

# Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management



Joined by President Maimon and Jax the Jaguar, 68 student athletes representing 7 varsity teams and 1 junior varsity team began competition in GSU's inaugural season as members of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and the Association of Independent Institutions, gaining acceptance into the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference beginning in the 2016 – 17 sports season.

## Annual Report

2015 – 16

# INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to our 2015 – 16 annual report. 2015 – 16 was a year defined by full implementation of years of planning for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. Our first freshmen became sophomores, resulting in the first year that GSU enrolled students in all four years of undergraduate studies: freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. In its second year as a comprehensive institution, GSU enrolled 5,938 students, its highest level since 2000, welcomed 233 freshmen in its second freshmen class, retained 143 sophomores (59.1%) and reached capacity in Prairie Place with 278 resident students — 45% freshmen, 24% sophomores, and 31% transfer and graduate students.

Despite a state-wide budget impasse that significantly affected operations of the twelve public institutions of higher education in Illinois, the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management had lots to be proud of in 2015 – 16. Among our points of pride, 155 students participated in our portfolio of structured leadership initiatives, Student Life launched Jaguar Connection, an online campus-wide student engagement platform, Career Services unveiled a Student Employee Professional Development Certificate program, and, of course, the GSU Jaguars joined competition in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Beyond the highlights above, this report provides information about the breadth of programs and services sponsored by our team of dedicated and talented student affairs educators and enrollment management professionals. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments about this report, or if you are interested in partnering with Student Affairs in creating or expanding programs and services for the Governors State University community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aurélio M. Valente".

Dr. Aurélio Manuel Valente  
Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

# MISSION, VISION, AND OUTCOMES

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## Student Affairs and Enrollment Management I Mission Statement

The mission of the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management is to provide a seamless and supportive pathway from prospective student to alumni focused on personal and academic success and ensure that students are career ready and positioned to be leaders and active citizens in the community.

## Student Affairs and Enrollment Management I Vision Statement

At a transformative time for Governors State University, the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management will be recognized as a vital contributor in creating an inclusive, supportive, and engaged campus community focused on student success.

## Student Affairs and Enrollment Management I Learning Outcomes

The Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management aspires to deliver an innovative, comprehensive and integrated student life curriculum that promotes self-efficacy and determination, personal and professional success, multicultural competence, leadership development, and civic engagement.

Students who actively participate in Student Affairs programs and services will achieve:

- **Self-Efficacy and Determination** by constructing an understanding of self and a commitment to personal responsibility, integrity, and wellness that guides their decisions and actions.
- **Personal and Professional Success** by learning and applying knowledge and transferable skills to achieve personal aspirations and professional and career growth.
- **Multicultural Competence** by thriving within diverse perspectives, experiences, and environments, and building their capacity for being an advocate for equity and social justice.
- **Leadership and Civic Engagement** by deploying their knowledge and talents to improve their communities, both as individuals and by mobilizing others towards positive sustainable change.

**Division of  
Student Affairs and  
Enrollment Management**  
**Annual Report 2015 – 16**

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## SELECTED FINDINGS FROM LEARNING OUTCOMES

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**Outcome:** The Back on Track Program is an initiative that promotes successful academic practices to ensure student success. Through this program, students identify strengths and challenges, reiterate learning from weekly topics/group discussions, and apply this knowledge to their personal responsibilities through weekly goals. Students will also apply this knowledge to their personal aspirations and professional growth.

**Fall 2015 Findings:** 16 students participated in the Back on Track Program, and 50% responded to our survey. 100% of respondents “strongly agreed” and found the Back on Track Program to be informative and helpful. When asked, “How will you integrate the information learned in weekly discussion topics into your academic and/or personal life?” 100% of respondents were able to demonstrate skill sets that would increase their personal/academic growth.

