

DDP Director's Corner

On May 18th, 2019, 101 Dual Degree Program students walked the stage at the Tinley Park Convention Center honoring the completion of their bachelor's degrees from Governors State University. University President, Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, led the conferring of 1,050 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in the company of students, family, friends, faculty and staff.

Congratulations to all of our DDP graduates, both those completing an associate or bachelor's degree! The next chapter of your journey is yours to define. Continue to be curious, confident, and compassionate. Embrace new ways of learning, and take feedback in stride. Don't forget to celebrate YOU, and have an amazing summer!

Best wishes,
Jessica Specht, Director of DDP



DDP Shining Star

Name:

Jack Domanski

Community College:

Joliet Junior College

Major:

Information
Technology



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

The way the Dual Degree Program was laid out, gave me an opportunity to complete my core classes at Joliet Junior College. Working with a GSU counselor showed me I wasn't alone on my journey to finish my bachelors degree. Additionally, it made me gain confidence to succeed.

What are your future plans at GSU?

Once I get to GSU, I will be completing what I have left for my degree in information technology. While doing that I want to be involved as much as I can with the community and plan to join on campus clubs.

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

Ever since I was a junior in Highschool I wanted to go to GSU. I've had multiple family members graduate from GSU that had great experiences there. I knew it would be a perfect fit from their stories and visiting the campus in person.

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

I think it is important to stay organized and set short and long-term goals. One of the biggest things I found helpful is using the resources that the schools provide you. Such as, counselors helping me plan my schedule and getting to know your peers around you.

Don't forget to check out dates for our upcoming events! See the "Save the Date" section on page 9

DDP Campus Connections

Here we will feature one of our fabulous DDP contacts 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.



Tyanna McCann, Director of Transfer @ Olive Harvey College (CCC)

Universities previously attended: I attended the University of Iowa for my BA in Communication and Purdue University for my MA Organizational Communication.

What is your most memorable moment of college?

My most memorable moment is becoming a member of my sorority. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Delta Chapter.

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

OMG being an RA shaped and molded me. I don't know what my college experience would have been like if I hadn't been a Resident Assistant! A bonus was room and board covered, monthly stipend AND my own room!

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

I honestly have no regrets. That pathway was meant for me!

Your most valuable "words of wisdom" for transfer students: Meet with your Director of Transfer early-on so you can stay abreast of partnership programs and scholarship opportunities. It is NEVER too soon to talk about Transferring.

Important Updates

GSU Application Deadlines For Special Programs Are Fast Approaching!

DDP students, if you are planning to transfer to GSU for the Fall, 2019 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 summer 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: June 15
- ✦ Nursing (RN to BSN): July 1
- ✦ Community Health: July 30
- ✦ Social Work: August 2

DDP is Hiring! Student Transition Assistants (2 position)

We are looking to add a few great leaders to our DDP Student Transition Assistant (STA) team! You are encouraged to apply if you:

- ✦ Are in good academic standing and continually met all requirements of DDP
- ✦ Transferred to GSU in the Spring of 2019, or prior (completed at least one full semester at GSU)
- ✦ Will be enrolled for the entire 2019-2020 academic year
- ✦ Possess strong interpersonal skills
- ✦ Have a positive attitude
- ✦ Are self-motivated
- ✦ Enjoy helping others and having fun!

Applications are due by 5pm on Friday, June 28, 2019. When your application has been reviewed, you will receive a confirmation email that includes the day and time of your in-person interview. Interviews will take place in July.

To receive a STA Job Description and application instructions, please contact Jessica Specht, Director of DDP, at dualdegree@govst.edu or 708-534-4494

Important Updates (continued)

Summer 2019 Community College Graduation Petition Deadlines

CCC: See Advisor
COD: August 5
Harper: June 14
JJC: August 8

KCC: July 25
Morton: July 8
MVCC: June 1
PSC: July 1

SSC: July 1
Triton: June 5
WCC: *February 14*

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



Fall 2019 Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to our DDP Honors and GSU Promise Scholarship Awardees for the Fall 2019 cohort:

