



Annual Report

2018-19





Letter from the Director



Dear Friends of the Center for Community Engagement,

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with deep gratitude for the students who lead their peers with intention, faculty and staff colleagues who recognize the value and power of community engaged learning, and partners who vision with us in this shared work. As our work continues to evolve and deepen, we celebrate legacy programs like Mission Possible that have engaged students for 20+ years and look to the future of our work as we continue to consider the importance of place.

We hope you enjoy the stories and reflections found throughout this year's annual report. Mission Possible alumni reflect on the ways experiences like these while at Gonzaga have informed their choice of vocation and personal values. Alumna, Liz Slamkowski, shares the impact of her year as a post-grad volunteer in Notre Dame's ACE program at our Social Justice Missioning Ceremony. Dr. Joe Johnston and Dr. Mirjeta Beqiri, recognized this year for their excellence in teaching, explore the ways community engaged learning enriches their teaching and the student experience. And much more...

Thank you for all of the ways you support this important work of educating our students "to live lives of leadership and service for the common good."

In peace,

Molly Ayers
Director of the Center for Community Engagement
Gonzaga University



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BY THE NUMBERS



2,602*
Student Volunteers



80,778
Hours of Service



113
Sections of CEL



53
Faculty Teaching
a CEL course



221
Community Partners



110
Student Leaders



18
Distinct Programs



11
Immersion Sites

*Includes duplicated count



Rooted in Place

For nearly 25 years **Logan Elementary** has partnered with the Center for Community Engagement (CCE) at Gonzaga University through the Campus Kids Program—a one-on-one mentoring program designed to help children in 4th-6th grade succeed academically and socially. What began as a single program that served 20 youth at Logan Elementary has expanded over the years to seven distinct programs that serve youth from kindergarten through high school at 13 local schools. Over 350 Gonzaga students provide weekly mentoring, tutoring, and educational programs to 600+ local youth.

Our commitment to the Logan Elementary community has deep roots that continue to grow. Over this past year, several new and exciting partnerships began to take shape:

- **The Logan Family Dinner**, organized by our Campus Kitchens Project, brings campus and community together over a free weekly meal. In the spirit of kinship, the meal creates a space for hearth - the sharing of our food, time, and heart with others to create genuine relationships and community.
- From relationships built over a meal at the Logan Family Dinner, a new partnership between the Gonzaga English Department and Logan’s **English Language Development Program (ELD)** emerged. Logan ELD teacher Maria Zamora partnered with the English department and others at GU to host GU student interns over the spring semester. New community engaged learning (CEL) partnerships are developing from this relationship for the upcoming academic year.
- The **Walking School Bus Program** at Logan continues to grow. Gonzaga staff and faculty volunteered as “walkers” this May through June to ensure there was no break in programming once GU classes ended.

We are incredibly appreciative of our evolving partnership with Logan Elementary and the many ways they provide meaningful learning opportunities for our students. Logan is a special community with amazing students, teachers and administrators. For all of these reasons, Logan Elementary was selected as Community Engaged Learning Community Partner of the Year – an annual award made possible by Gonzaga University’s Office of the Provost. We thank the Logan Elementary School community for taking the time to teach, mentor, and invest themselves in our students and our community. Thank you for being partners in helping us realize our mission of “educating students for lives of leadership and service for the common good.”



Northeast Listening Project

This past spring, Gonzaga University students, staff and faculty interviewed nearly 100 local leaders and residents as part of the Northeast Listening Project.

The Listening Project provided insight into Northeast Spokane's unique strengths, history, and led to the building of new, deeper relationships between the campus and community. Together, we began to imagine what is possible when we work together as partners, collaborators, and neighbors in addressing critical issues and community needs.

These conversations have, and will, inform our engagement efforts across Northeast Spokane.



"Once this community has your trust, they can literally move mountains-- I've seen them move trains... it's just unfathomable how these guys rally together."

-Northeast resident on what they love about NE Spokane



As a University, we sought to:

- 1) Revisit themes that emerged from the Gonzaga Mapping Assets and Promoting Strengths (MAPs) Project (2015), the NE Youth Asset Project (2018), and the CCE Youth Program Family Surveys (2018) to identify community assets and critical issues in Northeast Spokane;
- 2) Better understand community context including community strengths/resources, challenges, dynamics and history; and
- 3) Identify residents that serve as (or might emerge as) community leaders or key connectors within Northeast Spokane.