**Spring 2016 Findings:** 38 students were readmitted and registered for courses, and 63% of those students completed the Back on Track Program. 78% of students “strongly agreed” and 22% “agreed” that the BOT program was informative and helpful. When asked, “How will you integrate the information learned in weekly discussion topics into your academic and/or personal life?” 67% of respondents were able to demonstrate skill sets that would increase their personal/academic growth.

**Outcome:** Students participating in community-based service activities and programs developed through the Center for Civic Engagement and Community will: broaden their scope of local and regional societal issues; develop knowledge, awareness, and understanding of civic engagement; develop understanding of different experiences and perspectives; and recognize their ability to lead in community settings.

**Findings:** University-wide service days and extended service opportunities allow students from varying disciplines to share in common experiences and benefit from the exposure of serving diverse populations. 94% indicated that they developed and/or enhanced their understanding of societal issues; 85% indicated they developed personal skills that would assist with their career; and 90% indicated that they would pursue other culturally diverse opportunities.

**Outcome:** Students participating in the Student Leadership Institute will establish and nurture mentor relationships and consider how mentor relationships can be beneficial as a source for personal and professional development.

**Findings:** 41 students participated in the SLI program. When asked if they grew significantly in their personal, professional, and leadership development, 76% responded positively regarding personal development, 61% in professional development, and 90% in leadership development. Five exemplary leadership practices served as the theoretical foundation for SLI. When asked if these practices were utilized in the program, 90% of the students replied yes, noting that the practices will help them in assessing and improving their leadership potential.

# ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

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The **Academic Resource Center** strives to promote the personal growth of students and to enrich their academic experience. ARC provides support for students in academic recovery, immunization compliance, mental health counseling, access services for students with disabilities, tutoring, and writing center services.

The Academic Resource Center continues to grow with the implementation of new programs and early alert initiatives aligned with the Reaching Vision 2020 Goals. These new initiatives have sparked growth in services and student utilization in the Writing Center and ARC tutoring services.

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## Department Highlights:

- Midterm grades, an early alert initiative, was launched in Fall 2015 with much success. 1,702 students, including 98% of lower division students, received midterm grades, with a total of 3,091 grades posted. In Spring 2016, ARC saw an increase (18% students and 3% grades submitted) in submissions of midterm grades with 1,949 students receiving grades and 3,165 grades posted. Intervention efforts following midterm grades proved equally successful with 84% of students earning an equal, or better, final grade than their posted midterm grade.
- Two programs, Lower Division Academic Recovery Program and the Back on Track Program were implemented to assist students in academic recovery. After Fall 2015, 61 (44 freshmen and 17 sophomores) lower division students were required to participate in the LDARP. In Spring 2016, 54/61 (89%) of students (43 freshmen and 11 sophomores) registered for courses. As a result, 22% of students completed the Lower Division Academic Recovery Program and 73% of LDARP students persisted. 30% of those students returned to "Good Standing."
- The Writing Center reported 816 face-to-face appointments, 541 Growl contacts, and 249 Library Contacts. They also served 205 students through workshops and 49 walk-in requests. The Writing Center provided additional services such as classroom visits (serving 259 students), sophomore tutors in the Library, Prairie Place writing assistance with weeknight and weekend hours, and seminars. In total, the Writing Center supported 4,161 students during the 2015 – 16 academic year.
- A total of 287 students visited ARC a total of 1,006 times for tutoring in math, science, statistics, and business. This is an 11% increase from 2014 – 15. As part of ARC's Vision 2020 Goals, Supplemental Instruction extended services to support both lower and upper division students. ARC provided SI assistance in Applied Calculus (MATH 2281, 5 classes), Statistics (STAT 2100, 2 classes), Organic Chemistry (CHEM 3512, 1 class), Chemistry (CHEM 1113, 1 class), and General Biology II (BIOL 1510, 1 class). During the 2015 – 16 academic year, ARC tutoring supported 563 SI visits, a 48% increase compared to 2014 – 15. In an effort to support students' needs, ARC tutoring provided additional services such as MyStatLab workshops, student success workshops, classroom visits/support, Prairie Place assistance, and walk-in services.