Megan Allen (KCC)	Naomi Esquivel (CCC-MX)	Stephanie McToy (CCC)
Cindy Alvarez (CCC-DA)	Rodolfo Garcia (MVCC)	Elisa Medina (MVCC)
Janeva Beaton-Burton (CCC-MX)	Felicia Goodrich (KCC)	Dianna Mireles (SSC)
Michael Beauford (CCC-DA)	Destinee Grey (CCC-HW)	Kimberly Mitchell (CCC-KK)
Elan Bengé (KCC)	Elyse Gustafson (KCC)	Jalayah Mitchell (CCC-DA)
Samantha Brinley (WCC)	Jessica Hale (PSC)	Hadiyah Muhammad (CCC-KK)
La'Janiece Burnett (MVCC)	Tamiki Harris (CCC-KK)	Shannon Porter (PSC)
Karina Camarillo (SSC)	Derron Jackson (CCC-KK)	Abrea Ramadan (MVCC)
Mathena Crawl (MVCC)	Youbode Joway (CCC-TR)	Katherine Schulz (COD)
Rama Diab (MVCC)	Brittany LaFond (KCC)	Lisa Sisson (CCC-OH)
Lorena Diaz (SSC)	Morgan Langer (KCC)	Rashida Thompson (PSC)
Jimmy Ellis (CCC-OH)	Rodney Lucas (CCC-DA)	Melany Villagomez (KCC)
Margaret Epperson (PSC)	Maricela Magana (CCC-DA)	Ashley Westmoreland (CCC-MX)
Natasha Erhlicher (MVCC)	Arias Massirnellie (CCC-OH)	James Zumahagen (PSC)
	America Mata (SSC)	

If you are transferring to GSU in Spring 2020, make sure to apply for the [GSU Promise Scholarship](#), [DDP Honors Scholarship](#), and/or the [DDP Chicago STAR Scholars Scholarship](#). These scholarships are only available to DDP students, so you have less competition than with other scholarships. Students who qualify for multiple are encouraged to apply for all those they are eligible for, although students may only be awarded one. **Applications for Spring 2020 transfer students will be due on Friday, October 4th!**

Event Highlights

DDP Spring Induction

On April 19, 2018, 39 DDP students encompassing eight of our partnering community colleges participated in this spring'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 Associate Provost, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, 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 DDP's newest inductees:

Jazmyn Anderson (CCC-OH)
Brandy Benson (CCC-DA)
Angela Benson (CCC-DA)
Dejenae Bradshaw (PSC)
Inala Bruce-Rose (PSC)
Karina Camarillo (SSC)
Raeven Carroll (KCC)
Kimelia Carter (CCC-DA)
Tira Clement (KCC)
Jessica Courtney (CCC-OH)

Kayla Cox (KCC)
Mathena Crawl (MVCC)
Kara De La Leurs (MVCC)
Cristina De Luna (PSC)
Jimmy Ellis (CCC-OH)
Margaret Epperson (PSC)
Paige Gill (SSC)
Brenda Gomez (CCC-DA)
Jessica Hale (PSC)
Tamiki Harris (CCC-KK)

Mya Henry (SSC)
Gloria Jennings (PSC)
Kayla Johnson (PSC)
Rishel Jose (MVCC)
Alana Koster (SSC)
Rodney Lucas (CCC-DA)
Judy Mays (CCC-OH)
Elisa Medina (MVCC)
Jenai Milner (CCC-HW)
Malik Moon (PSC)

Dorolyn Peters (MVCC)
Marwa Ramadan (MVCC)
Mayra Rios (CCC-OH)
Talena Robinson (CCC-OH)
Mikal Robinson (PSC)
Heidi Schmidt (KCC)
D'Asia Seals (PSC)
Melissa Sidler (PSC)
Musa ak Touray (CCC-OH)
Melany Villagomez (KCC)



Event Highlights (Continued)

DDP Graduation Cording Ceremony

On May 14th, 61 DDP students were honored for graduating from Governors State University. At the ceremony, they received a black and white cord braided with the color of their community college, representing the attainment of both Associate's and Bachelor's degrees. The following individuals were in attendance and recognized at the cording ceremony. Congratulations, graduates!

