



Annual Report

2021-22

Letter from the Assistant Dean

Friends of the Center for Community Engagement,

As we come to the close of another academic year and reflect on its lessons, we appreciate the power of community, connection, and relationship as it continues to evolve and be redefined. Our Center and the many partners with whom we work have adapted, innovated, and responded to the needs and priorities of local residents and families – often having to make changes on the fly. At the core, the relationships and connections across campus and with our community have allowed the Center for Community Engagement (CCE) and broader University to develop creative programs and partnerships that are leading to measurable impact – in the lives of our students and within our neighborhood.

The stories throughout our annual report highlight the many ways community engagement is lived out at Gonzaga. This includes an ongoing exploration of what place means: a leaning into honoring our connection and commitment to Northeast Spokane. New programs like Serve Northeast offer incoming first year students the opportunity to learn from our neighbors while engaging in service projects across the neighborhood. While faculty and staff bring their expertise to the neighborhood through community engaged learning courses, supporting community leadership development and capacity building, and engaging in direct service.

For many of us, one of the most powerful moments of this past year was the opening of the Gonzaga Family Haven (pg4). As a community we watched this project come to life – family by family – over this past year. Gonzaga along with our colleagues in mission, Gonzaga Prep and St. Aloysius Parish, were given the gracious gift of becoming partners with Catholic Charities on this visionary project. We are grateful to be involved in contributing to a shared vision of what this unique place could become and the varied ways in which we, as a university can bring our gifts to bear in support of this project.

As we continue to engage Gonzaga students, faculty, and staff in our local and regional communities, we are hopeful about the future of the work to come. We know it requires a new rhythm of ongoing adaptation and innovation. We embrace the moments we can gather in person – not taking the simple act of sharing space together lightly – while understanding that we will need to be creative in the ways community continues to be understood and developed in our new context.

We are grateful to work alongside you all in striving to build a more equitable and thriving community. Thank you, as always, for being partners in this shared work. We look forward to the work to come.

In Peace,



Molly Ayers

Assistant Dean of the Center for Community
Engagement of Gonzaga University



Center for Community Engagement | BY THE NUMBERS



1,691*
Student
Volunteers



43,466
Hours of
Service



93
Sections of
CEL Courses



35
Faculty Teaching
a CEL Course



19
Distinct
Programs



74
Student
Leaders



96
Northeast Immersion
Attendees To Date



264
Youth Enrolled in
CCE Programs

**Includes duplicated count.*



Catalyst



Empty Bowls



Gonzaga Family Haven
Welcome Dinner



Gonzaga Family
Haven Opening



Gonzaga Day
of Service

FOUNDED 1887

ERECTED 1898



Gonzaga University Hosts John R. Rogers High School Students

Sixteen rising 9th and 10th graders from John R. Rogers High School immersed themselves on Gonzaga University's campus for three days last summer as part of Catalyst, a new program of the University's Opportunity Northeast initiative. The program was developed in response to a community-identified need for additional summer programming for teens, as well as a desire to strengthen the pathway of support available to youth interested in post-secondary education.

The students engaged in a personal narrative course, joined in a dance movement class, shared meals and learned about the admission and financial aid processes, all with the goal of broadening their horizons and giving them a glimpse of college life.

They also built relationships with nine Gonzaga student leaders who gathered them for small-group discussions and reflections.

"I am more convinced that college is for me and is a good idea," one student wrote of the experience.

As part of the intake process, the youth were asked to share which part of their identity is most important to them, and why. The personal narrative course, taught by Gonzaga professors Juliane Mora and Jeff Dodd, then explored themes such as identity, becoming and overcoming.

Another highlight was rafting the Spokane River, guided by Gonzaga Outdoors staff Dave Gilbert and Matt Edenfield. The shared experience involved trust building, stepping out of comfort zones, outdoor

education, and plenty of fun. A shy and nervous group became a playful and lively group of friends.

The program wrapped up with a family dinner at the high school, where two Catalyst participants shared their stories of who they want to become and their plans to achieve their goals.

Bailley Wootton, Director of Strategic Partnerships for Gonzaga's Center for Community Engagement, was impressed by the "really brave" students who spoke.