Tutoring is available in the Academic Resource Center, where student success is their number one priority!

# ADMISSIONS AND RECRUITING

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The Office of Admissions offers assistance to prospective students and applicants in the college selection and admission process. The office provides admission counseling appointments, campus tours, group presentations and a number of recruitment events to showcase our university to students and their families. Our team works with various departments throughout the university to provide the best experience possible to future Jaguars.

In addition to outreach and recruiting, a team of admission representatives work hard to provide timely admission decisions to applicants and an admission processing team manages the intake of all application materials, scanning of documents, and evaluation of admission applications. During the 2015 – 16 academic year, the Admission Processing team entered 6,712 new applications to the Colleague system, and issued 3,378 admission decisions (both admitted and denied), representing a 50.3% admission application completion rate.

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## Department Highlights:

- Recruiting and Outreach, a unit within Admissions, has worked to grow our recruitment effort into the state of Indiana and generated over 4,400 total student prospects from the following events: 245 high school fairs, 535 high school visits (classroom presentations, instant admission days, counselor visits), 50 community college visits, 87 community college fairs, and approximately four community outreach events. Of the 4,400 prospects, an application was submitted by 2,156 (49%).
- Campus visits and tours continued to leave a positive impression; 50 high school and college visits (an increase of 18% from 2014 – 15) for a total of 1,238 prospective students visiting our campus and touring the university with the Office of Admissions. In addition, 195 students (an increase of 19% from 2014 – 15) visited and toured the university throughout 2015 – 16.
- Admissions hosted nearly 60 new students and family members at the first annual college “Signing Day and Scholars Recognition” on May 3 as part of the White House Reach Higher campaign.
- We continue to admit students at our Transfer Thursdays Instant Admission Days. This year we had 428 students register to attend a Transfer Thursday event. Of the 428, 205 students attended, and 164 (38% yield) were approved for admission. This is a 5% decrease from 2014 – 15 when 451 registered to attend Transfer Thursdays.
- Five undergraduate open house events were held in 2015 – 16 with a total combined 389 prospective freshmen and transfer students in attendance. Counselors provided 1,426 individual admission counseling appointments in 2015 – 16, a 10% increase from 2014 – 15.
- The Office of Admissions completed an external review in January 2016, along with the Registrar’s Office. The external review focused on recommendations to streamline processes, integrate software packages (e.g. Colleague and document imaging), and digitize files to eliminate as much paper as possible.



Participants at the Signing Day and Scholars Recognition for the White House Reach Higher campaign.

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# ATHLETICS AND RECREATION

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## The Department of Athletics and Recreation

encompasses seven varsity athletic programs (Men's and Women's Basketball, Golf, and Cross Country, plus Women's Volleyball) as well as clubs for bowling, cricket, table tennis, and softball. The Athletic and Recreation Center is open to students, faculty, staff, and community members, and its facilities include an Olympic style pool, racquetball court, fitness room, and gymnasium, offering the tools necessary to reach total body wellness goals. In addition, the atrium game room includes an X-Box station, billiards table, table tennis, and foosball table in addition to plenty of lounge space to relax. The Center's support team is committed to improving the quality of life and fitness for all participants.

In addition to students, another 505 alumni and community members constituted 38,431 visits to the Recreation and Fitness Center during the 2015 – 16 academic year.

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### Departmental Highlights

- The 2015 – 16 academic year marked the first season of varsity intercollegiate athletic competition at Governors State. The Jaguars competed in the Association of Independent Institutions as a first-year member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. On October 23, the GSU Jaguars were accepted into the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference and will begin play as the league's 15th member in the upcoming 2016 – 17 athletic season.
- In their first year of competition, the GSU Jaguars posted the following season records: Men's Basketball, 9-21; Women's Basketball, 2-28; and Volleyball, 2-31. The Golf teams competed in 13 matches with four men and two women placing in the top 25 in the matches in which they competed.



