

DDP Director's Corner – THANK YOU!

Another great semester in the books! Thank you to all those who supported and participated in DDP's fall programming and service opportunities; we had a blast meeting everyone and making new connections across campuses. In addition to welcoming a new cohort of over 60 students to GSU in the fall, we have also welcomed over 140 new students to DDP at our 17 partnering community college campuses. We are also proud to note that DDP students have contributed over 160 service hours to their local communities.

SAVE THE DATE! The Dual Degree Program will be collaborating with GSU's College Pathways Program to host the inaugural "**Student 2 Student (S2S) Engagement Conference**" on Friday, March 1st, 2019. Current DDP students attending community college and/or GSU are invited to facilitate an educational workshop that will engage, inspire, and expose high school students to the college experience. Interested in participating? Contact me, Jessica Specht (jspecht@govst.edu), so that we can discuss how you can contribute and make an impact on future generations of college-bound students!

If you ever have any questions or comments regarding DDP, always feel free to contact me at dualdegree@govst.edu or 708.534.4494. Thank you again, and have a great winter break!

Male Success Initiative (MSI)

Happy Holidays!! Congrats to all for wrapping up either your first semester here at GSU, or another semester for the returners. January 22nd is over a month away, so take these next few weeks to enjoy your family, old high school friends home from their campuses, or to make a few extra dollars while you don't have papers and exams to worry about.

Before you go on break, here are a few dates to keep in mind for the spring:

- ★ **January 24** – MSI Information Session: 3:30pm (Jaguar Den)
- ★ **February 8** – MSI Induction Ceremony: 4pm (location TBD)
- ★ **2nd & 4th Mondays** – MSI Monday

Also, if you are interested in becoming a participant in the Male Success Initiative, please visit the website: www.govst.edu/msi, and click on the link for new or returning members. The deadline to apply for the spring 2019 term is January 25... **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Any questions about the MSI, contact Sean Smith at msi@govst.edu, or 708.235.7619.

DDP's Shining Star

Name: Stefanie Neylon

Community College:
Moraine Valley
Community College

Major:
Elementary Education

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

The Dual Degree Program has influenced my success because it has allowed me the opportunity to apply and ultimately be granted the Honors Scholarship. The Dual Degree Program will continue to encourage me to stay involved in the school community and community around me as well as to stay on top of my academics-choosing Governors State University and joining the Dual Degree Program are some of the best decisions I have ever made!



What are your future plans at GSU?

My future plans at Governors State University are to remain involved in the Dual Degree Program, the Honors Program, and the overall school and local community. I look forward to studying in the Elementary Education program, as this is a field that I am very passionate about. I also look forward to meeting new people and contributing to the Governors State University community!

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

I am most excited to meet new people, expand my education, and remain involved in the community around me. Every time I have visited Governors State University, I have known that it is the correct school for me. I am very excited to start my journey and continue my education there.

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

I would tell students that in order to be successful you need to believe in yourself, stay organized, communicate with your professors, and master time management. College can be challenging at times, but it is manageable as long as you believe in yourself and stay on top of all of your school work and deadlines.

DDP 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.



Nelly Marcial, Director of the Transfer Center @ Richard J. Daley College

Universities previously attended:

Northern Illinois University - Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics. Minors: Spanish and French
Loyola University Chicago - Master of Education in Higher Education, Concentration: Student Affairs

What is your most memorable moment of college?

My involvement with a diverse group of student organizations and the Student Government Association. By getting involved, I was able to find my true career path, I developed my leadership skills, enhanced my time management, and learned how to work with different personalities. Through involvement, I met some of the most amazing mentors that assisted me in the graduate school application process, and in my finding career interests.

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

My support group. As a first generation college student, I had to seek guidance and problem on my own. I found many of my answers by taking advantage of the resources my university offered. I also surrounded myself with a great group of friends, mentors and family. They motivated me to keep going, even when I felt the urge to give up.

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

I would have studied abroad. I always put it off, saying it was not the right time or that it was not affordable. With careful planning, study abroad can be cost effective and fit into a student's schedule.

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

Ask questions, and utilize your resources. Some of the most successful students that I have met are the ones with the most questions. They come prepared to take notes and always follow up with more questions. With so many universities to choose from, students should always be asking questions about the resources provided and exploring if it is a good "fit" for them. At the university, take advantage of internships, extra-curricular involvement, and the campus life. Experiential learning is key to success post- graduation. All of the experiences outside of the classroom can go a long way when looking for career opportunities.

Important Updates

Fall 2019 DDP Scholarship Applications due Friday, February 22nd

DDP students, would you like to attend GSU for FREE? If you are transferring to GSU in fall 2019, 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).
- ✦ 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!