Learning Engaged

The 2019 U.S. News & World Report, in its annual college ratings, ranked Gonzaga University No. 1 among the West's 140 regional universities for best undergraduate teaching. Community engagement is listed as one of the distinguishing characteristics of Gonzaga's teaching excellence. In light of this great distinction, some of our community engaged learning faculty were highlighted for their excellence in teaching.

Faculty Spotlight



Mirjeta Beqiri | Professor of Operations Management

Dr. Mirjeta Beqiri is a professor of operations management and director of MBA Programs in the School of Business Administration.

She is also one of our most engaged community engaged learning (CEL) faculty, sitting on our Community Engaged Learning Advisory Board (CELAB) and teaching a CEL course (MBUS 613: Qualitative and Statistical Analysis) in which student groups work directly with community non-profits to provide statistical analysis of data collected by agencies.

"[Service-learning] allows [our students] to see the value of statistics or accounting when they work in real projects."

In her reflection on teaching excellence at Gonzaga, she notes that community engagement is key, sharing, "[s]ervice-learning allows us as faculty to offer the best of both worlds. We give students the theoretical foundations for subjects, then they get to implement it right away."

To read more about Dr. Beqiri's work go to <https://bit.ly/2RQ6lyq>.

Joe Johnston | Asst. Professor of Sociology & Criminology

Dr. Joe Johnston is an assistant professor of Sociology & Criminology, who currently serves as a Community Engaged Learning Faculty Fellow and is the chair of CELAB.

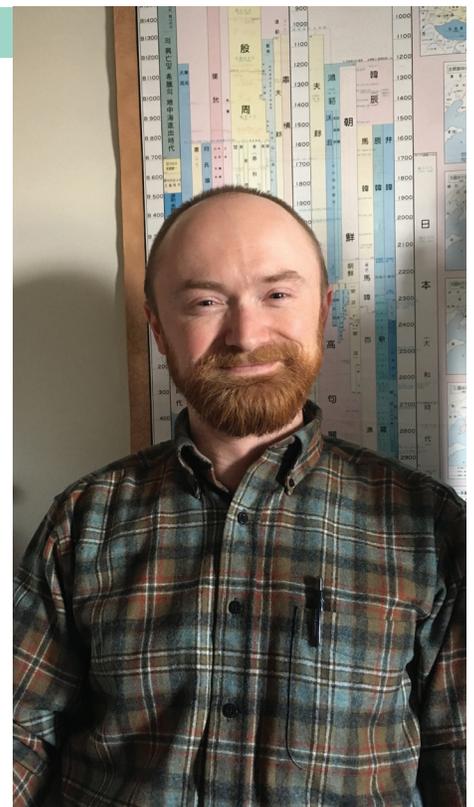
Dr. Johnston teaches a multitude of community engaged learning courses, from his Sociology of Education (SOCI 388) course which partners with the Walking School Bus to his Justice in January (SOSJ 280) course that engages students in a winter break immersion trip to the U.S./Mexico border, most of his courses are deeply engaged.

In his reflection on integrating community engaged learning in his courses he shares,

"Just like the boundary line at our national border, there are boundary lines in our communities based on fear manifested from a lack of information and engagement with people. The hope in immersive learning opportunities whether in our local communities or further away is that we are building relationships with those who are most affected by systems of inequality."

To read more about Dr. Johnston's courses go to <https://bit.ly/2lvy2k7>

"Building relationships with those most impacted by systems of injustice helps us to put aside fear and to be part of positive change."





Awards and Student Spotlight

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 Students Serving Washington Awards, the Governor’s Civic Leadership Award, 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. Visit the links to learn more about how our students, faculty, and community partners are working to create a more just and equitable world.



Ivan Jimenez '19

Students Serving Washington Award & the Governor’s Civic Leadership Award

Read: <https://bit.ly/2PZDGGd>



Zaineb Sidiqqi '19

Students Serving Washington Award

Read: <https://bit.ly/2kvUwBr>



Danika Morrison '19

Sister Virginia Claire Carvey Student Leader of the Year Award

Read: <https://bit.ly/2m42z92>



Hawa Elias '19

Father Leo Robinson Student Leader of the Year Award

Read: <https://bit.ly/2m42z92>



Madeline Moen '19

Community Engaged Learning Student of the Year Award

Read: <https://bit.ly/2WmFmfv>



Logan Elementary

Community Engaged Learning Partner of the Year Award (Above, Principal Brent Purdue)

Read more in "Rooted in Place" on page 3



Dr. Charles Lassiter

Community Engaged Learning Faculty of the Year Award (Philosophy)

Read: <https://bit.ly/2WmFmfv>



Let Your Life Speak:



20 Years of Mission: Possible

For the past 20 years, Gonzaga students have served in communities across the country by participating in service immersion experiences through the Center for Community Engagement's Mission:Possible program. During their experiences, students explore the complex realities affecting these communities and reflect on their role and the ways they can engage with these issues when they return to Spokane. Below we take a look back on the past 20 years of Mission: Possible, highlighting stories and reflections of past alumni and advisors as they share how Mission: Possible has had an impact on their lives.