Guard Rachel Distor appeared in 29 of 30 games during the inaugural women's basketball season, scoring a personal-best 24 points against Moody Bible. She also excelled in the classroom, posting a 3.80 grade-point average as a first-year student.

- The Jaguars also compete in the classroom. Student athletes in men's teams earned a 2.83 GPA and women's teams earned a 3.17 GPA compared to 3.13 GPA for our average undergraduate student. Overall, 19 (32%) of 59 NAIA student athletes earned recognition in the Athletic Director's Honor Roll and both the Volleyball and Women's Golf teams were recognized by NAIA with Scholar-Team designation.
- Of the 38,431 visits to the Recreation and Fitness Center, 21,365 (34%) were to the swimming pool, 14,335 (23%) were to the gymnasium, 23,253 (37%) were to the fitness room, and 3,234 (5%) were to the racquetball court. Additionally, the game room logged 1,282 visits, and 578 students participated in fitness classes.
- \$53,187 of revenue was generated during the 2015 – 16 academic year from membership fees and rentals of the Recreation and Fitness Center facilities. \$12,998 of revenue was generated during the 2015 – 16 academic year from athletic events and rentals.

# AUXILIARY SERVICES & UNIVERSITY HOUSING

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## Auxiliary Services & University Housing (ASUH)

provides support and high quality services to the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and guests of the Governors State University community.

Our primary goal is to support the educational mission of the university and enhance the quality of the student experience. We strive to provide superior services for the best interests of students and the broader University community. ASUH is responsible for the programs and services associated with University Housing, GSU Bookstore, Campus Dining, Catering & Vending, myONECARD, and Parking Services (Shuttle Services).

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[www.govst.edu/bookstore](http://www.govst.edu/bookstore)

[www.govst.edu/myONECARD](http://www.govst.edu/myONECARD)

[www.govst.edu/shuttleschedule](http://www.govst.edu/shuttleschedule)

## Departmental Highlights

### University Housing:

- Housing Occupancy: 100% occupancy was achieved in Prairie Place in the Fall 2015 Semester, in just the second year of on-campus housing.
- University Housing administered a Quality of Life survey to the students living in Prairie Place in the 2016 spring semester. The survey was available online from March 31, 2016 – April 15, 2016 and was sent to all 250 students. Eighty-two students (32.8%) responded to the survey.
- For the first time, the Prairie Place Hall Council Executive Board members and advisors attended the Illinois Residence Hall Association conference at St. Francis University in Joliet, IL. IRHA is a statewide organization composed of different Residence Hall Associations and National Residence Hall Honorary Chapters from Illinois. Throughout the year, each university affiliated with IRHA sends representatives, known as conference coordinators, to business meetings, retreats, and the annual conference.



- In the Spring 2016 Semester a series of workshops, meetings, surveys, student intercepts, and focus groups were held with GSU community stakeholders to develop a recommended site strategy, building programs, and cost model for the development of Prairie Place 2.

### Auxiliary Services:

- GSU Dining: Arena Food Services, Inc. was selected to be the new dining vendor at GSU effective July 1, 2015. A comprehensive marketing and communication program to increase participation and build brand awareness in the GSU café and c-store was implemented in 2015 – 16. A Student Food Service Advisory Committee and a Faculty/ Staff Food Service Advisory Committee was formed, and met monthly throughout the school year, to provide feedback about dining programs and services.
- Bookstore: FA Link was implemented, allowing students with sufficient financial aid to purchase course materials, supplies, and apparel in the GSU bookstore before student refunds were disbursed. Over \$648,377 of financial aid was used via the FA Link program in 2015 – 16. Late in the fall semester, Follett implemented a Price Match program against Amazon, Chegg, and Barnes and Noble for in store purchases/rentals.
- GSU myONECARD: Combined, the Department of Auxiliary Services & University Housing and the GSU Welcome Center are responsible for making myONECARDS. In the 2015 – 16 academic year 3,015 myONECARDS were made. Revenue that passed through the myONECARD program in 2015 – 16 exceeded \$240,300.

