

Director's Corner – Welcome Fall 2020!

Congratulations to the [Dual Degree Program](#) (DDP) participants who graduated with their associate degrees this past spring, and are making the transition to [Governors State University](#). While you are no longer required to check-in with your DDP Transfer Specialist at your community college, the Dual Degree Program continues to be a resource for you while you are completing the second of your dual degrees. Our team of [DDP Student Transition Assistants](#), are available remotely, as well as for limited hours on campus in room A2122. We are here to answer your questions, point you in the right direction, or simply be there to listen on a hard day. Your first semester at the university may be overwhelming, but there is no need to face it alone!

Throughout the fall semester, the Dual Degree Program will also be hosting opportunities to connect with fellow DDP students by engaging in professional development and/or volunteer activities. Check out this issue of the DDP E-Newsletter to learn more about this year's virtual DDP Welcome Back Social and annual Scholarship Symposium. Do not forget about the monthly DDP Community Service activities! We will continue to serve our neighboring communities in need while maintaining safe social distances and practicing recommended guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I wish you a safe and successful fall semester, DDP. Keep an eye on your email account for announcements and further details regarding all the opportunities to stay connected while we continue to overcome the pandemic.

Best,

Jessica Specht, Director of DDP

IN THIS EDITION:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION & UPDATES PAGE 2 – 3

- ✦ Connecting with DDP during COVID-19
- ✦ Spring 2021 DDP Scholarship Deadline
- ✦ Important FAFSA & Application Deadlines
- ✦ Student Transition Assistant Office Hours

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS – KEISHA SMITH (KCC) PAGE 4

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS PAGE 4 – 5

- ✦ Summer 2020 Virtual DDP Induction
- ✦ Congrats, Grads! Associate Degree Awardees

SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING FALL EVENTS PAGE 6

- ✦ Welcome Back Social
- ✦ "Get Money" Scholarship Symposium
- ✦ September Community Service
- ✦ Fall Virtual Induction

DDP's Shining Star

Name: Yakhori Smith

Community College: Prairie State College

Major: Social Work

In what way has the Dual Degree Program influenced your success?

The Dual Degree Program has influenced my success by helping me to stand out by offering me the opportunity to earn two degrees simultaneously, shortening the time to graduation, and offering a personal advisor that has helped navigate me through some of the most challenging aspects of transitioning from a two-year college to a university.

What are your future plans at GSU?

My future plans at GSU is to obtain my Masters of Social Work and become a Clinical Social Worker. I want to be a clinical Social Worker because I have always had a passion for helping the elderly and the disadvantaged.

What are you most excited about in regards to transferring to GSU?

I am most excited about attending GSU to learn more about Social Work and join their honors society, Phi Theta Kappa.

What tip(s) would you offer students for success?

One important tip I would offer new students for success is to join the DDP program because of the numerous benefits that they offer. In addition, the Dual Degree Program is here to help and guide you throughout the school year.



Important Information & Updates

Connecting during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Still at the community college? Do not forget to check in with your DDP Transfer Specialist! Although we are working remotely, we are still here for you and ready to assist in every way we can. Check out your Transfer Specialist's open ZOOM Room hours and links, and pop in to say hello!

Juan Gonzalez:

Joliet Junior College – Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Moraine Valley Community College – Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Morton/Triton/Waubensee/COD/Harper Colleges – Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

[Click Here to Enter Juan's Zoom Sessions](#)

Alexandro Venegas:

Daley College – Mondays, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Harold Washington College – Mondays, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Kennedy King College – Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Malcolm X College – Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Olive Harvey College – Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Truman & Wilbur Wright Colleges – Thursdays, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

[Click Here to Enter Alexandro's Zoom Sessions](#)

Sharita Walker:

Kankakee Community College – Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Prairie State College – Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. & Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

South Suburban College – Mondays, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

[Click Here to Enter Sharita's Zoom Sessions](#)

2021-2022 FAFSA – Opens October 1st

DDP students, remember that you will be able to file your [2021-22 FAFSA](#) as early as October 1, 2020! Students are encouraged to apply early to maximize financial aid opportunities including the Illinois MAP grant. What's required?

- ✦ FSA ID to sign electronically
- ✦ Your Social Security Number
- ✦ Your Alien Registration Number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- ✦ Your 2018 federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned. (Note: You should be able to transfer your federal tax return information into your FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool)
- ✦ Bank statements and records of untaxed income (if applicable)

GSU's Office of Financial Aid is hosting multiple FAFSA Completion Workshops throughout the semester. **See the list of tips and workshop dates at www.govst.edu/fafsa.** Take advantage of the direct assistance and receive all that you are eligible for! For further assistance, students can also contact GSU Financial Aid at 708-534-4480.



