



Annual Report
2019-20



Letter from the Director

Friends of the Center for Community Engagement,

As we come to the close of the academic year, we find ourselves in a moment where we are compelled more than ever to live out our mission of educating “leaders for the common good.” We are in the midst of both a global health pandemic which is disproportionately impacting lower income communities and communities of color and the ongoing social change movement, Black Lives Matter, that seeks to challenge and upend systemic and institutional racism. It is our call and responsibility to live out our Ignatian values of social justice.

This call is manifested in our work as educators. Through our various programs we seek to develop our students’ gifts of critical thought, care and concern for others, and the capacity and desire to work for a more just and humane world. As a center whose work is rooted in social justice and the common good, we also commit to the ongoing personal, structural, and systemic work required of becoming an antiracist organization.

In the stories that follow, you will see the ways in which the CCE is providing opportunities for students and our broader campus community to engage critically and responsively during this unprecedented time. New virtual programming like our “Community Chats” were developed to create a space for sharing about issues of local concern. Access to regular, healthy meals emerged as a critical issue in our partner neighborhoods of Northeast Spokane. Thanks to a partnership between Campus Kitchens and ZagDining by Sodexo, the CCE team has responded by providing regular meals to neighborhood families. The needs of the moment have inspired creativity and innovative approaches to community-based work.

We are also excited to announce the launch of Opportunity Northeast, a university-wide place-based initiative focused on building a thriving community for those who live, work, and learn in Northeast Spokane. Through partnerships focused on whole health, educational opportunity, and capacity-building, we are working with neighbors and partners to improve outcomes for individuals, youth, and families in Northeast Spokane.

As we look to next year, we recognize that the road ahead is uncertain. Innovation, adaptability, and responsiveness are required of us all as we navigate the weeks and months ahead. We are committed to engaging with intention, care, and in ways that support community priorities and deepen student learning. Thank you, as always, for being partners in this shared work.

All the best,



Molly Ayers
Director of the Center for Community Engagement
Gonzaga University



@CCEGonzaga



@gu_cce



@GonzagaCCE



www.gonzaga.edu/cce



BY THE NUMBERS



2,639*
Student
Volunteers



62,781
Hours of
Service



129
Sections of
CEL



40
Faculty Teaching
a CEL Course



206
Community
Partners



113
Student
Leaders



18
Distinct
Programs



8
Immersion
Sites

*Includes duplicated count. Unduplicated count 1,581





Rooted in Place

Opportunity Northeast

On February 10th, Gonzaga University introduced Opportunity Northeast, an initiative dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals, youth, and families in Northeast Spokane while providing transformative learning opportunities for the University's students, faculty and staff.

Opportunity Northeast, Gonzaga's place-based initiative, strives to involve students, faculty, and staff in transformative, experiential learning opportunities while engaging deeply in shared community development. The initiative is housed in the Center for Community Engagement (CCE), and its reach is campus-wide.

In partnership with our neighbors and local organizations, Opportunity Northeast is committed to improving whole health, expanding access to educational opportunities, and building an engaged campus and community in order to improve the quality of life for individuals, youth, and families in Northeast Spokane.

To learn more, visit <http://www.gonzaga.edu/ONE>.



opportunity
NORTHEAST

Gonzaga University & Northeast Spokane
Thriving Together

To view Gonzaga students and a faculty members share personal reflections about the lasting impact of their community-engaged learning experiences as part of Opportunity Northeast, visit <https://bit.ly/37d cg8q>.

Our Focus Areas

FOCUS AREA I: WHOLE HEALTH

Improve whole health outcomes for individuals and families residing in Northeast Spokane by developing projects and partnerships that increase access to health and wellness services, healthy foods, and high-quality affordable housing while building a more connected community and strengthening social capital.

FOCUS AREA II: EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Build a pathway of support that improves educational access, outcomes, and opportunity for children and youth living in Northeast Spokane. Offer educational opportunities and programs for adults that contribute to job readiness and increased financial security.

