

## DDP Director's Corner

Dear Dual Degree Program Students, Alumni, and Supporters!

As the new year begins, we have several updates to share with you, however, there is one in particular that I would like to emphasize. Each fall and spring semester, DDP students who are preparing to transfer to GSU have the opportunity to apply for two DDP scholarships that cover full tuition and fees at GSU. The GSU Promise Scholarship and the DDP Honors Scholarship are only available to DDP students and I highly encourage all DDP students planning to transfer to GSU in the upcoming Fall, 2017 semester to apply!

At the foundation of the Dual Degree Program is the concept of helping students "Save Money, Save Time, and Earn Two Degrees." DDP students, this is your opportunity to take full advantage of the chance to save money along your pathway to degree completion! Whether you are a DDP student, alumni, or supporter, feel free to read more about our DDP scholarships on page 2 of this newsletter. If you ever have any questions or comments regarding DDP, always feel free to contact me at [dualdegree@govst.edu](mailto:dualdegree@govst.edu) or 708.534.4494.

Best Regards,  
Tiesha Walker

## GSU Welcomes New Male Success Initiative Coordinator



Governors State University recently announced the hiring of Sean Smith as the new Male Success Initiative (MSI) Coordinator. GSU is proud to have been recently awarded a \$450K grant from the Kresge Foundation to support the Dual Degree Program-Male Success Initiative and the national dissemination of the DDP model. The MSI includes proven strategies for leading men of color on a

clear pathway from high school to community college to achieving a university bachelor's degree. As a result of the grant, joint MSI initiatives will continue in collaboration with Prairie State College, and will expand to several of our other community college partner campuses.

Sean most recently worked at GSU as a Cohort Advisor and Coordinator of New Student Programs. He boasts 11 years of experience from Prairie State College (PSC) as an Academic Advisor in addition to being the previous Advisor for PSC's student organization, Protégé. When asked about the upcoming opportunity, Sean stated that he is excited to work with "a program that will result in higher levels of success for males of color at these institutions, and being able to present our findings and successes to colleagues around the area and the country."

## DDP's Shining Star

**Name:** Anfernee Gray

**Community College:** Prairie State College

**Major:** Secondary Education

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

The DDP has influenced my success by providing me with the tools and resources to succeed, regardless of the obstacles that may occur.

**What are your future plans at GSU?**

After I enroll at GSU I plan to receive my BA and stay and receive my MA as well. I hope to one day become a Spanish teacher.

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

I'm most excited about transferring to GSU so that I can now have the experience of a 4-year institution and challenge myself.

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

My advice would be to never give up. Seek out resources that can give you the smoothest transition throughout your educational journey.



## University Response to Immigration Executive Order

GSU President Dr. Elaine P. Maimon recently issued a University Response to the recent Immigration Executive Order. In the response, President Maimon stated, "I am writing to assure all GSU international students, faculty, and staff—both now and in the future—that we value their presence and their contributions to our campus community. We will continue to be a welcoming campus, championing openness, diversity, respect, innovation, and academic freedom."

Furthermore, President Maimon indicated that, "We are working with colleagues on campus and across the nation and with national higher education advocacy organizations. . . In fact, along with hundreds of other university presidents, I have signed two letters addressed to John F. Kelly, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, affirming the importance of international students and the need to ensure that the United States remains the destination of choice for the world's best and brightest students, faculty, and scholars. We are also engaging with members of the Illinois congressional delegation to share specific concerns."

"Governors State University will continue to be guided by the American ideal that universities are places where differences and the respect for differences make us stronger," President Maimon wrote. Members of our international community are encouraged to contact GSU's Office of International Services for additional support and available resources at 708.235.7611, [ois@govst.edu](mailto:ois@govst.edu), [www.govst.edu/ois](http://www.govst.edu/ois).

## Important Events and Updates

### Fall 2017 DDP Scholarship Applications due February 17<sup>th</sup>

DDP students, would you like to attend GSU for FREE? If you are transferring to GSU in Fall, 2017, make sure to apply for the [GSU Promise Scholarship](#) and/or the [DDP Honors Scholarship](#). These scholarships are only available to DDP students, so you have less competition than with other scholarships. Students who qualify for both are encouraged to apply for both, although students may only be awarded one or the other.

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). 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). Applications, recommendation forms, and frequently asked questions can be found on the [GSU Office of Financial Aid](#) site. Application materials are due on Friday, February 17, 2017.