Applications, recommendation forms, and FAQs can be found on the [GSU Scholarship](#) site. Application materials are due on **Friday, Feb 22, 2019!**

Event Highlights

DDP Fall 2018 Induction Ceremony

On November 9th, 2018, 28 DDP students encompassing 11 of our partnering community colleges participated in this fall's DDP Induction event. Students learned about the many benefits of DDP, as well as steps to successfully complete their associate degree and transfer to GSU or another university for their bachelor's degree completion. They also had the opportunity to meet GSU's President Elaine Maimon, Associate Provosts, Deans, faculty and program advisors. 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 on November 9th, 2018:

Azaria Anderson (SSC)
Jonathan Anrango (CCC-Truman)
Juana Barajas (JJC)
Kane Bateman (KCC)
Tyrone Bowens (SSC)
La'Janiece Burnett (MVCC)
Jacqueline Cortez (MVCC)
Angela Ehrlicher (MVCC)
Natasha Ehrlicher (MVCC)
Ana Eickmann (PSC)
Yolanda Ferreir (KCC)
Elyse Gustafson (KCC)
Cassaries Johnson (PSC)
Sashay Jones (CCC-H Wash)
Jeanine Latrice Koger (PSC)
Paula Love-Dunlap (PSC)
Dawn Lubaton (SSC)
Aryanna Mancilla (MVCC)
Dianna Mireles (SSC)
Kimberly Mitchell (CCC-K King)
Manuel Morales (Triton)
Nicole Shorter (SSC)
Lisa Sisson (CCC-O Harvey)
Darrys Stephens (CCC-Malc X)
Christopher Tinoco (JJC)
Daniela Tovar (CCC-Truman)
Sahara Wiley (SSC)
Joshua Wisniewski (KCC)



Event Highlights (continued)

The Zen Zone

GSU hosted its annual “De-Stress Week,” to minimize stress and boost relaxation in preparation for Final Exam week. All week students were provided “de-stressor” events from the Library Jam to the Painting Workshop. On Thursday, November 29th, DDP hosted the “Zen Zone: A Tranquil Study Hall” where students were able to study comfortably in a peaceful and calming setting. Soothing music, food, and adult coloring books were provided for students in a low lit tranquil environment. Students also had the opportunity to mix and mingle with our STA’s. Take a look, but ssshhh! 😊



DDP Monthly Community Service

Each month the DDP coordinates a community service event. Participating in community service provides students with the opportunity to become active members of their community and has a lasting, positive impact on society at large. Community service gives students the opportunity to acquire life skills and knowledge, as well as provide a service to those who need it most. Our October, November, and December community service events were a huge success! In October we volunteered at one of our own partnering schools, Kankakee Community College, and helped assist with the Domestic Violence Awareness walk sponsored by the Zonta Club of Kankakee. In November we assisted to clear forests of invasive trees, and clean up pathways to help restore and maintain the Iron Oaks property. Lastly, we “wrapped” up the semester by helping the staff of Respond Now select and distribute toys and holiday food items to families in need. Check out photos from the events below!

October, 2018

In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness, on October 27th, 2018 DDP partnered with the Zonta Club of Kankakee. Their mission is to empower women through service and advocacy. The Zonta Club of Kankakee organized a walk at Kankakee Community College to raise awareness for Domestic Violence. DDP assisted with coordinating the lineup and assisting the participants during the event.

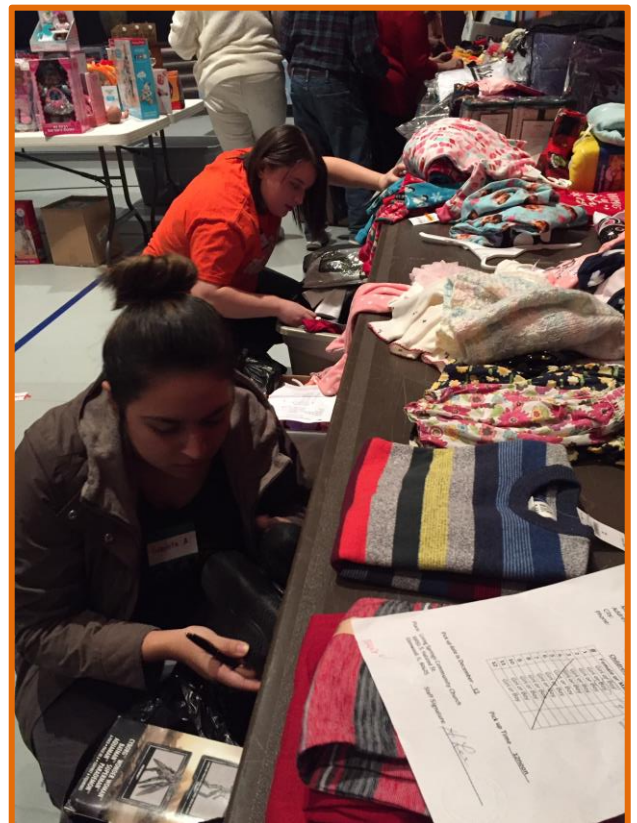


DDP Monthly Community Service (continued)**November, 2018**

On November 17th, DDP and the Male Success Initiative volunteered to help restore and maintain the Iron Oaks property by clearing the forests of debris from trees and cleaning up pathways. Iron Oaks is an interactive learning and adventure center. The woods on the property can be overcrowded by invasive species. In order to maintain the environment and trails these species are removed. Volunteers are essential to helping restore this nature-oriented learning environment. Take a look at our students in action!