FOCUS AREA III: ENGAGED CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

Build campus and community capacity to engage in and sustain community change efforts through innovative programs and partnerships that build community leadership capacity and engage the whole institution in providing transformative learning and engagement opportunities for Gonzaga students, faculty, and staff.

Saturday of Service

As part of Opportunity Northeast's launch, the CCE planned a Gonzaga Saturday of Service as an opportunity for students, staff, and faculty to engage together as a campus community in Northeast Spokane.

86 participants came out to volunteer at three different sites, helping teachers prepare classrooms at Logan Elementary School, clearing out storage spaces at the Northeast Community Center, and sorting and packing food at Second Harvest Food Bank.



Gonzaga Family Haven

In partnership with Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, Gonzaga University, and Gonzaga Preparatory School we are excited to share our involvement with the planning of Gonzaga Family Haven, a **72-unit permanent supportive housing community** operated by Catholic Charities.

The CCE, as part of Gonzaga's Opportunity Northeast initiative, will be among several partners providing extended learning and after-school enrichment programs for youth in the community, as well as the activities and services that families may use when Gonzaga Family Haven is operational.

The future residents will be graduates of Catholic Charities Rising Strong program which provides intensive support to parents at risk of losing their children, along with referrals from other organizations. Catholic Charities expects to be able to break ground on the residential facility later this year, and to complete construction in 2021.



Meeting Critical Needs

In light of the novel COVID-19 pandemic, the CCE quickly pivoted to respond directly to evolving community needs. With the closure of schools and the economic impact of COVID-19 hitting families, the need to support food access became more urgent than ever.

In response, the CCE's Campus Kitchen program teamed up with Sodexo food services, Logan Elementary School, and John R. Rogers High School to provide healthy, take-away meals for adults each week to be distributed alongside meals provided to youth as part of the National School Lunch Program.

Since March, Sodexo and GU's Campus Kitchen supported the production and delivery of **8,800 healthy, take-away meals** as well as **1,325 Tuesday dinners** as part of our Logan Family Dinner, while Logan Elementary School and Rogers High School serve as hosts and distribution points.

"Getting to see the youth that I work with everyday continue to thrive and watch them continue to grow as young people is what I live for."

-CCE AmeriCorps Member, Austin Johnson '18.

CCE AmeriCorps members were also redeployed to assist with food security efforts in Northeast Spokane. Austin Johnson began supporting Bite2Go Meal distributions at Shaw Middle School and delivering food boxes to families that were not able to access distributions. Meanwhile, April Lopez shifted to supporting Second Harvest Food Bank by participating in over **64 Mobile Markets** and assisting in their distribution of over 5 million pounds of food.

To read more about these efforts, visit <https://bit.ly/3d53g7i>.

Learning Engaged

Dr. Joe Johnston, assistant professor of Sociology and Criminology, recently published a research study about the Walking School Bus Program in multiple Spokane elementary schools, in which college students volunteer to walk children from their homes to school.

The research paper — titled, “The Walking School Bus: Critical Community-Engaged Learning in Action?” — was published in *Teaching Sociology*, a peer-reviewed publication of the American Sociological Association.

To learn more about Dr. Johnston’s research, visit <https://bit.ly/37j2a61>.

To read the research paper, in full, visit <https://bit.ly/2AdGZXe>.



Learning Engaged

On February 22nd we held our first Place Based Teaching Seminar led by CEL Faculty Anna Marie Medina (Psychology) and Jeff Dodd (English) as well as our office and community members. The seminar focused on community engaged learning and our efforts in Northeast Spokane.

“[The most valuable session was] the community leaders’ panel...it was good to hear about the community in their own words.” - Faculty Participant

Ten faculty members from **seven different departments** joined us to travel to Northeast Spokane, learn from community partners, and explore potential partnerships, projects, and CEL courses.

Learning Immersed

Each year during spring break, Gonzaga students, along with staff and faculty advisers embark on trips to communities across the country, 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.

