



# Annual Report

## 2020-21



# Letter from the Director

Friends of the Center for Community Engagement,

We have come to the close of another academic year – a year like no other – filled with unimaginable challenges and moments of joy and hope. As we enter the summer, we take the opportunity for a collective pause, embracing the space to breathe and reflect. For the Center, this was a year where the traditional ways of approaching our work were no longer sufficient or suitable. We were required to creatively adapt and find novel ways to support our community and our students. One of the most powerful lessons of this past year is realizing that our strength as a community is in the relationships we hold and our ability to come together.

In the Center for Community Engagement we share a value that is somewhat unique – it is the value of Hearth. Recently, I have realized that not many people have come across this term. The University of Michigan's symbolism project defines a hearth as that space (usually in front of a fireplace) "at the center of the home, it provides warmth, and light, food and protection."

For us, the value of hearth is expressed by placing relationships and community at the heart of our work. Seeking to develop authentic relationships – deep relationships cultivated over time - through breaking bread with one another, learning from one another, listening deeply, and honoring the gifts each of us brings. Hearth is a place and space to gather, much like our dear Logan Family Meal.

In a year that has called for us to be physically distant and limit our presence in the community, in so many ways, our work has never felt a deeper sense of community and connection. As you will see in the stories that follow, our students, staff, faculty and community came together in small and large ways to share resources, think creatively, and adapt again, and again, and again.

This year has shown us what it means to be a community and we are grateful to have been able to work alongside you all – especially our community partners and neighbors who have fought to find resources, solve what seem like impossible challenges, and centered listening to the voices of families and residents through it all.

Thank you, as always, for being partners in this shared work. We look forward to the work to come.



Molly Ayers  
Senior Director of the Center for Community Engagement  
Gonzaga University



## BY THE NUMBERS



**1,324\***  
Student  
Volunteers



**26,000**  
Hours of  
Service



**81**  
Sections of  
CEL



**23**  
Faculty Teaching  
a CEL Course



**7**  
Episodes of  
Community Chat



**76**  
Student  
Leaders



**18**  
Distinct  
Programs



**21**  
Staff & Faculty  
Volunteers



**11,566**  
Meals made between  
June '20 and May '21



**\$26,850**  
Value of hygiene items  
procured by Sodexo

\*Includes duplicated hours.

### STAFF/FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

Gonzaga faculty, staff and students came together in March and May for Logan Neighborhood clean-ups.

Opportunity Northeast seeks to involve the whole campus community in service projects throughout the year.





## Research Fellow

Dr. Vivek Patil joined the Opportunity Northeast team as Place Based Research Fellow. Dr. Patil works in partnership with the ONE Data and Evaluation Analyst to develop and design assessment measures that evaluate the impact of the initiative.

Projects Dr. Patil has developed for ONE include the development of data visualizations and dashboards that provide key economic, health, educational and demographic information about the Opportunity Northeast area. Learn more by visiting [tinyurl.com/bpt8tpx2](https://tinyurl.com/bpt8tpx2)



## Rooted in Place

The Center for Community Engagement continued to partner with Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, Gonzaga Prep, and community-based organizations to develop and design youth and family programming for the residents of the Gonzaga Family Haven.

In March, the CCE partnered with Catholic Charities and the School of Leadership Studies to conduct a series of focus groups with Rising Strong and Sister's Haven residents, CCEW service providers, and their partners to inform youth and family programming at the Gonzaga Family Haven. Results from these conversations are being presented to the Gonzaga Family Haven Design Committee and the individual GFH work groups to inform programming at the new Haven.

## Opportunity Northeast Celebration

The Opportunity Northeast Celebration brought together campus and community partners to reflect upon and celebrate our shared work over the past year. The event culminated with a short Examen. We invite you to take a moment and reflect on the past year as well.

We invite you to quiet your mind and heart, to allow the events and activities of the day to settle, to notice your breath and be attentive to the Spirit of God present and active.

