

## Director's Corner – AIM HIGH Awards

GSU is excited to announce plans to enhance the financial support for new transfer students from our 17 community college partners! Through the generous commitment by the [Illinois AIM HIGH](#) grant program, GSU will deepen our commitment to those community colleges in our direct service area with dedicated scholarships for their high achieving students. GSU's President Elaine P. Maimon says, "I am very pleased by the state's renewed commitment to ensure access to higher education for Illinois students. The new AIM HIGH legislation will help GSU and other public universities attract the state's most talented students with additional scholarship money."

The new award opportunities will be in addition to the currently offered GSU Promise and DDP Honors Scholarships, and will be unveiled at our upcoming **Graduate and Undergraduate Open House on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 1pm**. Join us as we announce these exciting new awards! RSVP to attend by [CLICKING HERE!](#)

Current DDP students and alumni of the program are encouraged to stop by the DDP table and enter for a special Jaguar raffle prize. I hope to see you there!

Best,  
Jessica Specht, Director of DDP

## #DoTheFAFSA – Opens October 1<sup>st</sup>!

DDP students, remember that you will be able to file your [2019-20 FAFSA](#) as early as October 1, 2018!

Students are encouraged to apply early to maximize financial aid opportunities including the Illinois MAP grant. What's required?

- ✦ FSA ID to sign electronically
- ✦ Your Social Security Number
- ✦ Your Alien Registration Number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- ✦ Your 2017 federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned. (Note: You should be able to transfer your federal tax return information into your FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool)
- ✦ Bank statements and records of untaxed income (if applicable)

GSU's Office of Financial Aid is hosting multiple FAFSA Completion Workshops throughout the semester. Take advantage of the direct assistance and receive all that you are eligible for.

See the list of tips and workshop dates at [www.govst.edu/fafsa](http://www.govst.edu/fafsa).

For further assistance, students can also contact GSU Financial Aid at 708-534-4480!

## DDP's Shining Star

**Name:** Tara Henry

**Community College:** South Suburban College

**Major:** Psychology

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

Overall, the DDP program has motivated me to stay on track of my academic goals. Knowing that I am required to meet with a DDP advisor has inspired me to work more diligently.

### What are your future plans at GSU?

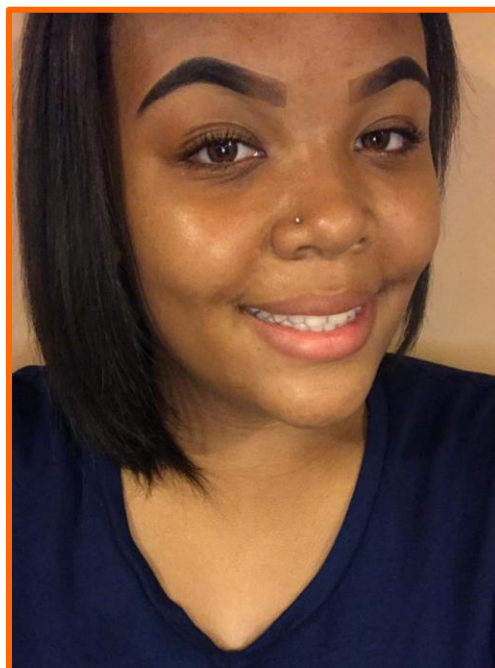
Being that I eventually want to become a mental health counselor, I will first receive my bachelor's in psychology. Then, I will go on to obtain my master's degree in counseling.

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

I am enthusiastic to finally be able to interact with more people who share the same interests in psychology as me. Also, I want to become more involved with the school by participating in programs and student organizations. Of course, I am most excited to soon complete school and begin my career as a mental health counselor.

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

One of the most important keys to success is not procrastinating. Things should be completed early, so that there is time to correct mistakes or improve on what you already have. Another key is to never be afraid to ask questions; as many grammar school teachers have said "No question is a dumb question."