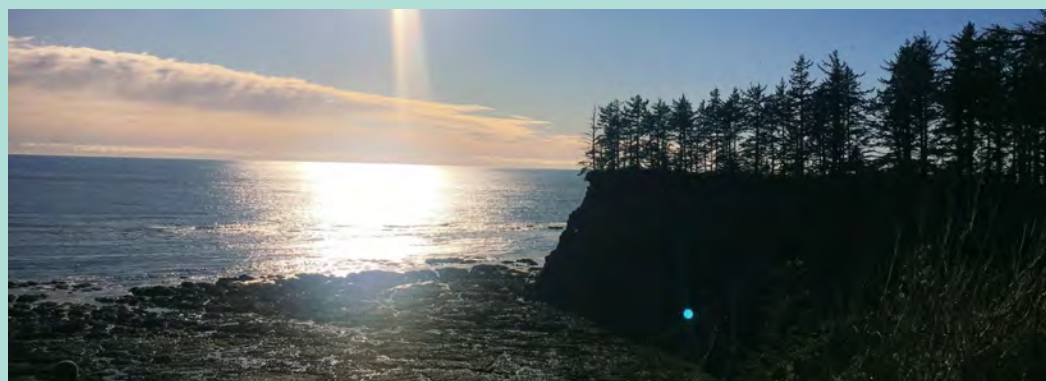
This year **36 students** traveled to **four different sites**, including Denver, CO, San Francisco, CA, Sisters, OR, and Neah Bay, WA. In reflecting on her experience in Neah Bay learning from the Makah Tribe, Lindsey Kosaki ‘20 shares, “During my time at Gonzaga, I

had never done anything like Mission: Possible before. My roommate came back from Neah Bay and spoke highly of the stories and experiences she had, which inspired me to go out of my comfort zone and apply for the trip my senior year... Going to Neah Bay was a unique, and special experience for a lot of reasons. Going to Gonzaga, the word “community” is often used to describe the campus, but I

believe that we witnessed the true meaning of community while in Neah Bay.”

“The [museum] walls are bursting with rich history and artifacts telling the stories of the whaling tribe and how they lived in the coastal area.”

To read Lindsey’s full reflection visit <https://bit.ly/37AeVcR>.



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 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. Visit the links to learn more about how our students, faculty, and community partners are working to create a more just and equitable world.



Liz Perez

Student Civic Leader Award

To Read more:
<https://bit.ly/2UM8o9N>



Alyssa Haworth

Student Civic Leader Award

To Read More:
<https://bit.ly/2XOUeGt>



Jackie Baca

Sr. Virginia Claire-Carvey
Volunteer of the Year Award

View: <https://bit.ly/3711DjW>



Sarah Potter

Fr. Leo Robinson
Volunteer of the Year Award

View: <https://bit.ly/3711DjW>



Duc Hoang

Community Engaged Learning
Student of the Year Award



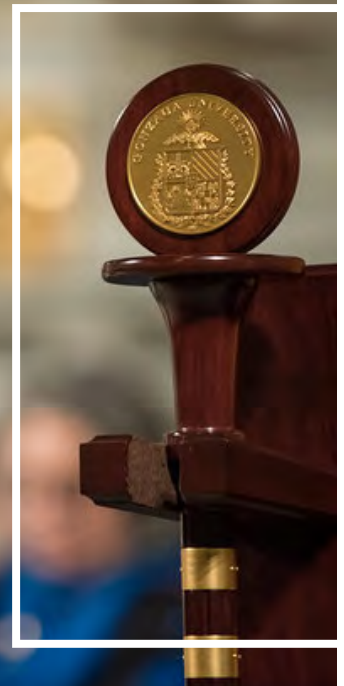
Campus Kitchens

Community Engaged Learning
Partner of the Year Award



Dr. Joe Johnston

Community Engaged Learning
Faculty of the Year Award





“Wherever you are serving, no matter how many libraries you build, no matter how many projects you accomplish... when you finish your service and look back, what you’re going to remember are the relationships.” -Daniel Bladow ‘16.

Hearts on Fire

At the Social Justice Missioning Ceremony, the Center for Community Engagement and Mission & Ministry celebrate those graduates who have decided to commit a year or more of their lives to post-graduate service.