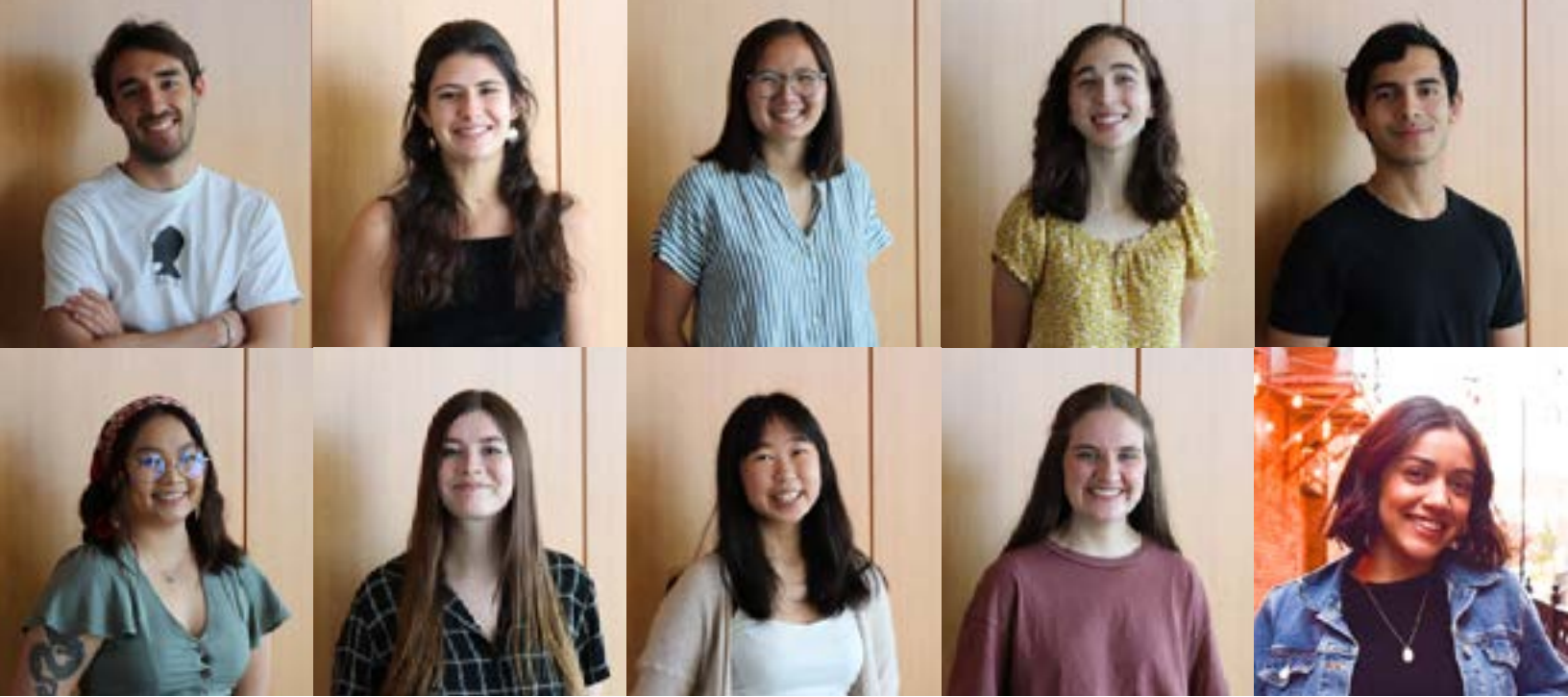
As you consider our shared work this past year, for what are you grateful? Call those things to mind – whether big or small, extraordinary or seemingly ordinary. What are the gifts of this commitment and partnership?

Consider the story of Opportunity Northeast, as well as your own connection and involvement. Please take a moment to reflect on your individual experience and contribution.

Having reviewed, what stands out to you? Perhaps a particular moment, conversation, person, organization or experience. Allow one thing to capture your attention, and savor it.

As you look ahead to the future of our work, what are your hopes?





## Summer Fellows

On June 1st we welcomed the next cohort of Opportunity Northeast Summer Fellows. Opportunity Northeast fellows will spend the summer working in Northeast Spokane neighborhoods in partnership with community organizations.

These students support one of two focus areas, food security or educational opportunities for youth, and form a cohort of 10 fellows who will gather regularly for support and professional development opportunities provided by CCE staff.