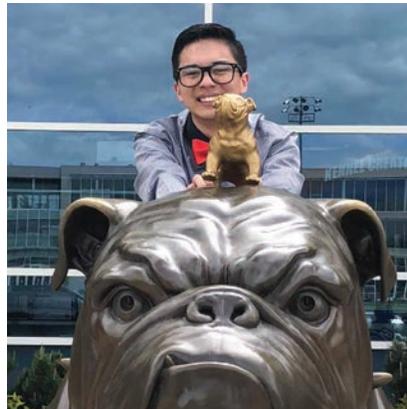


Kristina Alnajjar, '07
St. Louis, MO

"I loved participating in Mission: Possible. I attended as a freshman and sophomore, and led as a senior. Learning how diverse, yet similar our approaches are to poverty in this country began my systems approach to social justice and inequalities.

"Learning how diverse, yet similar our approaches are to poverty in this country began my systems approach to social justice and inequalities."

These days I spend my time focusing on health disparities as the Public Health Manager at Grays Harbor Public Health and Social Services Department."



Calvin Go, '17
San Francisco, CA

"A Zag's journey would be comparatively less holistic were they not to attend Mission: Possible at least once. It will undoubtedly change your life."

"As an individual, I am personally fascinated and completely and genuinely passionate about all things sustainability, which fortunately for me, was the theme of my particular Mission: Possible site.

This program was so impactful to me, that even to this day, I use my experiences, reflections, and memories from it whenever I consider my future career, and personal actions."



Lauren Mills, '12
Denver, CO

"Mission: Possible was such a vital part of my college experience that it is hard to separate out the person I am today because of this program...

"I saw the hardest of situations, but also the most genuine love."

[O]nce I went to Denver my freshman year I knew my world had shifted. I felt empowered and motivated by the four pillars of M:P which are simplicity, spirituality, community and justice.

That connection to the program and pillars directly led to my year of service in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. after graduation, and largely impacted my current career as an elementary school counselor."



Becoming Aware of Privilege

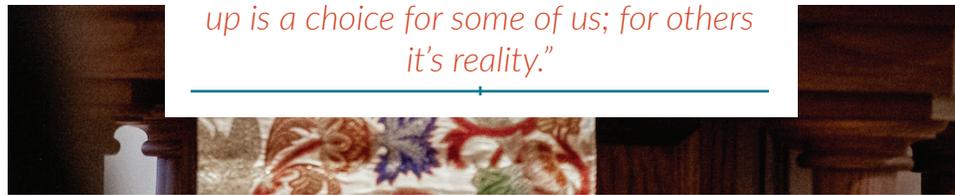
At the Social Justice Missioning Ceremony, the Center for Community Engagement and Mission & Ministry celebrate those graduates who have decided to volunteer in post-graduate service.

To provide insight into the work our students are being called to, 2012 graduate Liz Slamkowski provided the keynote address. Liz served with the Alliance for Catholic Education, teaching second grade in Washington D.C. for two years. She returned to Spokane where she supports high school students as the Director of Christian Service at Gonzaga Preparatory School.

To read Liz's reflection go to <https://bit.ly/2jTc2iE>



"We, as humans, get to decide what or who we pay attention to. If you're privileged enough, and I am, you have the option to ignore the truth. Being woken up is a choice for some of us; for others it's reality."



A Next Step

50 graduates of the class of 2019 have committed to a year or more of long-term service with organizations across the country and around the globe. These graduates will be volunteering through various post-graduate programs including Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Teach for America, Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, and Mercy Volunteer Corps among others. To read the full story go to <https://bit.ly/2xeMIXs>. Best wishes to the following students:

Andrea Davis
Andrea Hurtado
Andy Touhey
Anna Dodson
Anna Stember
April Lopez
Austin Salvador
Brandon Carroll
Cameron Jacobs
Carmel Stralen
Chelsey Hand
Christine Carero
Claire Vietri
Devrey Martin
Dylan Biagi
Francis Argueta
Gabbi Fuller