Don't forget to "Like" and follow the DDP's Facebook page to view our event photo albums and be notified of future events

Important Information & Updates

Spring 2021 DDP Scholarship Applications due Friday, October 2nd

DDP students, would you like to attend GSU for FREE? If you are transferring to GSU in spring 2021, make sure to apply for the [GSU Promise Scholarship](#), [DDP Honors Scholarship](#), and/or the [DDP Chicago STAR Scholars Scholarships](#). These scholarships are only available to DDP students. Students who qualify for both are encouraged to apply for both, although students may only be awarded one out of those eligible.

- ✦ The **GSU Promise Scholarship** is a competitive scholarship for DDP students who receive the Federal Pell Grant and have at least a 2.75 GPA. It covers full tuition and fees and a book stipend for up to four semesters at GSU (excluding summers). *Illinois undocumented students are also encouraged to apply for the GSU Promise Scholarship for the chance to earn a \$600 book stipend for up to four semesters at GSU!*
- ✦ The **DDP Honors Scholarship** is a competitive scholarship for DDP students who are current members of their community college Honors Program or chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and have at least a 3.5 GPA. It covers full tuition and fees at GSU for up to four semesters (excluding summers). *Illinois undocumented students are also encouraged to apply for the full award.*
- ✦ DDP students at the City Colleges of Chicago may also be eligible for the **DDP Chicago STAR Scholars Scholarship**. It is open to DDP students who are enrolled in the Chicago STAR Scholars program, are active members of CCC's Honors Program or chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, and have a 3.25 GPA or above. There are two (2) scholarship categories; see the DDP Chicago STAR Scholar app for more details! *Illinois undocumented students are also encouraged to apply for the full award.*

Applications, recommendation forms, and FAQs can be found on the [GSU Scholarship](#) site. Application materials are due on **Friday, October 2, 2020!**

GSU Application Deadlines For Special Programs Are Fast Approaching!

DDP students, if you are planning to transfer to GSU in Spring 2020, semester please be aware that some programs have application deadlines that are quickly approaching. Below is a list of undergraduate programs that have an application deadline in the upcoming months. Please remember, you are strongly encouraged to submit all application materials/materials for admission as soon as possible to avoid any last-minute delays. Please contact your DDP Transfer Specialist for assistance in ensuring that you have all materials submitted before the deadline.

- ✦ **Health Administration:** October 1
- ✦ **Nursing (RN to BSN):** November 1
- ✦ **Community Health:** November 30
- ✦ **Social Work:** December 4

Student Transition Assistants (STAs) Fall 2020 Office Hours

DDP Student Transition Assistants are DDP students and graduates of the program who have been trained and are familiar with the various offices and services at GSU. They have the resources and information to help make your transition to GSU as smooth and comfortable as possible! STAs also serve as a thoughtful guide for DDP students who are new to Governors State University, and a reliable and energetic role model and advocate for student success. Stop by their office in **A2122**, or give them a call at **(708) 235-7173**.

Fall 2020 Student Transition Assistants & Alma Mater:

Ruby Garcia – **Moraine Valley Community College**

Morgan Langer – **Kankakee Community College**

Bennett Talaber – **Joliet Junior College**

Due to COVID-19, the STA's office hours are limited:

On-Campus Office Hours:
Every Thursday, 10am-1pm

Zoom Office Hours:
Mondays 3-4pm ([Click to Request Link](#))
Tuesdays 2-3pm ([Click to Request Link](#))
Wednesdays 1-2pm ([Click to Request Link](#))

Campus Connections

Here we will feature one of our fabulous DDP Liaisons from our 17 partnering community colleges, so that you know who is a master at DDP when we are not around! It is also a way for DDP students to see the many different paths that can lead to a rewarding career in higher education.



Keisha Smith, Assistant Director, TRiO Support @ Kankakee Community College

What colleges and/or universities did you attend as a student, and for what degrees?

I earned a Bachelor of Science in Community Health from Northern Illinois University and a Master of Management/H.R. Management from the University of Phoenix.

What is your most memorable moment of college?

I have many memorable moments, but one of them is when I picked up my cap and gown a few days before commencement. I immediately went back to my dorm room and tried it on. I was so proud of myself and excited for my future.

What is something (personal belonging, food, etc.) you couldn't live without in college?

My supportive group of friends. I don't think I could have handled the stress of college without having positive people around me to provide encouragement, support and laughs.

If you could do it all over again, what would you do differently?

I would manage my time better. I had many sleepless nights due to waiting until the last minute to do homework and study. I made my college experience more stressful than it needed to be because I didn't make the most of my time.