This program is possible thanks to the generous support of our Opportunity Northeast benefactors. To learn more about the projects our fellows are supporting this summer visit [tinyurl.com/f8e42x2t](https://tinyurl.com/f8e42x2t)

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*Caleb Yoder '22 Communication, Georgia Cosola '22 Psychology & Journalism, Charlotte Low '22 Sociology & Psychology Minor Women's & Gender Studies, Ally Schmidt '22 Psychology Minor Religious Studies, Mateo Acosta '21 Business Administration Conc. Finance & Operations, Aaliyah Mae Lewis '24 Community, Culture & Language Elementary Education Track, Skye Clark '22 Sociology & Criminology Minor Solidarity & Social Justice, Hanah Singco '22 Psychology & Special Education, Meaghan Greaney '23 History & Secondary teaching Certification Candidate, Jessica Gutierrez '23 Communication Studies Minor Political Science & Critical Race & Ethnic Studies*

## Engaged Faculty Fellow

Dr. Kathy Nitta is an assistant professor of Teacher Education who currently serves as a Community Engaged Learning Faculty Fellow. Community Engaged Learning Faculty Fellows spend up to two years on community-based program development, scholarship and research, or course design projects. Dr. Nitta's fellowship is focused on expanding school-based partnerships at Logan Elementary school. Her project aims to "develop a cohesive and integrative approach to supporting mathematics teaching and learning in both formal (classroom) and informal (after-school) learning environments" while also supporting the development of prospective teachers

by "recognizing the centrality of relationships in the classroom and community" and becoming "responsive to diverse learning needs of students from varied socioeconomic, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds."

Learn more by visiting [tinyurl.com/3p8xk69n](https://tinyurl.com/3p8xk69n)



# NEW ONE Positions

This past fall, three new staff members joined the Center for Community Engagement team to support Opportunity Northeast. These new Zags play important roles as the initiative continues to strengthen and grow.

## Zinzi Kellen

*Assistant Director of Campus Engagement*

Zinzi is developing partnerships with departments and programs across the University to deepen engagement and outreach in Northeast Spokane.

## Dylan Jouliot

*Data and Evaluation Analyst*

GU alum Dylan will be measuring the impact of Opportunity Northeast activities to drive continuous improvement of strategies and programs.

## Trevor Iwata

*Communications and Marketing coordinator*

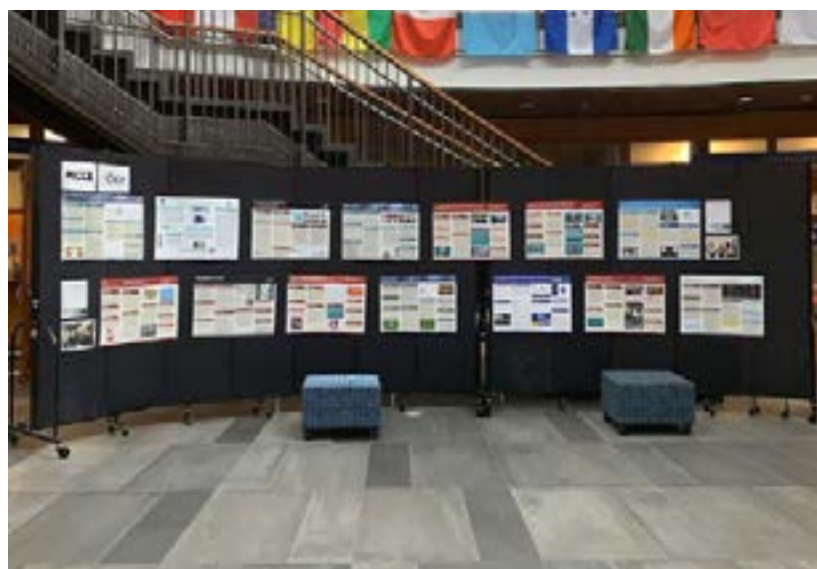
Trevor will help keep the GU campus members and Northeast Spokane residents informed and engaged with Opportunity Northeast.