"It was very special to hear participants share about their experiences and who they plan to become, especially knowing the importance of goal-setting and having a future-oriented mindset in achieving those goals," Wootton said.

Students also reflected on Catalyst in writing.

"I learned more about financial aid," one wrote, "I am considering Gonzaga as a possible college choice because of this College Immersion Program."

Another shared, "I learned that scholarships are very important and participating in after-school activities in high school will look good on college applications."

How Catalyst was designed and how it unfolded are important to Gonzaga, said Joan Iva Fawcett, Dean for Social Justice Leadership & Community Empowerment.

"Through Opportunity Northeast, we have an amazing opportunity to strengthen our partnerships with local K-12 schools," Fawcett said. "We can send the message to historically underrepresented students in our own backyard that college is a viable option and that they would bring value to Gonzaga University."



Gena Hoxha, Program Manager School of Nursing
Jen Towers, Assistant Dean School of Nursing
Candise Branum, Health Sciences Librarian at the Foley Library

Health Literacy Grant Awarded to Foley Library and School of Nursing

GU's Foley Library and the School of Nursing and Human Physiology (SNHP) teamed up to work towards addressing food insecurity and health literacy in the Logan neighborhood.

Candise Branum, Health Sciences Librarian at the Foley Library, along with Assistant Dean of SNHP Jen Towers and Program Manager Gena Hoxha of SNHP, built a program that promotes health literacy and healthy food preparation for underserved families in northeast Spokane. Gonzaga resides in the Logan neighborhood, where 25% of residents live below the poverty level, and food insecurity in children has drastically increased alongside the COVID-19 pandemic.

Educational materials and programming were offered to community members at the Campus Kitchen's monthly neighborhood dinners and at the Logan Block Party, an annual tradition that brings together all of the residents and businesses within the Logan neighborhood in Spokane.

Collaborating with the teachers at Logan Elementary, age-appropriate health literacy curriculum were presented to K-6 students throughout the Spring.

In partnership with the Center for Community Engagement, the programming culminated in a campus visit for 5th and 6th graders, where students had the opportunity to engage in interactive health literacy programming and enjoy a healthy lunch on campus.

This project is supported by an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant award via the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Washington State Library.





Gonzaga Family Haven

After years of planning, we celebrated the opening of the Gonzaga Family Haven this fall. Operated by Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, the 72-unit community housing facility boasts a community center, outdoor splash pad, ¼ mile bike trail, ample green spaces, and a community garden.

Lead partners, including Gonzaga University, Gonzaga Prep, Spokane Public Schools, and many others worked with Catholic Charities to identify and develop supportive enrichment programs for residents – youth and adults.

Proposed program offerings include after school and summer programs for youth, career and workforce development training for adults, wellness programs, leadership development initiatives, legal aid services, and more.

Residents inform these programs and offer opportunities for Gonzaga students, faculty, and staff to engage in the implementation and delivery of these programs and initiatives hosted at the Haven.

The Gonzaga Family Haven is one of many Opportunity Northeast partnerships and embodies our commitment to our Northeast families and neighbors.

In the fall, Gonzaga University trustees and regents attending the groups' meeting took time from governance responsibilities to visit the Gonzaga Family Haven.

During their visit, trustees and regents wrote notes of welcome and prepared small gift packages for the \$22 million project's inaugural residents, who moved in this past September.