On May 12th, together with President McCulloh, Vice President Wheatley, Dr. Gomez and many more, we recorded the Social Justice Missioning Ceremony to honor these students and their commitment.

To provide insight into the work our students are being called to, 2016 graduate Daniel Bladow gave the keynote address. After graduating from Gonzaga Daniel went on to serve in the Peace Corps as an 8th-12th grade math and physics teacher in Mozambique. After his time in the Peace Corps, he remained in Mozambique and began farming as a way to provide jobs.

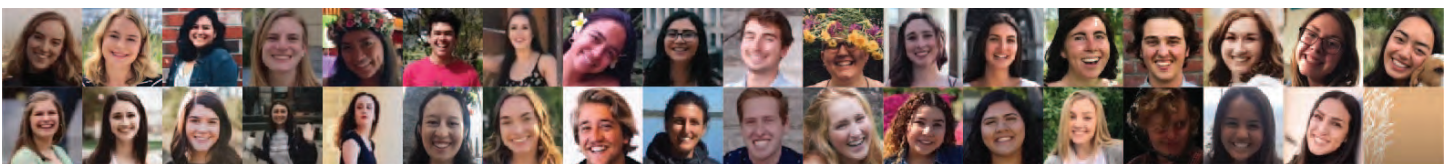
To view Daniel's keynote, in full, go to the link provided below.

A Next Step

44 graduates of the class of 2020 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 the Baha'i Faith Lotus Temple among others. To view the recording of the ceremony, including Daniel's speech, visit <https://bit.ly/2TaxaPY>.

Best wishes to the following students:

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Anna Algate | Kahiwahiwa Davis | Maurice Harbick |
| Alison Baker | Karla Partida | Megan Ching |
| Alexis Buhler | Katherine Michelon | Megan Glenski |
| Benjamin Ranghiasci | Katherine Raymond | Molly Quillin |
| Cameron Marsh | Kau'i Ho'opi'i | Nicholas Klein |
| Celeste Klug | Kaylee Hanna Bosse | Rachel Bohan |
| Daisy Santana | Kelsey Moran | Rayanna Smith |
| Danielle Boggs | Lexie Torres | Samantha Galluzzo |
| Dulce Rivera-Zepeda | Lia Cunningham | Sanna Darvish |
| Elizabeth Perez | Lillian Lower | Sarah Danylchuk |
| Helen Johnson | Madison Dougherty | Sarah Potter |
| Helen Schantz | Maggie Malone | Sophia Maggio |
| Holly Ebel | Maggie Wahlers | Sophia Troeh |
| Jason Shang McLeod | Margarett Qaqish | Zoe Jaspers |
| Kaiya Collins | Matthew Williams | |



Post Grad Service Spotlight: No More Heroes

Last year, Joe Wagner '19, a Business Administration graduate from Eugene, Oregon chose to continue his passion for service and sustainability by committing to a year of post-graduate service through Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest (JVC NW). As a student, he was highly involved with the CCE as a mentor in our Youth Programs, as a volunteer for ZVC Semester of Service with the Land's Council, and as a leader for our RISE Pre-Orientation Program.

The following is Joe's reflection on his experience as a Youth Coordinator at the Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center and Rosemary Anderson High School (POIC + RAHS).

"It's...more important, to listen to and elevate the voices of the community you serve, as it is to actually do service work."

"The goal of my position with JVC NW is to engage youth of color and low-income youth in getting outside, two demographics that often have significant barriers to accessing our public lands and have fewer opportunities to develop a relationship to the natural world. My role involves leading a student internship program that helps them better understand nature's important role in our world while they also develop resilience and

professional skills. I also have been developing an environmental-focused leadership program and work with my supervisor to introduce students to opportunities and careers working with our natural resources.

A lot of my service involves relationship building with the teachers, staff, partner organizations, and most importantly with the students. If I don't work to develop a relationship with a student—especially given that many students I work with have often experienced significant life trauma in their lives by adults—I won't be able to gain their trust. Without trust, students don't believe that I have their best interests in mind and are much less willing to learn or take opportunities to be in the outdoors.