Sarah Al-Hassan (CCC-DA)
Safae Abhija (MVCC)
Nuer Alshaikh (MVCC)
Jade Benson (PSC)
Kelsey Billington (KCC)
Reahna Bruce (PSC)
Grier Casagrande (JJC)
Candace Cassell (CCC-OH)
Hillary Chadare (SSC)
Joseph Coffey (PSC)
Denise Contreras (PSC)
Casey Cotton (MVCC)
Ladonna Evans (CCC-DA)
Andrea Fuentes (KCC)
Cynthia Gavin (PSC)
Mary Rose Gianotti (PSC)
Taron Goodar (CCC-MX)
O'Nika Gunn (CCC-OH)
La'Kasey Hall (PSC)
Sireen Hamarshah (MVCC)
Berashet Hamm-Hughes (PSC)

London Jackson (SSC)
Felicia Kelly (MVCC)
Ezaldean Khater (MVCC)
Jericka Kiss (JJC)
Scott Klonowski (KCC)
Vasilios Limperis (MVCC)
Lanisha Mix (PSC)
Yesenia Munoz (PSC)
Selena Musleh (MVCC)
Magda Naser (MVCC)
Renae Neufeld (MVCC)
Onyinyechukwu Nnoruka (SSC)
Ayomide Ogunbona (SSC)
Cecilia Olvera (MVCC)
Anna Oswald (MVCC)
Antwan Parker (JJC)
Lisa Perkins (SSC)
Kelly Pilny (SSC)
Michael Pilny (SSC)
Robert Ruah (PSC)

David Reyes (CCC-DA)
Karen Reynolds (PSC)
Diamond Robinson (PSC)
Megan Rodgers (PSC)
Cynthia Rodriguez (MVCC)
Ruba Shaikh (MVCC)
Sharaka Simmons (SSC)
Steven Smith (MVCC)
Lasandra Spencer (CCC-KK)
Kristina Stine (PSC)
Mayra Suarez (MVCC)
Phaishe Thompson (SSC)
Veronica Torrez (SSC)
Sarah Triolo (MVCC)
Danielle White (PSC)
Danielle Widelski (MVCC)
Malcolm Wilson (CCC-OH)
Ashley Wilson (CCC-KK)
Jala Wilson (PSC)
Toajane Wrather (PSC)



Event Highlights (Continued)

DDP/MSI "Get Jobs" Career Symposium

On March 8th, 23 DDP and MSI students gathered in Engbreton Hall to learn about resumes, interviews, internships and more! This year's Career symposium was a great success, and we hope that everyone that attended has even more tools to plan and execute their career path.



STAR Scholar Cording Ceremony

Congrats to City Colleges of Chicago students Chastity Garland, Jazz Major, Stephanie Maltos, and Tiffany Payton for being honored at the STAR Scholar cording ceremony!



Event Highlights (Continued)

DDP/MSI Community Service

February, 2019

Our February community service event hit all the right notes! On February 15th, DDP assisted with the Prairie State College Jazz Fest. Volunteers helped welcome guests to the concert, assisted with coat check, and distributed gifts at the alumni table. The night was filled with great music and even better volunteer spirit.



March, 2019

On March 30th, the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) and the Lincoln Way Special Recreation Association (LWRSRA) hosted the Women's Wheelchair Basketball National Championship. DDP volunteers helped to ensure that the tournament was a slam dunk! Volunteers helped with scorekeeping, shot clock, and court management at the Matteson Community Center.



Follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to view our event photo albums and celebrations!



Event Highlights (Continued)

