many Hemmingson events.

Innovation Award winners also hailed from Foley, a team of ITS colleagues specializing in the Zag Relationship Management program,

Vipul Saxena, Hannah Cylkowski, Peggy Noble and Ram Yadlapalli. When an outside vendor's application portal for Graduate Enrollment Management kept crashing, this team collaborated with ITS. Microsoft and GEM to create and launch a reliable ZRM application portal on time.

Gonzaga Joins Northwest Library Consortium, **Improves Information Access, Equips Students for Success**

Gonzaga's libraries have been accepted as a member of a consortium whose mission "pushes the boundaries of what is possible in libraries through strategic collaboration in the Pacific Northwest."

"The Orbis Cascade Alliance is a recognized leader in advancing member institutions by developing innovative and sustainable library services," said Paul Bracke, dean of Foley Library.

The Alliance recently articulated four thematic areas that capture the impact members want the consortium to have: strengthen member institutions, improve access to information,

inspire knowledge creation, and equip students for success.

"As we were thinking about the future of libraries at Gonzaga, the opportunities afforded by joining one of the nation's premier academic library consortia and to develop closer relationships with our neighbors were clear. It will mean expanded access to academic resources and improved library services for the Gonzaga community."

Gonzaga, whose membership is effective in July, will be the 38th member of the group.

Born in 2003, the organization's member institutions leverage their collective resources to advance learning and research, and to create equity in higher education.

Gonzaga has three libraries, each serving a distinctly different facet of the student body and community. Foley Library is in its 30th year. The Chastek Library serves the School of Law. The Gonzaga in Florence Martin Library provides services to the campus in Florence,

For more information, contact Bracke at bracke@gonzaga.edu.

Around Campus

- "Changing Climate, Fire Regimes and the Future of Western North America," Jonathan Coop, Feb. 9, 5 p.m., Hemmingson Auditorium.
- An evening with the author of "Braiding Sweetgrass," Robin Wall Kimmerer, is Feb. 17, 5:30 p.m., via Zoom. A link will soon be available.
- Major Lessons from "Minority Media: **Exploring Hmong American Digital** Cultures," Lori Kido Lopez, Feb. 17, 5 p.m., Hemmingson Ballroom.
- "Home: Imagining the Irrevocable," an exhibit featuring visual, musical and literary artists exploring the concept

- of home. The exhibit examines how home continues to be defined by Black Americans amid the historical and contemporary challenges of displacement, marginalization and otherness. Gonzaga Urban Arts Center, 125 S. Stevens St., through Feb. 26.
- "The War that Destroyed America," with Benjamin Hopkins, Feb. 22, 7 p.m., Wolff Auditorium.
- A Conversation with Michelle Alexander, author of The New York Times best-seller "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness," online Feb. 28, 6 p.m. To register, click: www.gonzaga.edu/ michelle-alexander.
- Women Lead Spokane Conference: "Inspiring Our Inner Wisdom" is March 9, featuring a day full of featured speakers, including Ninja Warrior Sandy Zimmerman ('99) and keynoter Angela Jones ('16 J.D.). For information and to register, click Women Lead.
- Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$30-\$40; Dance as Cura Personalis Annual Screen Dance Film Festival, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m.; Arcis Saxophone Quartet, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$30-\$40: Spring Jazz Concert. Feb. 23, 7 p.m.; GU Choirs Social Justice Concert, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m.; GU Symphony Orchestra Concert, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m., all Woldson Performing Arts Center.

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Dale Goodwin, Editor Story Ideas/Feedback: Spirit@gonzaga.edu

NOTEWORTHY

NEW HIRES

Angel Alvarez, information security engineer, ITS; Benjamin Coulter, groundskeeper, Plant; Britta Arendt, museum registrar & program coordinator, Arts and Sciences & Jundt; Candise Branum, asst professor, Foley Library; Cole Fairbairn, program asst III, Student Financial Services; **Gregory Salisbury**, admissions operations specialist I, Admission; **Heather Willma**n, office manager, HR; **Holly Ellis**, graphic design creative director, Athletics; John Courtney, communications officer, Security; Kari Beltran, admissions operations specialist I, Admission; Karli McIntyre, program coordinator, Provost & Sr. Vice President; Maddison Walters, program asst III, Foley Library; Megan Hawley, manager, GUEST; Nicole DeSart, leadership annual gift officer, University Advancement; Rhiannon Arriaga, user services assoc, Foley; Ryan Culver, security officer, Security; Tina Rodeen, asst to the dean, Law; Treyton Finke, groundskeeper, Plant; Tyler VonDracek, asst director, Rudolf Fitness Center; Catherine Elizabeth MacAdam, leadership annual gift officer, University Advancement; Drake Marsh, custodian, Plant; Jessica Loomer, ticketing services supervisor, Arts and Sciences; Samantha Gomez, payroll manager, Controller; Sarah Zalutko, specialist, HR; Tiffany Picotte, advocacy immersion program manager, Community Engagement; Veronica Puente Arroyo, asst director youth programs, Community Engagement; Amber Platz, custodian, Plant; Carolyn Boese, admissions operations, Admission