## Community Engagement Symposium

Each year the CCE, as a member of Partners in Campus and Community Engagement (PICCE), invites students and their mentors to present their collaborative work to build a better Spokane at the Student Symposium on Community Engagement. The event convenes students and their mentors to present a poster describing their work and detailing its impact on our community. Our celebration highlights the impact of community-based learning on both students and Spokane-area partners.

This year's Symposium was hosted in a hybrid format over the course of two weeks. We held an in-person exhibition at the Kress Gallery at River Park Square from April 5th-11th and an on-campus exhibition in the Hemmingson Rotunda from April 12th-16th (image right) in an attempt to engage with our on-campus and greater Spokane community. 10 Gonzaga students contributed posters sharing their work with our incredible partners.



To view the virtual exhibition and all 21 posters from across Spokane, go to: [tinyurl.com/hyvuwp5h](https://tinyurl.com/hyvuwp5h)



# Community Connections

This year we hosted 7 episodes of Community Chat: the CCE's online Zoom show where we share the good work happening in our community and introduce our students to critical issues and topics in the Spokane community. Each episode was centered on a topic or issue important to our students and broader community and feature community partners, residents, faculty, and Gonzaga students in an interactive interview-style conversation. Topics ranged from engaging immigrant and refugee perspectives, supporting Spokane's undocumented community, and a number of chats with our Northeast Spokane neighbors about assets and challenges in their communities. Collectively, the chats engaged over 130 live participants. To view all episodes, visit: [tinyurl.com/8fuyny68](https://tinyurl.com/8fuyny68)



## Bringing Art To Life

For over a year the Logan mural has been in talks, and now the paint has been put to the wall. This April, Gonzaga students and faculty painted an 85-foot mural at the corner of Trent and Hamilton.

The origin of the chosen design was a group effort by Gonzaga art classes guided by Laura Truitt and Lenora Lopez-Schindler. During the fall semester, students met with neighborhood leaders to learn about the assets and uniqueness of the neighborhood, as well as to gather ideas of what residents would like depicted in the mural. Laura, Lena, and their students worked on designs throughout the year and 3 finalists were chosen. During the month of March, the Logan neighbors and Gonzaga community voted and chose a design

that boasts vibrant colors and native plants with descriptions in English and Salish, the traditional language of the Spokane tribe.

The choice of native plants was informed by the Children of the Sun trail running trail. Some of the flora and fauna featured in the mural include the Arrow Leaf, Yarrow, Camas Flower and Ponderosa Pine. The Spokane River is also featured, spanning the entire mural, delicately hidden between and behind the flowers.

"It's this real effort of having people understand the environment they live in, but also the history. It is a wonderful combination of science, healing, and art." says Lopez-Schindler.



# Community Engagement Institute

This May, Gonzaga co-hosted the Inland Northwest Community Engagement Institute with our PICCE regional higher education partners. This year's event, offered virtually, brought together 120+ faculty, community partners, and community engagement professionals from across the region to present emerging research in the field of community

engagement, share promising practices, and examine how institutions may become better able to seek solutions to complex challenges with their communities.

## Zag Volunteer Corps

Through virtual and hybrid programs, ZVC leaders found creative ways to support our community and engage students. Our leaders and volunteers reflected on the impact of the pandemic on the communities they served and the stark inequities that exist.

One leader shared that "this experience really opened my eyes to the inequities specific to education during this pandemic. Access to education affects everyone, you do not have to be a teacher or a parent to recognize it nor to do something about it."



Students serve meals at ZVC site, O'Malley apartments

## Learning in Action

Five Wolff Fellows engaged in virtual projects with community-based organizations across Spokane. Projects ranged from creating a writing resource guide for Spokane FaVS writers to supporting a new homework tutoring hotline with Priority Spokane to working with Team Child to support legal services for youth involved in or at risk of involvement in the juvenile court system.

This year's Fellows included Alex Campbell and Ellie Hough with The ZoNE, Faith Ngae with Priority Spokane, Justin Puckett with Team Child, Katie Blair with Spokane FaVS, and Zach Bowers with the Logan Neighborhood Organization.