### DDP Get Jobs: Career Symposium

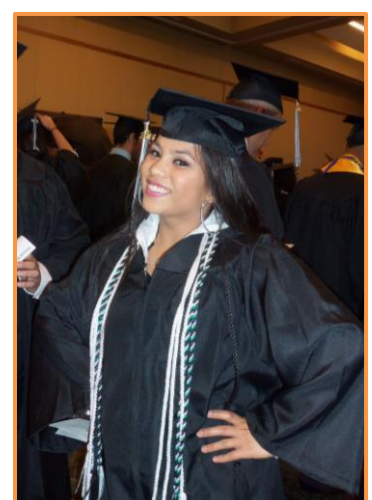
On Friday, March 3, 2017, the Dual Degree Program will host its fourth annual 'Get Jobs: Career Symposium' from 1:00pm to 6:00pm on the Governors State University campus. During the symposium, students will be provided with helpful resources to aid in being successful in their pursuits of a new job, internship, etc. Each session will cover a different topic related to getting jobs and dinner will be provided. Workshops will be offered in two tracks: one track for first-time attendees, and one track featuring new workshops for students who have attended this symposium before. All students are asked to dress as they would for an interview. Don't miss out on this great opportunity! Be sure to check your email for the sign-up link.

### DDP Induction

Mark your calendar for DDP Induction on Friday, April 14, 2017! DDP Induction is for any newly enrolled DDP student who was unable to attend DDP Induction last semester. During DDP Induction, students will have the opportunity to meet the GSU President, GSU Provost, faculty, staff, and current DDP students who attend GSU. Attendees will receive additional information about the many benefits of being in the Dual Degree Program, have the opportunity to take a tour of GSU, interact with other students on their path to academic success, and will be officially inducted into the program! Email invitations will be coming soon.

### DDP Graduation Celebration & Cording Ceremony

On Friday, May 12, 2017, the Dual Degree Program will congratulate and celebrate 2016-2017 GSU-DDP graduates! Each DDP graduate will receive an honor cord to wear over their robe during GSU's Commencement ceremony. Invitations will be sent soon. Also, if you graduate in Spring or Summer 2017, remember that you should have already submitted your application to graduate and participate in the GSU Commencement ceremony that will take place on May 20, 2017. Contact your GSU academic advisor immediately if you missed the deadline.



## Important Events and Updates (continued)

### DDP Student Transition Assistant Spring, 2017 Office Hours

The DDP Student Transition Assistants (STAs) are located at GSU in room A2124. Their office hours for Spring, 2017 are as follows:

**Mondays:** 10:00 am – 12:00pm, 12:30pm – 2:30pm

**Tuesdays:** 9:00am – 12:00pm

**Thursdays:** 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Fridays:** 10:30am – 1:30pm

Our trained team of DDP Student Transition Assistants can provide:

- ✦ Assistance with transition issues and concerns
- ✦ Database of academic advisors and other useful contacts
- ✦ Lists of academic, financial, and personal support resources
- ✦ Information on upcoming campus events, programs, and workshops
- ✦ Contact and meeting information for GSU clubs and extracurricular activities
- ✦ They also ALWAYS have FREE snacks...AND MUCH MORE!

### DDP Student Transition Assistant (STA) Staff:

Melinda Arce-Gudino- PSC graduate

Megan Boots- JJC graduate

Gina D'Angelo- MVCC graduate

Antoine Hawkins- PSC graduate

Chris Jackson- MVCC graduate

Danielle Terry- PSC graduate



For more information or to make an appointment contact [dualdegree@govst.edu](mailto:dualdegree@govst.edu) or call 708.235.7173.

### DDP Community Service Project for February, 2017

"The Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital offers primary, extended, and specialty care; and serves as a tertiary care referral center. Specialized clinical programs include Blind Rehabilitation, Spinal Cord Injury, Neurosurgery, Radiation Therapy and Cardiovascular Surgery." Additionally, recreation therapy opportunities are provided.

Each month DDP coordinates a community service activity...and we want as many DDP students as possible to join in! Thank you to all of our volunteers who participated in the February, 2017 community service activity. It was a great success! If you did not have the chance to participate, there will be monthly DDP service opportunities available during the remainder of the Spring, 2017 semester.

As a recap, here were the details for February's activity:

**When:** Saturday, February 4, 2017 @ 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**Where:** Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital (5000 South 5th Avenue; Hines, IL 60141). Volunteer activities took place in the Community Living Center.