# CAREER SERVICES

The **Office of Career Services** provides a wide range of services available to both currently enrolled students and alumni. Services include individual career counseling sessions, assistance with resume and cover letter preparation, job and internship search strategies, interviewing skills, career exploration, and much more. In addition, Career Services coordinates job search skills workshops, customized workshops, and career and internship fairs. In total, Career Services served 1,227 individual client visits, which included individual counseling sessions and walk-in hours, and sponsored and/or participated in 115 programs and events at which 2,942 students, faculty, staff, corporate partners, and community members attended.

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## Departmental Highlights

- Individual counseling sessions constitute a significant portion of the personal outreach by the career counseling staff. In total, 591 individual clients were served in private counseling sessions. Of the 591 clients; 507 (85%) were students, 44 (8 %) were alumni members, 34 (6%) were members of the community, and 6 (1%) were employers.
- Career, Internship, and Networking Fairs are the most visible programmatic efforts sponsored by Career Services and served 761 job seekers and hosted 98 employers during the 2015 – 16 academic year. In total, three fairs were sponsored, including the Student Employment Fair, which welcomed 400 job seekers and 24 employers; the Health and Human Services Career and Internship Fair, which welcomed 98 job seekers and 20 employers; and the Spring Career and Internship Fair, which welcomed 263 job seekers and 54 employers.



Delia Cherrington gets her certificate from President Maimon at the first annual Student Employee Recognition Reception.

- New in 2015, Career Services implemented the Student Employee Recognition Reception in December. This reception recognized 65 student employees who attended three or more Career Services workshops with a professional development certificate presented by President Maimon.
- New in 2016, Career Services applied for and received a grant that will allow us to integrate career preparation and liberal education. This program will allow us to increase of number of on campus student employment experiences, including a summer internship program for students in the arts, humanities, and social science areas. Additionally, we will be adding in a workshop series for all student employees that will focus on strength development, identifying and maximizing transitional skill sets, and overall professional development. Look for this program to launch in Fall 2016.

# COUNSELING CENTER

The **Counseling Center** provides individual, group, and couples counseling services for GSU students. The mental health needs of the GSU community are also met through outreach programming for students, faculty, and staff on a variety of mental health issues.

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## Counseling Services:

The GSU Student Counseling Center provides individual, group, and couples counseling services for GSU students. The mental health needs of the GSU community are also met through outreach event programs that are requested by students, faculty, and/or staff on a variety of mental health issues. In total, there were 1,455 counseling sessions and 18 crisis counseling sessions held during the 2015 – 16 academic year. As a result of two National Screening Days held at GSU during the 2015 – 16 academic year, 391 screening assessments were completed. Screenings were completed for alcohol misuse (10); anxiety (136), bipolar symptoms (53), depression (137), and PTSD (55).

## Disability Services:

Access Services for Students with Disabilities had a total of 1,526 visits; 242 student contacts, 497 for testing accommodations, and 787 faculty collaborations and consultations. ASSD was responsible for special accommodations for 10 graduates and over 65 family members and guests for Commencement this past May. In July 2015, GSU celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act by hosting an ADA Resource and Awareness Fair and sponsored Disability Awareness Week in April 2016. Access Services for Students with Disabilities also collaborated with the Veterans Resource Center to increase awareness of services and accommodations available to disabled veterans.



Also participating in the ADA Fair, one of our community partners, Trinity Services, Inc. of Mokena. Pictured here is Denise Wirth, Clinical Therapist and alumna of Governors State University.

## Title IX Update:

In early 2015, an interdisciplinary team was created and named Advocating for Sexual Assault Prevention. The team's purpose is to plan, educate, train, and monitor any and all events pertaining to the prevention of sexual assault on campus. ASAP has met regularly since its inception, planning events and scheduling training sessions on the prevention of sexual violence for the upcoming academic year.