**December, 2018**

On December 13th, DDP volunteered at Respond Now's annual toy drive, to help spread holiday cheer by sharing presents and smiles to families who are disadvantaged in the South Suburban community. Respond Now aids over 14,000 families annually through providing accessible services, such as transportation, food, books, school supplies, keeping families in their homes, utility assistance, and giving over 6,000 hours of volunteer driven programs each year. It was an emotional and heartwarming experience for those who participated!



Kudos & Congratulations



Jarrell Harris (center) with his fellow student panel members

DDP and MSI would like to give kudos to Jarrell Harris, Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education student, who was recently invited to represent Governors State University at the Illinois Equity in Attainment (ILEA) Summit on November 13. Jarrell was joined by students from National Lewis University, University of Illinois at Chicago, and two of DDP's partner colleges, Malcolm X College and Waubensee Community College.

Jarrell was one of five panelists who shared their experiences as college students, "to reminded educators to acknowledge the challenges many students face, from college readiness to financial pressures to mental health concerns." Jarrell and his fellow panelists concluded that the solution lies in, "awareness, first, then having in place an array of support systems that ease the transition into and through college, together with the connections and networks to post-graduate career opportunities."

For more details, check out partnershipfcc.org/newsroom/ilea-2018-summit.

MSI Graduation Celebrations

The Male Success Initiative would like to acknowledge the following MSI graduates and soon-to-be graduates:

- ✦ **Trauvell Crawford** – Business major from the first freshman class, has just completed his studies as of December 2018.
- ✦ **Jeremy Williams** – Business major, and campus DJ, focusing on Entrepreneurship, who graduated back in May 2018.
- ✦ **Alex Venegas (DDP)** – Psychology major, who will be graduating in May 2019.
- ✦ **Frank Johnson** – Interdisciplinary Studies major, crossing the stage in May 2019.

Congratulations, guys!

Spring 2019 DDP Scholarship Recipients

The Governors State University (GSU) Promise and Honors Scholarship is a competitive scholarship awarded annually. These scholarship are open to Governors State University Dual Degree Program (DDP) students who meet a certain criteria including a certain grade point average and eligibility of the federal Pell grant. This year 14 students were awarded a scholarship for Spring 19'. Let's celebrate our new recipients!

DDP Honors and GSU Promise Scholarship Awardees:

Liliana Arroyo (CCC-MalCx)
Brian Blewitt (PSC)
Tyrone Bowens (SSC)
Isabel Cervantes (Morton)
Rachel Kamp (KCC)

Diamond Kelley (SSC)
Jeanine Latrice Koger (PSC)
Stefanie Neylon (MVCC)
Justyce Patrick (PSC)

Lindsay Pina-Garcia (JJC)
Safiyyah Shakir (CCC-OHarvey)
Bennett Talaber (JJC)
Joshua Wisniewski (KCC)

Don't forget to "Like" and follow the [DDP's Facebook page](#) to view our event photo albums and celebrations!

Meet DDP's First Graduate Assistant

Name: Antonia Banks

Major: Public Administration & Political Justice and Studies

"Attending Governors State has truly been one of the best decisions I've made! Like most undergraduates, I pondered with the idea of pursuing graduate school. It was not until I began my career search and realized that there is an over-saturation of candidates like myself. I knew it was time that I stood out from the rest. Upon getting accepted into a graduate program, I was even more fortunate to become a part of the Dual Degree Program as a Graduate Assistant. Having the opportunity to fellowship with phenomenal students and extraordinary leaders, has gifted me with prominent connections and everlasting memories. It has been a pleasure to work with such a remarkable group of people who are paying it forward to future transfer students. One of the most rewarding experiences was being a part of the scholarship committee. It is a proud feeling to know I helped a fellow Jaguar, accomplish their educational goals. I strongly encourage future and current graduate students to join the DDP team! I cannot thank Jessica Specht, DDP Director, and Staff for making my time here unforgettable!"

Congratulations, Antonia! We will miss you!



Save the Date! Spring 2019 Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 30th – DDP & MSI Welcome Back Social (GSU Main Campus)

Stop by to kick off the spring semester! ALL DDP and MSI students from all campuses are invited. There will be games, prizes, and PIZZA!

Friday, February 22nd – DDP scholarship deadline for those transferring in Fall 2019

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

Friday, March 8th – DDP & MSI "Get Jobs" Career Symposium (GSU Main Campus)

Preparing for your career after graduation? Investigating internships for the upcoming year? Join us for this year's Career Symposium and gather important tools to make sure that your career path is well planned and executed!

Friday, April 19th – DDP Induction (GSU Main Campus)

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

Thursday, May 9th – DDP Graduation Celebration & Cording Ceremony (GSU Main Campus)

DDP students graduating from GSU during the 2018-2019 academic year will be honored by President Elaine P. Maimon and Provost Elizabeth Cada with a DDP cord acknowledging the completion of their DUAL degrees. Invitations will be mailed in April. DDP Liaisons are welcome to attend.

See future DDP emails for specific times, or contact dualdegree@govst.edu for more information on any of the events above!

Thank you, and have a wonderful winter break!