

## DDP Director's Corner

As you know, the Dual Degree Program provides an accessible and affordable pathway for students to complete their bachelor's degree. To aid in the affordability, DDP students can compete for scholarships that cover their *full* tuition and fees if they choose to attend GSU! These are only available to DDP students, so there is less competition than most other scholarships. The scholarship application deadline for those transferring in fall 2019 is February 22, 2019. See page two of this newsletter for descriptions of available DDP scholarships, or for more information, applications, and forms visit [www.govst.edu/ddp](http://www.govst.edu/ddp).

**DDP students:** APPLY TODAY! Please do not think that you are not competitive. You ARE! The selection committee reads through every application thoroughly and takes many factors into consideration. Even if you have never received a scholarship, have never held a leadership position, don't let that stop you. Contact your DDP Transfer Specialist and/or a DDP Student Transition Assistant for help applying.

**DDP liaisons and supporters:** SPREAD THE WORD and RECOMMEND students! Since we now request recommendation forms instead of full letters, recommending students is quick and easy. Please encourage your DDP students to apply, and reinforce that they are scholars and deserving of this opportunity.

If you ever have any questions about the DDP scholarships, please feel free to contact me at 708.534.4494 or [dualdegree@govst.edu](mailto:dualdegree@govst.edu).

Best wishes,  
Jessica Specht, Director of DDP

## Male Success Initiative (MSI)

Welcome back to the Spring 2019 semester! For MSI members at the community college, we would like to inform you about a new scholarship program at GSU. [AIM High](#) is an automatically awarded, merit based scholarship for both transfer and freshman students. This program also offers additional funding for students involved in male minority mentoring programs - such as MSI! Here are some key points about AIM High:

- ✦ Award amounts are based on final transfer GPA, with the opportunity to earn up to \$8,000 over 2 academic years!
- ✦ Any amount awarded may be applied to tuition and fees in addition to other scholarships you receive!
- ✦ Participation in MSI qualifies you for an additional \$1,000 per academic year.

**If you will be transferring Fall of 2019 or later**, you are eligible for this scholarship! To be considered for the additional funding, please include a personal statement with your application, and contact your college's program coordinator for a verification letter. If you have any questions about this new award, or about MSI at GSU, contact Sean Smith at [msi@govst.edu](mailto:msi@govst.edu), or 708.235.7619.

## DDP's Shining Star

**Name:** Jessica Brooks

**Community College:**  
Joliet Junior College

**Major:**  
Early Childhood Education

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

The Dual Degree Program has influenced my success by creating new goals for my education and having access to a supportive staff to help me reach these new found goals.

The program has provided supportive conversations with knowledgeable staff from Joliet Junior College and GSU and has opened up opportunities to resources. The Dual Degree Program has kept my education on track and has influenced the way that I can succeed in different classes using these new skills.



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

My future plans at GSU consist of learning more about early childhood education and becoming certified as a teacher. I hope to complete observations to influence and better my education in the teaching field. At the end of my time at GSU, I plan to graduate with a bachelors in Early Childhood Education with a minor in special education or in a second language.

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

I am most excited about transferring to GSU so that I can focus more on the field that I plan to go into. I can not wait to learn more about how to become an exceptional teacher so that I can help students learn. Transferring to GSU after completing my associates degree at Joliet Junior College brings me that much closer to becoming a certified early childhood teacher!

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

As a student, life gets hectic trying to balance a social life, working, and excelling in school. The best advice I could give to a student would be to stay focused on their goals and try not to stress over the small things. If a class or a concept is difficult it is best not to stress over it but rather to remember the goal and seek help to accomplish your goals one at a time.

## 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.



### **Brittany Burton, Transfer Specialist @ Joliet Junior College**

#### **Universities previously attended:**

I received my Bachelor's in Biology from Xavier University of LA and my Master's in Education from University of WI LaCrosse.

#### **What is your most memorable moment of college?**

Returning back to college after Hurricane Katrina and witnessing the aftermath. I saw the commitment of the faculty and staff at Xavier and I really begin to appreciate my college experience. I remember appreciating the culture of New Orleans after volunteering my time to help restore the city. I was able to learn and discover black history in a way I wasn't exposed to in my early life growing up as a kid. I was able to appreciate black history and admire the natives of New Orleans.