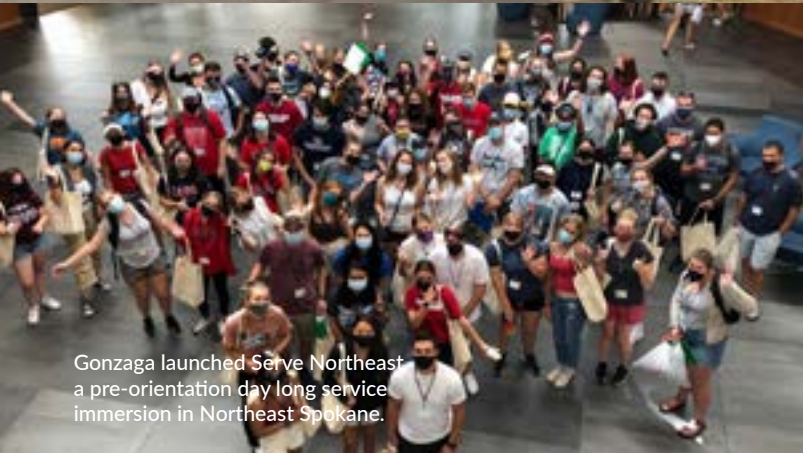
The Logan Block Party



The Logan Block Party brought together more than 300 Gonzaga University students and Logan neighbors. Attendees enjoyed live music, community resources, food, and games.



Northeast Immersions return. Gonzaga faculty, staff, students, and alumni learn about Northeast Spokane history, meet resident leaders and see programs in action.



Gonzaga launched Serve Northeast a pre-orientation day long service immersion in Northeast Spokane.



Serve Northeast

Building Essential Skills

The ZoNE Essential Skills Program is a unique partnership with the ZoNE Project and Gonzaga. This program provides unemployed and underemployed women in Northeast Spokane a six-week career development series that offers opportunities for career exploration, professional skill development, exposure to different industries, leadership development, financial management and more.

Women completing the six-week series have the opportunity to engage in a three-week paid externship for a total of 60 hours that is supported through Work Source Spokane. This program strives to prepare women to enter into the workforce with knowledge of career opportunities, basic business skills, and personal confidence.

The inaugural Essential Skills program began in early October through mid-November. Six women applied and participated in the program which included sessions on exploring leadership strengths, mindfulness exercises, resume and cover letter development, interview and professional skill development, basic financial literacy, Circle of Security Parenting sessions, and much more. We are grateful to our partners across campus from the School of Leadership Studies, Women Lead, the School of Business Administration, the New Venture Lab, Career and Professional Development, and Religious Studies who have developed and delivered content for this series. The series concluded with a visit to Gonzaga's campus. Women engaged in mock interviews, learned more about campus-based job opportunities, and celebrated the successful completion of the program.

"It is both humbling and inspiring to see the participants' transformation during the twelve hours of strength-based skill development and support each week. Gonzaga has been instrumental in bringing this resident requested community project to life," said Jene Ray, ZoNE Associate Director.





Mae Cramer presents her work with the Logan Neighborhood Council at the PICCE Symposium

Logan English Language Program

Gonzaga's partnership between Logan Elementary and its English Language Development (ELD) program directed by Ms. Maria Esther Zamora and the Center for Community Engagement is emerging as a mutually robust and critical connection for both institutions. What started as a small, part-time position to aid Ms. Zamora in the classroom with her large, diverse group of immigrant and refugee students, expanded through partnerships with Gonzaga's English department, the ACT Six Bridge Program, and the School of Education.

During the 2021-22 school year, over 70 Gonzaga students volunteered to serve Logan students; in the classroom, on the playground, and even during after school programing and activities through the Logan Elementary Diversity Club. This increased level of support allowed for additional opportunities for our neighborhood elementary school students in tangible ways.

This year, through this partnership, student performance and growth in literacy and multicultural ethnographic awareness showed solid improvements. Extra help provided and enabled the creation of several literacy projects, among them the Spokane Public Schools BIPOC teachers' profiles and, the creation of the Diversity Club where students ethnographers. Additionally, we have provided support to write grant applications to fund other student programing on Logan's campus.

This partnership is important because it allows us to step away from Gonzaga, and be with underserved students in the classroom who want us to be with them, and for them.

PICCE Student Symposium

Hosted by PICCE (Partners in Campus and Community Engagement), Spokane's regional cooperative of higher education and community partners, this year's Symposium hosted 25 student poster presentations with seven student groups representing Gonzaga. The Symposium event brought together students, their mentors, and community partners to celebrate and share about their collaborative work to build a better Spokane. The event highlighted the impact of community-based learning for both students and Spokane-area partners, and was celebrated by a representative from The City of Spokane.

Food Pantry

The Center for Community Engagement collaborated with the Gonzaga Student Body Association, the Experiential Leadership Institute, Center for Cura Personalis, and several departments within the Division of Student Affairs to develop an on-campus food pantry program for students facing food insecurity. Since the two pantries opened in March 2022, approximately 125 students have accessed the pantries and received/used/acquired 907 items.