Hailey Maher
Isabel Gregorio
Ivan Jimenez
Jamison Jouno
Jed Brown
Joe Jerome
Joseph Wagner
Julia Regalbutto
Julianna De La Torre
Julianne Taylor
Kathryn Sorenson
Kathy Au
Keriann DeLine
Konner Sauve
Lani Lucas
Liam Lafountain
Madeline McKinnon

Madelyn Hoban
Madison Schreiter
Molly Morrisro
Morgan Smith
Natalie Louie
Race Tamanaha
Regina Ballew
Robert Paquette
Sarah Romsbocher
Savannah Hornung
Sean Kimball
Shaun Buchman
Sidney Jones
Victoria Weible
William Hackel
Zaineb Siddiqee



"It is one thing to study political science and criminal justice, but it is another to see how it truly impacts lives."

-Gabriella Castro, '19



▶ Program Highlights:



1

Five **Wolff Fellows** engaged in year-long projects with organizations across Spokane.

Projects spanned from creating a microenterprise business plan for a non-profit coffee stand at the Northeast Community Center to supporting the Center for Justice's Driver Relicensing Program to engaging in community-based research with The Zone Project's place-based collective impact efforts.

This year's Wolff Fellows included Aminat Oladunjoye with the Northeast Community Center/New Venture Lab, Joe Jerome with The Zone Project, Gabriella Castro with the Center for Justice, Rayanna Smith with Project: Inspire, and Matthew Williams with Spokane FAVS.

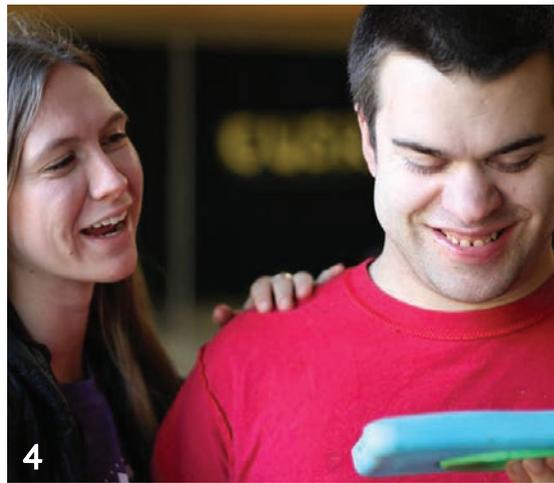
For a deeper dive on Gabriella Castro's Wolff Fellows' project go to <https://bit.ly/2GSZwrL>.

2

Eye to Eye is the only national movement that pairs kids with learning disabilities (LD) and attention deficit hyperactivity (ADHD) disorder with similarly labeled college students.

By utilizing an art-based curriculum, the mentors in our programs help kids with LD and ADHD build self-esteem as they embrace their abilities as different thinkers.

Read a reflection by CCE Alumna Madison Rose '18 go to <https://bit.ly/2IWQCBR>.



3

Twenty-seven youth from our Eye to Eye, GAME, Connections, and Zag Study Buddies programs at Garry and Shaw Middle School attended our annual **College Adventure**.

Youth explored Gonzaga's campus and heard from Gonzaga's admissions office, DICE office, FASU cultural club, Intramurals, and the Associated Students for Civil Engineering club. Attendees were also able to tour a residence hall/dorm room and participated in college themed trivia.

4

Gonzaga University Specialized Recreation (GUSR) is dedicated to celebrating abilities by building authentic relationships through performance and competition while believing that every person has infinite worth.

Striving to create an inclusive and embracing community, GUSR participants and Gonzaga student volunteers come together weekly to build relationships, play games, laugh together, and support each other. To learn more about GUSR go to <https://bit.ly/2m1fOap>

5

Each Tuesday evening, Gonzaga students, staff, and faculty prepare, deliver and serve meals at Logan Elementary in the Logan Neighborhood.

Facilitated by a partnership between Logan Elementary School and the CCE's Campus Kitchens Program, the **Logan Family Dinner** has provided a space for our campus to connect authentically with residents in the Logan Neighborhood. To learn more go to <https://bit.ly/2EBOG9e>.

Words of Gratitude

We would like to extend our gratitude to all the student leaders, faculty, staff, community partners, alumni, and benefactors who allow us to continue our work of positively transforming our students and communities through community engagement. Special thanks to Gonzaga's Marketing & Communications Department for the stories they have helped us to tell.

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

Individuals

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Tony Le Memorial Fund
United Way of Spokane County
Wolff Family Foundation
Women Helping Women Fund

Join Us:

Your generosity is always appreciated and represents confidence in our team and our work. 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.

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Center for Community Engagement

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