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

Beignets, Italian coffee and snow cones aka "sno balls". I remember studying at an Italian coffee shop that served frozen coffee with ice cream. It was my favorite study spot. I also miss stopping anytime of the night for hot Beignets and I miss the "sno balls" that were served in over 100 flavors. The ice was so soft. My favorite flavor was wedding cake.

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

If I could do things differently, I would have begun working with the college resources earlier in my college years. I walked by so many different offices and didn't take advantage of the resources. I would have participated in study abroad, and taken more time to finish my studies. I felt anxious to complete in four years, and looked back and realized there was no rush! Take your time and prepare for your exit plan.

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

Don't be shy and get connected with your faculty and staff because **networking is valuable**. Enjoy college and its experiences. Explore campus resources and ask many questions!

## Important Updates

### **Fall 2019 DDP Scholarship Applications due Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>- LAST CHANCE FOR APPLICATION**

**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!**

## Important Updates (continued)

### Spring 2019 Community College Graduation Petition Deadlines

CCC: See Advisor	KCC: May 1	SSC: February 1
COD: March 15	Morton: April 1	Triton: February 11
HC: One week after Midterms	MVCC: February 1	WCC: February 15
JJC: March 29	PSC: March 1	

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



### DDP Student Transition Assistants - Spring 2019 Office Hours

The DDP Student Transition Assistants (STAs) are located at GSU in room A2124. Their office hours for Spring 2019 are as follows:

**Mondays:** 9:00am – 7:00pm

**Tuesdays:** 9:00am – 12:00pm, 1:00pm-7:00pm

**Wednesdays:** 11:00am – 7:00pm

**Thursdays:** 11:00am – 4:00pm

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!

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

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

- Peter Brassea (Social Work) – **PSC graduate**
- Tasha Leflore (Social Work) – **PSC graduate**
- Omar Martinez (Criminal Justice) – **PSC graduate**
- Daj'za Mitchell (Communication Disorders) – **PSC graduate**
- Selena Musleh (Psychology) – **MVCC graduate**
- Megan Rodgers (Psychology) – **PSC graduate**
- Elizabeth Shirk (Elementary Education) – **CCC graduate**
- Alexandro Venegas (Psychology) – **PSC graduate**



Don't forget to "Like" and follow the **DDP's Facebook page** to view our event photo albums and celebrations!

## Upcoming Events

### DDP & MSI Career Symposium

On Friday, March 8, 2019, the Dual Degree Program will join the Male Success Initiative in hosting its sixth annual “Get Jobs” Career Symposium, from 12:00pm to 4:30pm on the Governors State University campus. During the conference, 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 job search preparation, career development, and resources available at GSU to achieve your dream job. All students are asked to dress as they would for an interview. Don’t miss out on this great opportunity! Register by visiting the [RSVP Google Form](#) by **Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>** (DDP Liaisons and supporters are welcome to attend.)

### DDP Induction

Mark your calendar for DDP Induction on Friday, April 19, 2019! 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 Tuesday, May 14, 2019 (Please note the new date for the cording ceremony), the Dual Degree Program will congratulate and celebrate 2018-2019 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 2018, remember that you should have already submitted your application to graduate and participate in the GSU Commencement ceremony that will take place on May 18, 2019. Contact your GSU academic advisor immediately if you missed the deadline.

## Event Highlights

### DDP Welcome Back Social

On February 6th, DDP hosted its Welcome Back Social on the GSU campus to kick-off the Spring Semester. DDP students and staff gathered for fun, games and laughter in the Jaguar Den. Congratulations to all of our raffle winners, and thanks to everyone that joined us at this event!





## DDP & MSI Monthly Community Service

Each month the DDP coordinates a community service event for DDP and MSI students. 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.