Maria Esther Zamora, Jeff Dodd, Karen Petruska, Noah Apprill-Sokol, and Jessica Vigil (Logan Elementary Principal)



Service and Leadership

When Sima Thorpe and Emily Banick (Campus Kitchens Program Manager) realized that they have offered Service and Leadership, a Comprehensive Leadership Program (CLP) Class partnering with the Campus Kitchen for 14 years, they couldn't believe it. "Wild!" "That's crazy!" The time seemed to have flown – even through major life changes each experienced through the years.

In an evolving post-pandemic world, Sima and Emily have managed to take the class back to its roots at the House of Charity (HOC), where it kicks off each evening with serving the Thursday night dinner to up to 300 guests. "It's hugely meaningful to be back to the HOC," Emily said. The students from the class were the first group to come back after two years, according to Dena Carr, the HOC Director. "It's been extremely rewarding to see how excited everyone is to see our students again," Sima said. Emily noted that for the HOC residents "We provide the only hot meal that they get".

Although Sima left GU in November 2015 to take on the Executive Director position at The Arc of Spokane, she couldn't let this class go. "I love working with college students and seeing them discover their own commitment to leadership and civic engagement." Today, many GU students hold work-study, service-learning and leadership positions at The Arc.

Over the years the Campus Kitchen and Service & Leadership students have served nearly 10,000 meals to houseless individuals in downtown Spokane. Hundreds of students who have taken the class pursued post-graduate service opportunities and developed life-long commitment to serving the communities in which they live and work.

"Service and Leadership was the class at Gonzaga that most carried with me into the rest of my life. It is where I was able to figure out my values for approaching life. The class that taught me what it meant to be a leader, build reciprocal relationships, and be of service to the world. I learned so much about myself but also how to show up authentically for others." Andrea Davis '17.

Coffee to Careers

Two School of Business Administration (SBA) juniors, Emma Feeney and Hailey Hallerman, served as interns working with the Coffee2Career coffee kiosk development at the Northeast Community Center (NECC). They completed research over the fall semester, meeting with multiple coffee distributors (Indaba, Thomas Hammer, Pitotti Coffee, and Dutch Brothers). They learned about the different community and nonprofit projects the coffee companies partner with and met with entrepreneurs in the community who started their own projects and talked about potential partnerships with the SBA.

The students worked closely with David Richardson, Executive Director of the NECC to move this project forward. Working with Cole Kelly, Program Coordinator for the Hogan Entrepreneurial Leadership Program in SBA, they focused their research on student and staff involvement in this project. The outcome of this research provided a proposal for a team of Gonzaga Students to run a business analysis on the operational side of the Coffee Kiosk, including potential marketing outlets and ideas that would best connect the Spokane community to the coffee kiosk and its mission.

This project will help the Spokane community by offering participants job experience and connecting them with local Spokane companies with the guarantee of a job offer. Spokane businesses will have the opportunity to partner by selling food products at the coffee kiosk or sponsor the coffee stand for a week to gain awareness. Spokane community members can go to the community center to support the C2C project which in return will increase community engagement.





Empty Bowls

This event is an annual fundraiser supporting the work of the Campus Kitchens program, which provides meals to food insecure individuals and families in the Spokane Community. This was the first Empty Bowls event in person since 2019 and raised over \$2,200 with over 100 volunteers and guests in attendance.



Civic Wolff Fellows

The Civic Wolff Fellowship program places Gonzaga students with local community-based organizations to address community-identified projects or needs, working each week for the duration of the academic year.

The Fellowships are designed around CCE's Arrupe Engagement Pathways: social innovation, philanthropy, community-engaged learning and research, direct service, advocacy and awareness, faith and justice, and policy and politics. The Fellows learn how these different types of public service are both interrelated and necessary to address complex social issues.

This year's Fellows were placed with the following projects: The Way to Justice, The Zone, Spokane FaVS, the Logan Neighborhood organization, Team Child and Priority Spokane.