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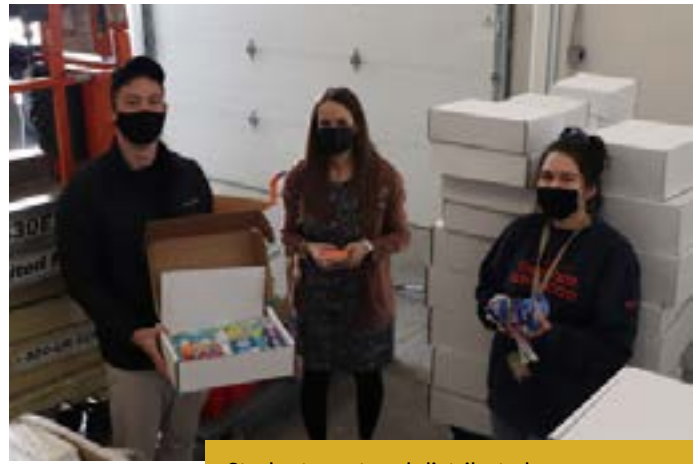
Ellie Hough, Katie Blair, Alexandria Campbell. Not pictured Faith Ngae, Justin Puckett, Zach Bowers.





# Gonzaga University Specialized Recreation

GUSR creatively adapted to this past year by continuing to offer programming through weekly virtual “practices”. Our leaders and volunteers provided fun and engaging activities for participants that celebrated community and belonging. One volunteer shared that “Though it was on zoom, GUSR is still GUSR at heart” a program dedicated to celebrating abilities by building authentic relationships.



Students sort and distribute hygiene products with Bailey Wootton (Director of Strategic Partnerships)

## Homework Hotline

Gonzaga University's Center for Community Engagement, Priority Spokane and Gonzaga's School of Education provided free virtual tutoring to K-12 youth in Spokane County during the pandemic. 65 youth received tutoring support from 21 student volunteers from December 2020 – April 2021. This program expanded Gonzaga's relationship with Priority Spokane and resulted in the addition of Communities In Schools joining the partnership, with the plan to transition the program to Communities In Schools moving forward (GU will still support through

volunteer recruitment and CEL). During the academic year, CCE recruited, trained, and coordinated volunteers and assisted with risk management. To learn more visit [tinyurl.com/3p8xk69n](https://tinyurl.com/3p8xk69n)

Follow the day to day  
happenings of the CCE  
[@CCEGonzaga](https://twitter.com/CCEGonzaga) [@gu\\_cce](https://www.instagram.com/gu_cce)



## IFTJ Highlight

IFTJ Highlight: The Ignatian Family Teach-in for Justice (IFTJ) is an annual gathering for members of the Ignatian family to gather in the context of social justice and solidarity to learn, reflect, pray, network, and advocate together around critical issues facing our world.

IFTJ was held virtually this year to provide our students with the chance to connect with peers from across the country around topics of faith and justice. Topics ranged from environmental justice, racial justice, immigration, and criminal justice reform.

11 Gonzaga students gathered with over 6,000 members of the Ignatian Family from across the U.S., engaging in incredible sessions on prophetic resistance and resilience, unpacking the racist legacies of our Jesuit institutions, and campus organizing for social change.



## Post Grad Highlight

*Kara King, '19, shares about her journey as a mentor, AmeriCorps member, and graduate student at Gonzaga, as she reflects upon the relationships she's formed over the years and the community she found at Gonzaga and in Northeast Spokane.*

In my sophomore year at Gonzaga, I sought out a service opportunity through CCE hoping that it would help me to make friends with other GU students. I applied to CCE's Youth Programs with no idea of what to expect. I almost skipped my initial interview as a part of the application process, worried that I did not have the right things to say or enough experience volunteering to be considered for a mentoring position. Unbeknown to me at the time, CCE would become a significant and transformative part of my life for the next five years and shape the trajectory of my career.

Initially through CCE's Youth Programs, I became a Campus Kids mentor at Logan Elementary and I was matched with a sweet fourth grade student that I would mentor for two years. Campus Kids allowed me to build thoughtful, intentional, and deeply meaningful relationships with not only the elementary students with whom we worked, but also with other Gonzaga student mentors and leaders. This was the first time at Gonzaga that I found myself to be a part of a community that extended beyond the corners of campus. This experience allowed me to learn more intimately about the strengths and challenges of our Spokane community, about the pervasiveness of childhood trauma and its impacts on families, and about the value of community, connection, and commitment. I also was witness to the resilience of youth and their families and saw incredible strength in the love and hopefulness with which they approached the world. This has helped to ground me in the work that I have done since my time with Campus Kids has ended.