## Important Events and Updates

### Spring 2019 DDP Scholarship Applications due Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

**DDP students, would you like to attend GSU for FREE?** If you are transferring to GSU in spring 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, October 5, 2018!**

### GSU Application Deadlines For Special Programs Are Fast Approaching!

DDP students, if you are planning to transfer to GSU in Spring 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 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:** October 15
- ✦ **Nursing (RN to BSN):** November 1
- ✦ **Community Health:** November 30
- ✦ **Social Work:** TBA (Check the [Department of Social Work](#) website for updates!)

### Student Transition Assistants (STAs) Fall 2018 Office Hours

DDP Student Transition Assistants are DDP students and graduates of the program who have been trained and are familiar with the various offices and services at GSU. They have the resources and information to help make your transition to GSU as smooth and comfortable as possible! STAs also serve as a thoughtful guide for DDP students who are new to Governors State University, and a reliable and energetic role model and advocate for student success. Stop by their office in **A2122**, or give them a call at **(708) 235-7173**.

- ✦ **Monday** - 1:00pm to 6:00pm
- ✦ **Tuesday** - 11:00am to 1:00pm & 3:30pm to 6:30pm
- ✦ **Thursday** - 9:00am to 11:00am & 3:30pm to 6:30pm

### Fall 2018 Student Transition Assistants:

Megan Boots (Physical Therapy) – **JJC graduate**  
Peter Brassea (Social Work) – **PSC graduate**  
Selena Musleh (Psychology) – **MVCC graduate**  
Megan Rodgers (Psychology) – **PSC graduate**  
Elizabeth Shirk (Elementary Education) – **CCC graduate**  
Alexandro Venegas (Psychology) – **PSC graduate**

## 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.



### **Sarah Hein, Transfer Director @ Prairie State College**

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

Newman University - Participated in "dual credit" program and received college credit for high school classes

University of Kansas - Earned a Bachelor of Social Work – *Go Jayhawks!*

University of Illinois at Chicago - Took an Abnormal Psychology class as a pre-requisite for master's program

Northwestern University - Earned a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology

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

There are so many! Traveling to Italy with my college choir and then backpacking/hosteling to a few more European countries with two very good friends after the official trip ended.

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

When I think of my must-have's in college, it is the amazing people I met and experiences I had. I deeply value the friends, professors, mentors and experiences in and out of the classroom the most. I was encouraged to go out of my comfortable zone and reach for things that I couldn't imagine would work out. It was a wonderful time of life to be open to pursuing unexpected opportunities. Some of the best parts of college were things that I could never anticipated or planned for.

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

Apply for scholarships throughout my entire time at college, not just starting out!

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

Get engaged on campus. Your education goes beyond the classroom and you can gain invaluable knowledge from the activities you get involved with.

## 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.

### **September, 2018**

On September 15, 2018, DDP volunteers assisted Habitat for Humanity Chicago South Suburbs by devoting their time at TWO locations! Students rolled up their sleeves to lay flooring and paint the basement of a current home project, while a second group of students provided extra help at the H4H ReStore location in South Chicago Heights. While the first group had their hands full of paint and couldn't take a photo, these ladies look like they are ready for their own HGTV show!



**Details for the October 2018 community service are on the way! Check your student email for information on how to RSVP!**

## Event Highlights

### DDP Convocation Luncheon and Cording Ceremony

On August 24, 2018, 39 DDP students encompassing six of our partnering community colleges participated in this fall's DDP Convocation Luncheon and Cording Ceremony. Students who have transferred to GSU in the spring and fall 2018 semesters were invited to be honored with a cord representing the community college where they recently graduated with their associate degree. After being corded by their DDP Transfer Specialists, students then lead the procession into the 2018 GSU Convocation assembly where they proudly displayed their new DDP "One Degree Down!" shirts.