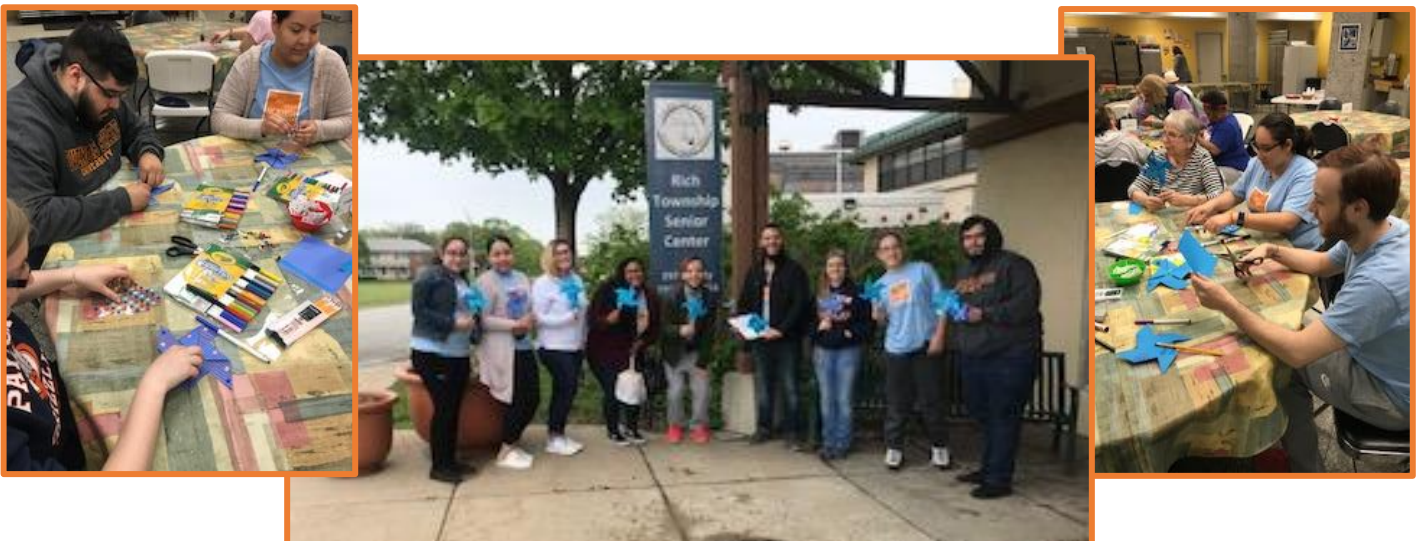
April, 2019

On April 26th, DDP students volunteered at the Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve. In honor of Earth Day, volunteers helped to restore the irrigation system by digging trenches along the trails of the preserve. Thanks to DDP, the trails at Thorn Creek were prepared for April Showers!



May, 2019

On May 17th, DDP students volunteered at the Rich Township Senior Center. Volunteers showed their creative side and helped older adults create patriotic parade pinwheels in honor of Memorial Day.



DDP Student Kudos

- ✦ *Congrats!* Keelin Crotty and Karli Olszowka for presenting to local high school students at the first “Student-2-Student Engagement Conference” at GSU!
- ✦ *Well done!* Megan Rogers (PSC) for presenting their research at GSU’s university-wide Research Day.
- ✦ *Kudos!* Karen Avalos (KCC), Ahmad Ezaldin (MVCC), Janet Herrera (MVCC), Saja Issa (MVCC), Sondos Issa (MVCC), Sarah Jopek (MVCC), Kathryn Keblusek (JJC), Brandon Kyle (PSC), Omar Martinez (PSC), Daj’za Mitchell (PSC), Erica Paulissen (KCC), Anthony Smith (PSC), Alan Taylor (KCC), Veronica Torres (SSC), Yazmen Wilson (PSC), and Amber Wood (KCC) for your induction into Tau Sigma National Honors Society!
- ✦ *Good for you!* Nour Abdallah (MVCC), Kelsey Billington (KCC), Sireen Hamarshah (MVCC) and Lorraine Hippner (JJC), for graduating from Governors State University with University Honors in the 2018-2019 academic year!
- ✦ *High five!* To all of our DDP graduates who are moving onto Master’s and Doctoral programs, we look forward to tracking your progress and witnessing your impact on the world!

Save the Dates – Fall 2019

Monday, August 26th – DDP Convocation Cording Ceremony (GSU Main Campus)

To honor DDP students who have graduated with their associate degree and have transferred to GSU in 2019 (spring, summer, and fall.) Details to come! Students will be notified by personal invitation.

Wednesday, September 4th – DDP[&]MSI Welcome Back Social (GSU Main Campus, Jaguar Den)

Stop by to grab a snack, play some games, and make new DDP friends from GSU and our partnering community colleges!

Friday, September 20th – DDP[&]MSI Scholarship Symposium (GSU Main Campus)

Participants will learn about helpful resources to aid in finding ways to fund their DUAL degrees, and much more!

Friday, October 4th – DDP Scholarship deadline for those transferring in Spring 2020

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

Friday, November 8th – DDP Induction (GSU Main Campus)

For DDP student who are still pursuing an associate degree at their local community college, and have not yet attended a past DDP Induction. Students are required to attend a DDP Induction event prior to transferring to GSU.

DDP[&]MSI Monthly Community Service events for the fall semester to be announced!

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