After graduating from Gonzaga, I had the opportunity to continue to learn and to foster my love and appreciation for the community of northeast Spokane by serving as an AmeriCorps member with CCE in support of Youth Programs through the College Access Corps. In this position I was able to build relationships, learn alongside, and support students at Garry Middle School and Rogers High School. My time with Youth Programs was the catalyst for the most significant and meaningful change in my life and allowed me to more fully understand and to nurture the passion that I have for working with youth. The lessons that I have learned, the experiences that I have had, and the love and laughter that have been shared with me by my students have been the most significantly formative pieces of my understanding of service, reciprocity, community, and relationship and have reshaped my goals and career path.

Currently, I am pursuing my master's degree in school counseling at Gonzaga, which has afforded me the incredible opportunity to continue to serve at John R. Rogers High School through my internship. This has allowed me to build relationships with the larger Rogers community and to sustain relationships with students that I met in my time with CCE. Now, my students from my first year at Garry approach me in the halls at Rogers checking in about school and catching me up on their lives. I cheered for the senior students at graduation who I worked alongside in my time with the Sparks program when they were in their sophomore year. And I walk in the halls alongside the once small fourth-grade student who was my mentee in Campus Kids, who is now a sophomore at Rogers. As I look forward to my future as a school counselor, I often reflect on all that I have learned through CCE's Youth Programs, and I am eager to continue to commit myself to equity, to support students, families, and school communities, and to build intentional and authentic relationships, like those modeled for me by my students in CCE's Youth Programs.

## A Next Step

# 27

graduates of the class of 2021 have committed to a year or more of long-term service with organizations around the country. These graduates will be volunteering through various post-graduate programs including Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, Teach for America, and AmeriCorps, among others.

Katie Alonso  
Samantha Battaglia  
Zachary Battaglia  
Megan Dedinsky  
Lindsey Ernst  
Anna Gade  
Martin Geiger  
Colin Helgeson  
Elliane Hough

Michael Janney  
Eleanor Johnson  
Natalie Johnson  
Crissy Lubke  
Melina Monlux  
Karlle Murphy  
Isaac Pacor  
Tristan Parker  
Benjamin Pham

Renne Richards  
Brittany Robinson  
Lauren Rotolo  
Stephen Sanders  
Rhian Thomas  
Paulina Thurmann  
Isabel Thurston  
Emma Ulring  
Jonathon Williams

*Gonzaga calls us to be engaged, conscientious, impassioned, and intentional members of any community that we enter, and this is who we are no matter where we are.*

**Paulina Thurmann**  
Social Justice Missioning speech '21

## Awards

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.



**Alyssa Haworth**  
Fr. Leo Robinson  
Volunteer of the  
Year Award



**Zeb Klement**  
Sr. Virginia Claire-  
Carvey Volunteer  
of the Year Award



**Taylor Sipila**  
Keynote  
CCE student  
recognition  
ceremony



**Paulina Thurmann**  
Keynote Social  
Justice Missioning  
Ceremony



**Dr. Kathy Nitta**  
Community  
Engaged Learning  
Faculty Member of  
the Year



**Catholic Charities**  
Community  
Engaged Learning  
Community  
Partner of the Year



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.

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:

Alexander L. Power  
Amy Pistone  
Angela L. Rae  
Anonymous (7)  
Brent Perdue  
Christina E. Cockburn  
Connor M. Koenigs  
Daniel C. Anton  
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John J. Hemmingson  
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Kristin M. Whitehead

Leona V. Johnson  
Lisa A. Bridston  
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Matthew Risso  
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The Meredith Corporation Foundation  
The Stratfield Fund  
Thomas A. McDonald  
Tim P. Earnest  
United Way of Spokane County  
Vicky Moore  
Washington Campus Compact  
Women Helping Women Fund

We also receive ongoing support from our endowed funds. 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](http://www.gonzaga.edu/cce)



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