*DDP Students pictured with Provost Elizabeth Cada (left) and President Elaine P. Maimon (Right)*

Here is a list of those corded at this year's event:

Sanaa Alkhatib (CCC-Daley)  
Karen Avalos (KCC)  
Diana Azam (JJC)  
Dialah Azam (JJC)  
Jade Benson (PSC)  
T'Kyla Clayton (SSC)  
Quincy Crump (PSC)  
Jennifer Forbes (PSC)  
Elijah Fristoe (CCC-Daley)  
Beverly Gayden (SSC)  
Abigail Gerstenkorn (JJC)  
Candice Gibson (SSC)  
Janet Herrera (MVCC)

Emilia Herrera (PSC)  
Sondos Issa (MVCC)  
Saja Issa (MVCC)  
Jerrica Jarrett (KCC)  
Randy Jasien (SSC)  
Sarah Jopek (MVCC)  
Tasha Leflore (PSC)  
Syed Mansoor (JJC)  
Omar Martinez (PSC)  
Jessica Martinez (PSC)  
Eric Niewinski (MVCC)  
Cecilia Olvera (MVCC)  
Erica Paulissen (KCC)

Aya Ramadan (MVCC)  
Manuel Reza (PSC)  
Megan Rodgers (PSC)  
Neda Shalabi (SSC)  
Diana Slager (MVCC)  
Anthony Smith (PSC)  
Elizabeth Solis (CCC-Daley)  
Breigh Starkey (JJC)  
Carley Sullivan (MVCC)  
Yocheeta Tanniehill (PSC)  
Brandon Williams (CCC-Daley)  
Janae Wilson (MVCC)  
Annie Zubek (SSC)

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

**Event Highlights (continued)****6<sup>th</sup> Annual “Get Money” Scholarship Symposium**

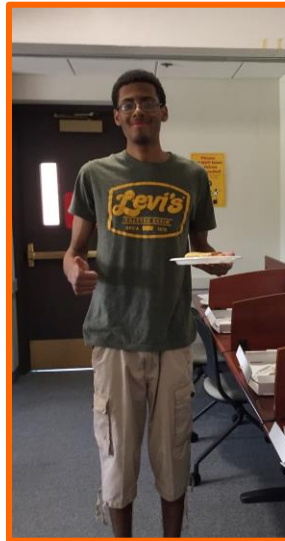
On Friday, September 21st, 2018, the Dual Degree Program (DDP) collaborated with the Male Success Initiative (MSI) in hosting our 6th Annual “Get Money” Scholarship Symposium on the Governors State University campus. Featured presenters included faculty, professional staff and graduate students of GSU, as well as Abel Montoya from [ISAC](#), and Brenda High, College and Career Coach and “[Scholarship Mom.](#)”



## Important Events and Updates (continued)

### DDP Welcome Back Social

On September 5, 2018, DDP and Male Success Initiative (MSI) students from our partnering community colleges and GSU were welcomed back to school by taking part in a pizza party in the GSU Jaguar Den. Students were able to mix and mingle while playing games, listening to music, and winning prizes. As an added bonus, Dr. David Rhea stopped by to provide an info session on how to participate in the GSU Honors Program!



## Save the Date! Fall 2018 Upcoming Events

### Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup> – FAFSA available for 2019-2020 academic year!

Don't delay! Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible (ideally by Nov 1<sup>st</sup>) to receive the most amount of federal and state aid you are eligible for.

### Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> – DDP Scholarship deadline for those transferring in Spring 2019

See the [GSU Scholarship](http://www.govst.edu/scholarship) site for details about the GSU Promise, DDP Honors, and DDP Chicago STAR Scholar scholarship awards.

### Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> – GSU Open House for Undergraduate & Graduate Programs

Stop by the DDP table and enter to win a special Jaguar prize, and hear all about the upcoming AIM HIGH scholarships for Fall 2019!

### Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> – DDP Induction (GSU Main Campus)

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

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