At Priority Spokane, Thomas Kearns provided branding strategies for the COVID, Stress, Trauma and Education Program. Lani Abrams worked on research and connecting with clients at Team Child. At The Zone, Michelle Rickwa supported communications and the healthy food partnerships. Nathan Remcho had the opportunity to host legal clinics, youth empowerment programs and helped clients obtain their driver's license at The Way to Justice. Mae Cramer is deeply involved with the Logan Neighborhood Council and has helped plan community events including the Logan Block Party and neighborhood clean ups. Aaliyah Lewis wrote many meaningful stories for Spokane Favs.

Winter Wonderland

Winter Wonderland is an on-campus celebration in December for youth from the Campus Kids, Connections, and Sparks mentoring programs and their families.

Parents and caregivers "shopped" for gifts for children in their family at the Winter Wonderland "gift shop" and Gonzaga staff and students served as volunteer wrappers. While parents and caregivers selected gifts, youth were able to play games with mentors, engage in arts and crafts, and enjoy hot chocolate and freshly baked cookies from the Campus Kitchens.

All Winter Wonderland gifts were donated by the greater Gonzaga University community.



Justice in January

After one year off due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CCE's Justice in January program returned in the 2021-22 academic year. Seven students, two student leaders, and two faculty advisors traveled to Tucson, Arizona and Nogales, Mexico to explore the realities of immigration and border issues along U.S./Mexico border. Participants attended a museum, witnessed migrants processed (virtually) through Operation Streamline, met with a medical examiner, an immigration attorney, and visited the Tohono O'odham Nation while in Tucson. Students also accompanied and learned from migrants at the Kino Border Initiative while in Nogales.



Gonzaga Day of Service

In March Gonzaga University hosted a Day of Service that connected the Gonzaga community to community partners throughout Northeast Spokane. 60 volunteers including students, staff and faculty, volunteered at five non-profit organizations.

Volunteers cleaned and decorated the Gonzaga Family Haven, sorted, organized, and labeled home goods at Global Neighborhood Thrift, painted and cleaned the Family Promise youth facility, canvassed neighborhoods for If You Could Save Just One, and beautified the grounds of Mission Community Outreach.

"Not only did we get to help our local neighborhood, but we were able to bond and become a closer team because of it! Thank you for providing us this super fun opportunity!"

Keely Kempt

Gonzaga Women's Soccer Club President



Students raise a wall at the Sisters Oregon Habitat for Humanity build site

Spring Immersions

11 students and three advisors participated in CCE's Spring Service Immersions. Students built a framing project for a new building duplex and two ADA ramp builds for Habitat for Humanity in Sisters Oregon, and farmed with the L'Arche community in Tacoma Washington, learning about disability justice for individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities.



Students volunteer at Global Neighborhood Thrift



Students plant vegetables on the L'Arche farm in Tacoma WA



Local News interviews a student for the Gonzaga Day of Service

"If you can't make an impact where you want, make it where you can...treasure your moments. Big, small and forever."

Claire Le Poullouin '15
Social Justice Missioning speech '22



Krista Colleagues Service Leadership Grant

This academic year, Gonzaga launched the Krista Colleagues Service Leadership Grant at Gonzaga University. Five students who will be serving with an existing postgraduate service agency were selected to receive a \$1000 Service Leadership Grant and ongoing learning opportunities. Through the generosity and partnership of Jim and Linda Hunt with the Krista Foundation for Global Citizenship, this program allows students to deepen their service experience by applying the grant towards a professional development opportunity of their choosing.

Selected students are part of a supportive cohort of peers made up of recent graduates from both Gonzaga and Whitworth University. They participate in pre- and post-service retreats to help prepare for and debrief their service experiences, facilitated in collaboration by staff from Gonzaga's CCE and School of Leadership Studies, along with Whitworth faculty.

The program aims to create a community of support that will inspire a lifetime of positive engagement and service in each recipient.

This year's Krista Colleagues from Gonzaga are Anasofia Gutierrez (Seattle Prep Alumni Service Corps), Blain Atkins (Jesuit Volunteer Corps), Claire Farias (Alliance for Catholic Education), Renne Richards (AmeriCorps), and Sophie Elliott (Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest).