During 2015 – 16 there were eight training sessions conducted in conjunction with the YWCA, the university's partner in preventing sexual assault. The YWCA staff trained a total of 101 students. A major event, Respond to Violence/It's On Us project ([RespondToViolence.com](http://RespondToViolence.com)) was held in Prairie Place on November 12, 2015. The majority of the outreach/prevention events occurred in April, 2016 during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Clothesline Project, held on April 25, attracted more than 150 participants. For more information, visit [www.govst.edu/asap](http://www.govst.edu/asap).

# DIVERSITY EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



The Male Success Initiative was launched with a symposium in October 2015 featuring Dr. Shaun Harper, founder and director of Penn's Center on Race and Equity, to garner more support and inform the campus community on the importance of the success of male students of color.

## Diversity Education and Leadership Development

includes Intercultural Student Affairs, which plays a critical role in helping to create an inclusive and welcoming campus community for all. Intercultural Student Affairs goals include: 1) develop campus-wide diversity awareness programs and social justice education efforts, 2) aid in the retention of underserved student populations, and 3) serve as a resource to culturally diverse student organizations.

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### Department Highlights:

- Pilot year of Male Success Initiative: 35 men of color participated in the programs and events of the Male Success Initiative in some capacity. There were 16 faculty/staff mentors and an active advisory council.
- ISA introduced URL: Unlearn, Relearn and Learn, a program series that provided an opportunity for the GSU community to unlearn myths, stereotypes, and fallacies about various subject matters, relearn the truth and learn ways to shape their understanding that will aid in bridging cultural divides in the campus community. ISA also held three programs with topics including censorship, immigration, and justice. These programs were offered in collaboration with the Library, Theater Arts, Restorative Justice, and Political Science departments and yielded 137 participants overall.

- In preparation for launching a Social Justice Educators program in the upcoming year, 10 students were recruited and trained.
- Relaunched Nontraditional Student Week after being dormant for a few years. Hosted five programs with 84 participants. Also inducted 12 students into Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society.
- Developed SafeZone 2.0 for a more in depth look at LGBTQ matters. Also developed LGBTQ 101 for students interested in learning more about the LGBTQ community. Hosted two workshops with 38 participants.
- Provided resources to support interfaith initiatives with the Gospel Choir, Muslim Student Association, and Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. Completed Interfaith Youth Core certification for implementation of campus multifaith programs and events.
- Co-sponsored cultural awareness programs with student organizations such as El Grito, Pre Kwanzaa Celebration, Chinese New Year, and Diwali that yielded 388 participants in total.

# DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM



DDP Fall 2015 Induction Ceremony

The **Dual Degree Program** is a unique partnership between GSU and 17 Chicagoland community colleges that provides full-time students who have earned between 12-45 college-level credits hours with an excellent pathway to earn quality, accessible, and affordable associate and bachelor's degrees. In addition, DDP provides transition services and programs to DDP students who choose to attend GSU. DDP students have nothing to lose and everything to gain by enrolling in this free program. In total, 369 students were newly enrolled in DDP this year. To date, 403 students have transferred to GSU through DDP. During 2015 – 16, a record number 70 DDP transfer students graduated from GSU.

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## Department Highlights

- More than 90% of the DDP students who have completed their associate degree and enrolled at GSU have graduated, transferred, or are still enrolled and pursuing their degrees.
- For the first time, DDP had student enrollment at all 17 partner colleges. Overall DDP enrollment at partner colleges increased 23%. Participation in the DDP peer mentoring program increased 18%.