Your most valuable "words of wisdom" for transfer students:

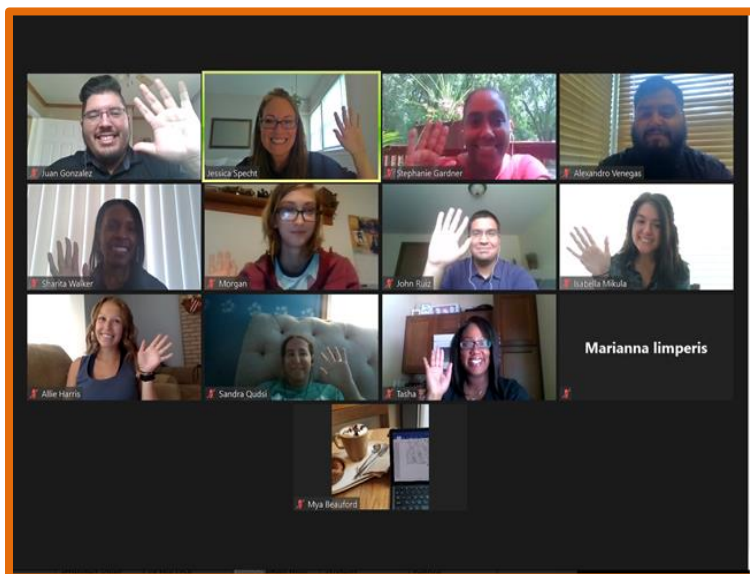
Use the resources available on your campus! There are career centers that offer career information and assistance finding internships and jobs. There are counseling centers for mental health counseling and tutoring services to help you improve your grades. You don't have to figure everything out on your own. Ask for help!

Event Highlights

Summer 2020 Virtual DDP Induction Ceremony

On July 9, 2020, 10 DDP students starting at GSU this fall semester, who had not previously attended a DDP Inducted, participated in our very first virtual DDP Induction event. Students learned about how DDP will continue to support them after they transfer! They also had the opportunity to meet GSU's Associate Provosts, Deans and staff. DDP students pledged to "continuously encourage high standards of scholarship, excellence, leadership, and character" while completing their DUAL degrees. Here is a list of those inducted:

- Mya Beauford** – Harold Washington College
- Allissa Harris** – Joliet Junior College
- Stephanie Gardner** – Kankakee Community College
- Sandra Qudsi** – Moraine Valley Community College
- Marianna Limperis** – Moraine Valley Community College
- John Ruiz** – Prairie State College
- Tasha Riley** – South Suburban College
- Isabella Mikula** – Waubensee Community College



Event Highlights (Continued)

CONGRATS CLASS OF 2020!!!

This year, amongst our 17 partnering community colleges, we had a total of 92 students graduate from their community college with their associate degrees. Whether you have decided to transfer to Governors State or another institution, we are so very proud of you for completing the degree! Generally we would have a cording ceremony to honor the students who completed the associates and transferred to GSU, however because we are not able to do so at this time, we would like to still show the recognition! Here is a list of each of our graduates:

Farah Adi (MVCC)
Jva Allen (PSC)
Saja Alrub (MVCC)
Gabrielle Androzzo (PSC)
Abigail Barber (PSC)
Stephanie Bartos (JJC)
Mya Beauford (CCC-HW)
Victor Beckefeld (JJC)
Heaven Bellock (SSC)
Ta'lor Bonds (CCC-OH)
Leah Brooks (PSC)
Ricarda Brown (MVCC)
Trevion Brown (PSC)
Inala Bruce-Rose (PSC)
Douglas Burrage (PSC)
Patricia Carter (PSC)
Brandi Castillo (KCC)
Shonda Clancy (PSC)
Michaiah Clark (KCC)
Alexis Clark (SSC)
Dominique Clayton (SSC)
Tiffany Copperidge (PSC)
Kayla Cox (KCC)
Elda Cruz (PSC)
Hannah Davis (KCC)
Cristina De Luna Perez (PSC)
Victoria Dean (PSC)
Jack Domanski (JJC)
Alden Doolittle (CCC-HW)
Genesis Dunord (CCC-TR)
Alan Fernandez (MVCC)
Samantha Fierstein (KCC)
Tomitra Fluker (PSC)
Josafat Galindo (CCC-MX)