**Who:** All DDP students were invited to volunteer!!! Coordinated by DDP Student Transition Assistant (Chris).

**What:** DDP volunteers assisted with social recreation with patients (such as playing board games)

**Why:** Social recreation activities can be therapeutic and uplifting. The Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital provides regular recreation and entertainment activities for patients due to the many health benefits it can provide.

Other details:

- ✦ This was not a mandatory DDP activity, but it was great to see so many DDP students there!
- ✦ If you have any questions about this service activity, contact Chris at [cjackson15@student.govst.edu](mailto:cjackson15@student.govst.edu)

DDP volunteers from GSU: remember that you can request to have your DDP service hours tracked/approved for a co-curricular transcript via GSU's [Jaguar Connection](#).

Do you have a suggestion for an upcoming DDP community service activity? If so, please feel free to email us at [dualdegree@govst.edu](mailto:dualdegree@govst.edu)

## Important Events and Updates (continued)

### Spring, 2017 Community College Graduation Petition Deadlines

CCC: See Advisor	KCC: May 3	SSC: February 1
COD: March 15	Morton: April 1	Triton: February 6
HC: One week after Midterms	MVCC: February 1	WCC: May 16
JC: March 24	PSC: March 1	

To read more about your college's graduation and Commencement procedures, click on the school's logo below.



### FAFSA Reminder

Why is it so important to complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1? It gives you full opportunity to be eligible for as much financial aid as possible. PLUS the State of Illinois awards state funds on a first come, first served basis so early FAFSA completion puts you in a position to be considered. Oftentimes students will delay FAFSA completion due to not having the full details and understanding of the FAFSA process. Be sure to take the time to make yourself knowledgeable about various FAFSA [myths](#)! And remember that you should complete your FAFSA as soon as possible.

Many community colleges and universities also offer FAFSA Completion Workshops to help students and families complete the application. Check with your school for a listing of their upcoming workshops, and visit the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) [website](#) for a listing of all state-wide workshops. Remember, GSU's school code is: 009145.

### DDP Transfer Specialist Hours

Do you need to see your DDP Transfer Specialist? Below are the days/hours that your DDP Transfer Specialist will be at each campus location:

Transfer Specialist	Location	Days and Hours
Kyrie-Eleison Kirkland	KCC, Student Services D231	8:30am-3:00pm on Wednesdays: 1/25, 2/22, 3/13 (Monday), 3/15, 4/19 8:30am-3:00pm on Thursdays: 2/9, 4/6, 5/4
	PSC, Room 1184	8:30am – 6:00pm on Tuesdays 8:30am – 3:00pm on Wednsdays (except 1/25, 2/22, 3/15, 4/19)
	SSC, Transfer Center	8:30am – 6:00pm on Mondays 8:30am – 3:00pm on Thursdays (except 2/9, 4/6, 5/4)
Jessica Specht	JJC, Counseling/Advising Office	9:00am – 4:00pm on 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month 9:00am – 6:00pm on Thursdays
	MVCC, Transfer Center S201G	9:00am – 4:00Pm on 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3rd Mondays of the month 9:00am – 6:00pm on Tuesday
	COD, Harper, Morton, Triton, WCC	Virtual advising with occassional site visits
Jason Vignone	Varies amongst CCC Campus	8:45am – 5:00pm on Mondays @ Richard J. Daley College in 1111a12 8:45am – 5:00pm on Tuesdays @ Kennedy-King College in the Admissions Office 8:30am – 5:00pm on Wednesdays @ Olive-Harvey College in the Transfer Center Alternating Thursdays: Truman, Harold Washington, Wilbur Wright, and Malcolm X

**DDP Photo Review****DDP Monthly Community Service****December, 2016**

On December 10, 2016, DDP volunteers assisted at Bloom Township Center in Chicago Heights, IL. Volunteers assisted with final preparations of holiday baskets and helped to distribute and assist with loading holiday baskets for transport. Volunteers helped package 278 food bags for 889 individuals in the community. The event was coordinated by DDP Student Transition Assistants Megan Boots and Antoine Hawkins.

**Dual Degree Program Welcome Back Social**

On January 24, 2017, DDP students and staff gathered for fun, games and laughter at the GSU Game Lounge for the Spring, 2017 Welcome Back Social! Congratulations to all of our raffle winners.