- DDP students enrolled at GSU have an average GPA of 3.2. GSU Promise Scholarship recipients have an average GPA of 3.4. DDP Honors Scholarship recipients continue to have an average GPA of 3.9.
- Between August 2015 and June 2016, the DDP Peer Mentors coordinated 11 monthly community service projects. A total of 138 DDP student volunteers worked over 425 hours. Service projects ranged from assisting hospitalized veterans with crafts to leading literacy activities for elementary school students.
- The DDP staff welcomed two new DDP Transfer Specialists. Jason Vignone works with all 7 City Colleges of Chicago. Jessica Specht works with Moraine Valley Community College, Joliet Junior College, and our remote partners (College of DuPage, Harper College, Morton College, and Triton College).
- In an effort to keep students at the remote partner campuses engaged, new outreach strategies were implemented. A live chat feature was added to the DDP website. Using this tool, site visitors can virtually converse with a DDP staff member during business hours, regardless of the staff member's location. DDP Online Induction was created and launched to allow students to learn about DDP and GSU without having to travel to the GSU campus for the live DDP Induction Ceremony that occurs once each semester. It shares the same information as live DDP Induction by utilizing videos, pictures, and short quizzes.

# FINANCIAL AID AND REGISTRAR

The **Office of Financial Aid** is tasked with processing and awarding federal, state, and institutional aid to students based on eligibility. Further, it exists to assist students, faculty, staff, and prospective stakeholders in the understanding and management of financial aid awards and processes. In the 2015 – 16 academic year, the Office of Financial Aid processed over 6,000 student files and transmitted nearly \$60 million in funds from federal, state, institutional, and external sources. Below are the total amounts for a few of the types of aid received by students to assist with college expenses.

2015 – 16

	<b>Amount</b>
Federal Pell Grant	\$7,645,753
Federal SEOG	\$170,452
Federal Direct & PLUS Loans	\$42,273,063
Federal Perkins Loans	\$55,163
Federal TEACH Grant	\$19,493
State of IL MAP Grant	\$2,791,674
Ch33, MIA/POW, IVG, & ING	\$1,310,611
Institutional & Foundation Aid	\$2,180,017
External Scholarships/Sponsorships	\$161,711
Alternative Loans	\$764,282
	<b>\$57,372,220</b>

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## Department Highlights:

- Adjusted disbursement schedule to prevent students from owing back large amounts of aid. This has saved the university a considerable amount of money and benefitted the students.
- Continue to provide students with fast, reliable information so they can make important financial decisions about attending GSU.



The mission of the Office of the Registrar is to provide exceptional student-centered service, delivered with integrity and care, to make life easier for the GSU community.

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## Department Highlights:

- In January 2016, an external review was conducted of the offices of Admissions and the Registrar. From that report, our office has moved ahead with electronic transcript ordering as the primary method of ordering an official transcript and has implemented some of the strategies recommended by the consultants regarding graduation applications.
- In March 2016, the online degree audit was released for undergraduate students who started fall 2013 or later. We collaborated with ITS to create a pop-up message screen for students whose programs are not available in the online degree audit system.
- In June 2016, again working with ITS, we created a pop-up hold screen for students who have a registration hold so that they could not enter the “drop section” site in myGSU. Additionally, we were able to create a new pop-up screen with a statement that students must agree to in order to register. The hope is that with these enhancements, students will be more responsible for their registration and removing holds in a timely manner.

# NEW STUDENT PROGRAMS

## The Office of New Student Programs and Cohort

**Advising** provides academic preparation and support for students from the point of enrollment until they transition to their chosen majors. Services provided to freshman, transfer and graduate students include orientation, academic advising, leadership development, major selection, and academic pathway development.

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### Department Highlights:

- Coordinated four Transfer and Graduate Student Orientation sessions for 497 transfer students, 292 graduate students and 38 guests during the 2015 – 16 academic year.
- Welcomed our second 189 freshmen and 95 family members over six summer orientations. This full-day schedule included a highly interactive series of breakout sessions promoting student success and transition programs.
- Recruited and trained 10 Peer Mentors serving our first-year students as part of the Student Success teams assigned to each of the three cohorts. Peer Mentors serve as group leaders, contacts between various departments, peer educators, and positive role models.
- Completed the fifth iteration of the “Six Week Survey” in an effort to improve the new student experience for both transfer and first-year students. This survey was sent to all first year and transfer students who were admitted in Fall 2015. There was an 8.5% response rate for transfer students and 12.5% response rate for freshmen students.
- Hosted inaugural Jaguar Jump program series that included major fair and career selection programming for rising sophomores as they transitioned from General Studies to selecting majors in their chosen academic colleges.