### January, 2019

Our January community service event was a huge success, despite the snowstorm in Chicago! On January 19<sup>th</sup>, DDP partnered with Cru to help pack over 400 homeless care kits at the Agape Community Center. Care kits included items such as blankets, winter apparel and basic hygiene necessities. This month, with the help of our DDP volunteers, this organization helped to provide vital necessities that will be distributed to individuals in the community. Check out photos from the event below!



### DDP Community Service Project for February, 2019

Prairie State College (PSC) is celebrating its 31 Annual Jazz Fest in 2019. The Friday performance is part of the annual festival hosted by PSC, which also includes instrumental clinics led by featured artists. The clinics are for local junior high and high school jazz musicians. This is an opportunity for students to receive instruction in technique and performance from jazz masters. For this event PSC is looking for volunteers to assist in the preparation of set up and assisting guests with checking in. Each month DDP coordinates a community service activity and we want as many DDP and MSI students as possible to join in! This community service activity is great for students wanting to experience the musical culture of Jazz, and any DDP student wanting to give back to the community.

**When:** Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, from 5:30pm-8:30pm

**Where:** Prairie State College, Barnes and Noble Auditorium (202 S Halsted St Chicago Heights, IL 60411)

**Who:** ALL DDP and MSI students are welcome to volunteer!

**What:** DDP students will volunteer at the PSC Jazz Fest assist in the preparation of set up and to assist guests with checking in.

**Why:** Jazz Fest at Prairie State College is a great way for young students to connect with musical culture and for DDP students to give back to the community.

#### Other details:

- To volunteer for this event, please complete this form before February 8<sup>th</sup>: <https://goo.gl/forms/ECJGROKxSayzvut33>
- All volunteers must arrive at 5:30pm, we will meet briefly before the event begins.
- Each participant must provide their own transportation, however, parking is free (in lots C and D of the main campus off of Vollmer Rd.)
- For this event you are required to wear a white polo, black pants and closed-toe shoes.
- This is not a mandatory DDP event, but it would be great to have as many DDP and MSI students there as possible!

This community service event was coordinated by STA's Megan Rodgers and Alexandro Venegas. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Alex via email [avenegas2@student.govst.edu](mailto:avenegas2@student.govst.edu)

## DDP Student Recognition - Legal Empowerment Brigade



While DDP students have the opportunity to participate in monthly community service events, one of our newest Student Transition Assistants took things a bit further over winter break. Prairie State College alumna, **Daj'za Mitchell**, chose to spend her time, along with a group of GSU students and faculty, traveling to Panama to provide workshops on human rights and assist lawyers to conduct legal clinics. This service learning project aimed to empower families, women and children in under resourced rural communities.

When asked about her inspiration to participate, Daj'za said, "Due to the fact that I live to serve others and consider my life a sacrifice of service, I wanted to go!" While she was eager to participate in the service learning experience, she also had some doubts regarding funding for the trip. Then, she learned about the GSU Global Learning Scholar grant. After receiving a call that she had been selected to receive this grant, she states "I was not only emotional but incredibly grateful and speechless! God answered my prayers and I was finally going to fulfill my dream of serving abroad. I am forever thankful to Dr. Phyllis West, Dr. Nicole Koonce and Amy Schoenberg for entrusting me with the responsibility and title of Global Learning Scholar."



After her experience in Panama, Daj'za says, "Panama is an amazing country full of amazing people! My experience there changed my life and I truly believe I came back a better, wiser, and more compassionate human being." She says that her biggest takeaway was the ability to recognize that the world is more alike than it is different; "I witnessed various commonalities in everything from the legal system, educational system and more." Daj'za's advice to others students is: "If you are considering participating in a service learning trip, DO IT!" She also would like to remind students of the scholarships and fundraisers available to help students participate in service learning. We applaud Daj'za and all of the GSU students that participated in this Legal Empowerment Brigade!

For more information about studying abroad and service learning opportunities at GSU, visit [www.govst.edu/studyabroad/](http://www.govst.edu/studyabroad/).

## Save the Date! Spring 2019 Events

**Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> – 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 8<sup>th</sup> – 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 19<sup>th</sup> – 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.

**Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup> – 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](mailto:dualdegree@govst.edu) for more information on any of the events above!

**Thank you, we're looking forward to another great semester!**