Social Justice Missioning Ceremony

As part of Gonzaga's annual Commencement events, the Office of Mission and Ministry and the Center for Community Engagement hosted the Social Justice Missioning Ceremony on Friday, May 6th in the University Chapel. This special event honored 17 students from the Class of 2022 who have chosen to engage in at least one year of post-graduate service. These students will travel across the county serving in a variety of areas including education, houselessness, sustainability, incarceration, and more. As a University community, we celebrated the commitment that these students have made to live out our Jesuit mission and become people with and for others. Claire Le Poullouin offered the Alumni Keynote Speech, sharing stories from her three years of service in the Kingdom of Tonga through Peace Corps. She offered "five steps to setting the world on fire" as well as photos from her experience.



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

Miranda Abunimeh
Blaine Atkins
Skye Clark
Sophie Elliott
Claire Farias
Mackenzie Gass
Olivia Grob
Anasofia Gutierrez
Grace Henry

Lucas Hoffman
Annabel Hueskes
Kurt Husler
Sharon Jang
Maureen Parks
Jocelyn Van der Put
Hannah Van Hollebeke
Caleb Yoder

Awards and Recognition

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 Center for Community Engagement is proud of the contributions these individuals have made to our campus and our communities.

**Sophie Elliott (L)
Charlotte Low (R)**

Presidents
Student Civic
Leadership Award



Sophie Elliott (L)
Sr. Virginia Claire-Carvey Volunteer
of the Year Award

Kehau Gilliland (R)
Fr. Leo Robinson Volunteer of the
Year Award



**Karen Petruska (L)
Jeff Dodd (R)**

Community Engaged
Learning Faculty
Member of the Year



**Maria
Zamora**
Community
Engaged
Learning
Community
Partner of the
Year



**Noah
Apprill-Sokol**
Community
Engaged
Learning
Student of the
Year



Post Grad Highlight

April Lopez, '19, reflects on her journey as an AmeriCorps member, and how it brought her to Syracuse University, to pursue a Masters in Food Studies.



When I started my first term of Washington Service Corps, as the Campus Kitchens AmeriCorps, I was unaware of how breaking bread cultivates connection. I understood my role and our work to ease the burden of food insecurity, but I had overlooked our meals' significance in nurturing a community, especially during a time of crisis. When schools had to shut down, I longed for moments of excited chatter and clacking silverware.

For two months of my first term, my work went from re-purposing donated food into meals for residents throughout Northeast Spokane and transformed into local and regional food distributions for Spokane and the greater Inland Northwest. It was amazing to distribute food at such a large scale and see the intricacies of emergency food systems. Through rain, snow, or sunshine, hundreds of families would attend these distributions, with exhausted eyes and soft smiles, we shared hardship, relief, and hope.

I loved it, every bruise from a pallet, sore muscles from carrying fifty pounds of food, early morning drives to Central and Eastern Washington sites, and the silent curses of difficult days. Because even through the tough times, I had such supportive people around me that taught me so many diverse levels of love and care.

After a year of distributions and to-go meals, we were finally able to convene on the playground and have a picnic-style Logan Family Dinner. It was nerve-racking, trying to become reacquainted with the proximity, but it was incredibly rewarding to see the families I had missed. Many individuals, once again, laughed loudly, catching up, and eating.

At the close of my second term, I was reminded of the power of food through reunion. It has been a long time coming, with difficulties, and so much growth. Without these last two service terms, I would have lost an amazing opportunity in understanding the meaning of community and the profound weight a meal carries in nourishing it.

Now, a year into my master's in food studies, I continue to be committed to expanding food access and reducing food insecurity by better understanding the structural vulnerabilities that perpetuate it. I hope that I will once again return to working with communities and utilize food as a medium to feed not only bodies, but also connections.

During Aprils' time as an AmeriCorps she tracked food insecure students which informed the creation of the GU food Pantry. She is continuing her work with Gonzaga as part of her thesis for her masters at Syracuse University.



We would like to extend our gratitude to all the students, 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 moves us closer to our vision of creating a more just and equitable world.

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/supportCCE



Center for
Community Engagement

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