[JVC NW gave us a book] called No More Heroes by Jordan Flaherty that has really impacted my view of social justice and the role nonprofit work can have in actually damaging the communities they are trying to serve when done with a savior mentality... It seemed to question our entire motivation for doing service this year. It even questioned whether our service may have been more problematic than helpful because it perpetuated the systems of nonprofit work, an industry that's continual existence relies often on



poverty and injustice to continue on in perpetuity.

Although I've come to understand that my service work is still very important in building capacity at my service organization and doing work that would otherwise not be done while also building relationships with communities and people I never would have otherwise interacted with, it has made me come to terms with the bias society sometimes feeds us about addressing problems in this world. It has highlighted to me that it's just as important, if not more important, to listen to and elevate the voices of the community you serve, as it is to actually do service work."

To read another reflection Joe wrote for JVC Northwest, visit <https://bit.ly/3cRAZJP>.

Supporting Virtual Connections

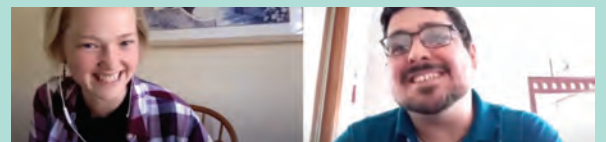
In light of COVID-19, the CCE has developed new and innovative ways to keep students engaged in this vital work by supporting opportunities to connect virtually.



Our Youth Programs put together a letter-writing campaign, having mentors write letters of encouragement to their mentees as a way of staying connected. **270 letters** have been delivered to youth in our programs.

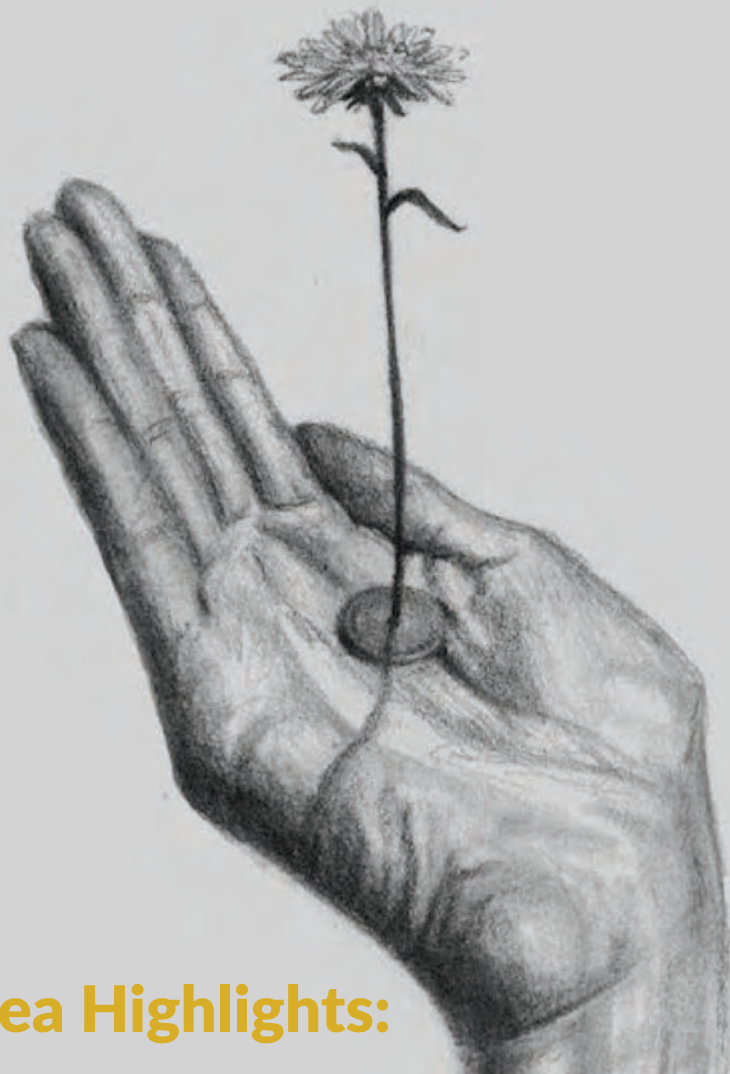


The CCE helped host a Virtual Symposium online where **38 Gonzaga students** sent in their posters electronically to share their community engaged work. To view student posters, visit <https://bit.ly/3f2hPuf>.