POSITION CHANGES/PROMOTIONS

Andrew Logsdon, custodial lead, Plant; Elysa Reichert, project coordinator, Auxiliary Enterprises; Jenny Connolly, data analyst II, Institutional Research & Assessment; Lindsay Bailey, sr. IMS administrator & data analyst, Instructional Design & Delivery; Luke Cairney, director of admissions, Law; Margaret Pacini, financial aid counselor, Student Financial Services; Matthew Porter, custodial lead, Plant; Melina Paloma, program coordinator, Nursing and Human Physiology; Sean Joy, director, Cura Personalis; Shanna Dunne, major gift officer, Development; Tyler Seth, assoc director, Rudolf Fitness Center; Vicky Daniels, administrative asst III, Law; Ryan Arneson, sr. product designer, Marketing & Communications

GOODBYES

Damal Griffin-Neil, program coordinator, Auxiliary Enterprises; Kelly Jo Dunham, supervisor admissions operations, Admission; Anthony Medina, asst director, Community Engagement; Benjamin Clark, resident director, Housing & Resident Life; Dan Gilbert, director facility & event operations, Athletics; Diane Nelson, volleyball coach, Athletics; Maya Jain, Zag volunteer program manager, Community Engagement; Meagan Ciesla, assoc professor, English; Megan Torba, event coordinator, Alumni Relations; Meghan Semmens, admissions specialist, Graduate Enrollment Management; Patricia Terry, assoc dean, Arts and Sciences; Steven Ponce, financial & business support analyst, Auxiliary Enterprises; Stuart Davis, assoc director housing operations, Housing & Resident Life

ANNIVERSARIES:

- **35** Mike Roth, special projects for the president, President's Office
- 20 Susan English, assoc professor, Integrated Media
- 15 Cory Mitchell, groundskeeper, Plant; Suzanne Ostersmith, assoc professor, Theater & Dance; Jilliene McKinstry, asst director, Transmission & Distribution; Kim Dayton, CMS administrator, Enterprise Resource Planning
- **10** Andrew Brajcich, assoc professor, accounting; Brad Lounden, general maintenance, Plant; Heather Shilley, assoc director budget & financial analyst, Finance; Neva Pomilla-Crogan, professor, Nursing
- 5 Bennie Jordan, lead security officer, Security; Danielle Teague, sr. academic adviser, Academic Advising & Course Enrollment; Kendall Smitley, assoc head athletic trainer, Athletics; Lena Lopez Schindler, lecturer, Art; Lexi Robinson, women's soccer asst coach, Athletics; Trinity Spencer, travel & expense coordinator/office admin, Controller; Wayne Shadd, finance & business director, Auxiliary Enterprises

ZAGALERT JUST GOT FASTER AND MORE INCLUSIVE

Gonzaga's new emergency notification product, Rave Alert, which became operational with the start of spring semester, can deliver 8,000 text messages in just 12 seconds, along with email and phone messages. The former system could take up to six minutes to do the same.

"The foundation for ZagAlert is caring and support for our community. And not just for those who have a Gonzaga email address," says **Matt Eastman**, ITS project manager. "This new iteration of ZagAlert enables our vendors, folks from Sodexo and Follett, and outside contractors to opt-in to our emergency notification system."

Another advantage of this new ZagAlert platform is the ability for campus guests, parents of summer campers, theater-goers or basketball fans, to opt-in to the emergency notification system for the time they and/or their children are here.

"We only use our emergency notification system when a life safety event or major operational change is taking place," says **Becky Wilkey**, director of Campus Security and Public Safety. "So it is important that we can get the message disseminated promptly. This new platform gives us tools to do this. The receiver won't notice any difference; but the sender of the message will be able to customize alerts and messages much more quickly."

Interestingly, students in the experiential leadership program proposed this new system.

"The University listened to the students, we saw the need and adopted the plan over a yearlong period of discernment and fine tuning," Wilkey says.

The director believes ZagAlert will better promote a safe living and learning environment, build community trust and foster prospective student and family confidence in campus safety and security.

Zags Help Zags with Window Weatherization

The Gonzaga Center for Climate, Society and the Environment initiated a pilot project in January to purchase and distribute up to 100 window weatherization kits, free to Gonzaga student renters in the Logan Neighborhood. The kits are being distributed by four of the Climate Center's undergraduate climate literacy fellows and by the student club Gonzaga Environmental Organization (GEO).

"Many of the homes in the Logan are older, with minimal insulation, old furnaces and single-pane windows," says **Brian Henning**, director of the Climate Center and professor of philosophy and environmental studies. "Because landlords typically don't pay utilities, they have little incentive to improve these things."

In addition to reducing students' utility bills, the window-weatherization kits can help students reduce their carbon footprint. Each kit includes instructions on how to calculate carbon footprint. Students may establish a free account to calculate their footprint before installing the weatherization kits. Then, students can track their utility bill and determine how much their footprint did or did not go down relative to the same month in the previous year.

This online tool is a way for residents to reduce their resource use and waste. A window-weatherization program could contribute to this initiative. The Climate Center assisted the city of Spokane in developing the online tool, available at https://sustainablespokane.org/.

Henning says future efforts may include work with landlords and local utilities in implementing other energy-saving projects in the neighborhood as the Climate Center continues to find ways to provide resources and opportunities to meet the challenges facing humanity and the wider natural environment.