Jaguar Jump Major Network debuts to serve Sophomores! Apifani Grillier discusses picking a major with Community Health staff. College Signing Day took place during Spring 2016 welcome week. This was a unique event, the first of its kind, and will start a great new tradition at GSU.



Students anticipating the start of Convocation and a new school year!

# STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The **Office of Student Life Center** supports and enriches the Governors State University educational experience through student involvement in its programs, student organizations, and services. Students are empowered through interaction in self-initiated or planned activities with fellow students, faculty members, and staff.

Student Life sponsored 145 programs and events with a total attendance of 16,407 students, faculty, staff, and community members and serviced 24,809 students, faculty, staff, and community members. Student Organizations sponsored 221 campus events with a total of 5,073 students, faculty, staff and community members in attendance.

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## Departmental Highlights

- Three new student organizations were introduced, growing our student organizations to 84. Newly recognized student organizations include: Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, Generating Hope, and the Real Estate Club.
- Student Senate provided a strong campus voice against the state-wide budget impasse, creating a #SaveOurEducation campaign advocating against budget cuts to higher education funding, sponsoring three advocacy trips to Springfield, and hosting an on-campus rally on March 7 with nearly 300 participants.
- Notable student leader accomplishments: Mychael Vanarsdale received the Dr. Elaine P. Maimon award for Outstanding President of an Organization. The Association of Latin American Students was honored as the club of the year, and Media Society received new club honors at the Annual Leadership Awards Banquet. Jerry El Davis was recognized at the 40th GSU Student Laureate of the Lincoln Academy.



Alternative Spring Break 2016 at the Reserva Natural de las Cabezas de San Juan.

- Among the 145 departmental sponsored programs, Student Life advanced campus traditions with programs that included Welcome Week, Constitution Day, and Family & Friends Weekend.
- In its third year, the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service facilitated 5,582 hours of community service, valued at \$122,804. Notable service initiatives included Alternative Spring Break in Puerto Rico, International Service-Learning Winter Break in Nicaragua, Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, WE Day, and monthly service trips.



Student Senate President Mychael Vanarsdale spoke at the March 7 GSU #HigherEdMatters Rally that was attended by more than 300 students, faculty, staff, and community members.

# VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER



Pictured: Veterans Coordinator Kevin Smith, Coast Guard, President Maimon, and Provost Bordelon pose with a SALUTE inductee.

Student veterans have made sacrifices and faced hardships unknown to most students. For this reason, the Veterans Resource Center, established in Fall 2012, supports student veterans in their transition between the military and civilian environment and helps ensure that student veterans can thrive at GSU. The VRC serves as a central resource for information or assistance, whether it is regarding VA benefits, GSU related topics, or civilian matters. Equally important, the VRC is also a welcoming space where student veterans can network with each other. In total, GSU enrolled 348 veteran students in 2015 – 16, of which approximately 75% receive aid requiring certification for various state and federal programs.

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## Departmental Highlights

- The Veterans Resource Center has a new home and increased social media presence. The Center is now located in GMT160 and veteran students can now connect on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GSUVRC>) and Twitter (@GSUVRC).

- GSU has been named to U.S. Veterans Magazine's Best of the Best List for 2015 as one of the publication's Top Veteran-Friendly Schools. The magazine's annual review is an evaluation of the nation's employers, initiatives, government agencies, and educational institutions. "Only three Illinois Schools were honored with Best of the Best – Western Illinois, Southern Illinois, and Governors State University. I believe GSU Veterans are on the map," said VRC Coordinator Kevin Smith.
- 36 student veterans were inducted into the SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society on Friday, April 29; certificates and honor cords were presented to 18 Undergrad, 13 graduate, and 5 doctoral students. Over 100 guests, faculty, and staff attended the banquet.