The CCE debuted Community Chat: with Tony and Cat, a recorded show that shares the incredible work happening in our community and engages our students in issues that matter to them. To date we have recorded **four episodes** that have engaged over **111 live participants** and have been viewed **236 times**, collectively. To view an episode, visit <https://bit.ly/35crEB9>.

1



Area Highlights:



OPPORTUNITY NORTHEAST SUMMER FELLOWS

2



ENGAGE WITH NORTHEAST SPOKANE

Spend the summer working in partnership with non-profits in Northeast Spokane neighborhoods



1

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

Projects spanned from creating content (monthly columns, illustrations, and graphics) for Spokane FāVS to supporting youth through self-advocacy and empowerment initiatives with The Zone Project.

This year's Wolff Fellows included Mireya Jimenez with the Spokane Alliance, Molly Quillin with the Center for Justice, Jacqueline Baca with the Zone Project, Madison Schultz with the Logan Neighborhood

Organization, and Sophia Maggio with Spokane FāVS.

The Fellows also connected virtually to share their work with one another. To view their work, see the Virtual Symposium highlight above under "Supporting Virtual Connections."

Pictured above, is artwork by Wolff Fellow Sophia Maggio for Spokane FāVS and a screenshot of all the fellows during their Zoom presentation.

2

We have selected **six Opportunity Northeast Summer Fellows** for summer 2020. The student fellows will spend the summer working in Northeast Spokane neighborhoods in partnership with community organizations.

They will support one of two focus areas: food security and educational opportunities for youth.

The Summer Fellows are Jon Williams, Lani Abrams, Fese Elango, Isabel Thurston, Alexandria Campbell, and William Rettig.



3

CCE Assistant Director Anthony Medina was selected for the Place Based Justice Network’s inaugural **Next Generation Fellowship**. The Next Generation Fellows Program is designed to nurture a more diverse and inclusive network by supporting emerging leaders of color who work with place-based community engagement efforts.

CCE Youth Programs Manager, Brandi Praytor-Marsters was awarded the **West Coast Chapter Champion** this season because of her hard work and innate ability to handle obstacles with empathy and grace.

4

In November, a delegation of **seven Gonzaga students** traveled to Washington D.C. as part of the annual Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice (IFTJ). Over **1,500 advocates** from Jesuit schools, works, and parishes across the U.S. met with their representatives, calling for the care for our earth and humane migration policies.

Molly Quillin ‘20 attended the Teach-In as a delegation member, advocating for humane immigration reform. To read Molly’s full reflection visit <https://bit.ly/30NJudJ>.

5

As we end our year, we say goodbye to our incredible **AmeriCorps members**.

For the past two years, Austin Johnson served as our College Access Corps Coordinator, serving with Logan Elementary School, Shaw Middle School, and Rogers High School through our Youth Programs. Rhiana Everest served as our Community Outreach Coordinator/VISTA, serving with the Zag Volunteer Corps and Logan House programs for the past year.

We wish them the best in their future endeavors.

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. We are grateful for all of our donors, with special thanks to:

Anonymous Donors
David & Dorothy Pierce Trust
Gerald and Susan Schwalbach
FamilyFoundation
Rotary 21
Simkins Family
United Way of Spokane County
Washington Campus Compact
Washington Service Corps
Wolff Family Foundation
Zag Dining by Sodexo

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.

www.gonzaga.edu/cce



Center for Community Engagement

502 E. Boone Ave.
Spokane, WA 99258
509.313.6824
serve@gonzaga.edu