Giovanny Garcia (KCC)
Stephanie Gardner (KCC)
Amalia Gomez (MVCC)
Eunice Gomez (MVCC)
Keion Goree (PSC)
Antonia Guajardo (KCC)
Allissa Harris (JJC)
Laila Jaber (MVCC)
Cassie Jackson (CCC-OH)
Tiffany Johnson (CCC-OH)
Cassaries Johnson (PSC)
Kayla Johnson (PSC)
Michael Johnson II (PSC)
Jalen Jones (CCC-OH)
Rishel Jose (MVCC)
Grace Gloria Kapichi (PSC)
Alana Koster (SSC)
James Langer (KCC)
Marianna Limperis (MVCC)
Ruben Lopez (PSC)

Lonzo Lynn (SSC)
Koria Manning (KCC)
Iliana Manrique (CCC-DA)
Amy Marcos-Payan (Triton)
Jade Martin (MVCC)
Shauntavia Meeks-Gill (SSC)
Isabella Mikula (WCC)
Jenai Milner (CCC-HW)
Amanda Ochoa (SSC)
Abel Oliva (SSC)
Chelsey Pizano (KCC)
Heaven Powell (PSC)
Sandra Qudsi (MVCC)
Jonathan Qunell (PSC)
Marwa Ramadan (MVCC)
Matias Reyes (MVCC)
Lauren Richards (CCC-KK)
Tasha Riley (SSC)
John Ruiz (PSC)
Shannon Ryan (PSC)

Ralph Sansone (KCC)
Hope Schamberger (WCC)
Heidi Schmidt (KCC)
D'Asia Seals (PSC)
Mohammad Shehadeh (MVCC)
Katrina Slayden (PSC)
Matthew Smith (PSC)
Lila Smith (PSC)
Brittany Stover (JJC)
Laura Szymczyk (MVCC)
Hanna Teneyuca (KCC)
Christopher Tinoco (JJC)
Abriah Todd (CCC-HW)
Jermaine Tyler (SSC)
John Weidner (MVCC)
Huda Yasin (MVCC)
Donalynn Young (SSC)
Catherine Zamolewicz (MVCC)

Save the Dates! Fall 2020 Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 2nd – DDP Welcome Back Social (5:00 – 6:00 p.m.)

Meet fellow DDP folks from across all DDP partnership campuses! We will be chatting about summer adventures, discussing the upcoming fall semester, and playing games to win NEW DDP SWAG! All DDP student from all campuses are invited. Drop in for 5 minutes, or the whole hour; open house event.

- [Join Zoom Meeting](#), or dial in: 312-626-6799 (or find your local number)
- Meeting ID: 829 2010 6785

Monday, September 14th – 18th DDP Virtual ‘Get Money’ Scholarship Symposium

The Dual Degree Program will have its eighth annual Dual Degree Program “Get Money: Scholarship Symposium” on September 14th through the 18th. Due to the current global pandemic, the symposium will be held virtually. Therefore, we will be having various virtual live Zoom Session presentations, recordings, and additional materials help you graduate with as little academic debt as possible. Our Scholarship Symposium topics will include:

- Scholarship, Loans & Grants – *Oh, my!*
- GSU Foundation Scholarships
- Mastering the Scholarship Application Process
- Scholarships for Global Learning (Study Abroad)
- Paying for Graduate School: Fellowships & Internships
- Why Me? Writing Essays & Personal Statements

We hope everyone gets a chance to come to all of our Dual Degree Program Scholarship Symposium sessions. This is a perfect opportunity for students to obtain the tools they need to be successful in their pursuits of various forms of financial aid through scholarships. Keep an eye out in future emails for more information!

Tuesday, September 29th – DDP Community Service Event (10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

Join us for our first community service event of the 2020-2021 academic year! This month’s service will take place at Center of Hope Food Pantry, (395 N Schuyler, Kankakee, IL.) Center of Hope needs help gathering and packaging items that will then be distributed to community members. In order to maintain a safe social distance in the working space, there is a 10 participant limit for this event. [Space is limited, so register now!](#)

Thursday, October 1st – FAFSA available for 2021-2022

Don’t delay! Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible (ideally by Nov 1st) to receive the most amount of federal and state aid you are eligible for.

Friday, October 2nd – DDP Scholarship deadline for those transferring to GSU in Spring 2021

See the [GSU Scholarship](#) site for details about the GSU Promise, DDP Honors, and DDP Chicago STAR Scholar scholarship awards.

Thursday, November 5th – Fall Virtual DDP Induction (4:00 – 6:00 p.m.)

For DDP students who are still pursuing an associate degree at their local community college, and have not yet attended a DDP Induction. Students are required to attend a DDP Induction event prior to transferring to GSU. Invitations will be emailed in early October. DDP Liaisons are welcome!

See future emails for specific times and details, or [contact DDP](#) for more info on any of the events above!

Thank you, and have a safe and successful fall semester!

