

DDP Director's Corner – Thank You

Another great semester (and year) in the books! You should be very proud of all you have achieved, both academically and professionally. From full course loads, internships, graduate school applications, and extracurricular involvement – You did it! We also want to congratulate our fall 2019 graduates, and kudos to those in the home stretch as you prepare for graduation in the spring.

To all those who supported and participated in DDP's fall programming and service opportunities, THANK YOU! Amongst everyone's busy schedules, you still make time to join us. You are amazing agents of the Dual Degree Program, and without your participation, the DDP would not be able to make an impact on our campuses and in the community. If you did not have a chance to join in on the fun, there will be plenty of opportunities in 2020!

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 safe and happy winter break!

DDP's Shining Star

Name: Marcus Whittaker

Community College:
Daley College
City Colleges of Chicago

Major:
Manufacturing Management

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

This program has given me the best opportunity to go forward with my education and have an opportunity to advance my career also.

What are your future plans at GSU?

My future plans once completing my degree through DDP is to move forward with my career path and give back to the school and community in which has given me a great opportunity

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

Transferring to Governors State University gives anyone who wants it the chance to move forward and become a great student and a great person.

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

This is a great program and gives a great opportunity to do more with their life.



Save the Dates! Spring 2020 Events

Saturday, January 18th – DDP Community Service
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. @ GSU Lakeside Lounge

DDP volunteers will assist in preparing 100 toiletry homeless care bags that will be distributed throughout the Chicagoland area. See email invitation for the link to RSVP!

Wednesday, January 29th – DDP Welcome Back Social
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. @ GSU Jaguar Den (A2140)

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

Friday, February 28th – DDP Scholarship Deadline
For those transferring to GSU in the Fall of 2020

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

Friday, February 28th – DDP Career Symposium
12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. @ GSU Engbretson Hall (B1200)

Preparing for your career after graduation?
Investigating internships for the upcoming year?

Join us for our annual Career Symposium and gather important tools to make sure that your career path is well planned and executed.

Friday, April 10th – DDP Induction

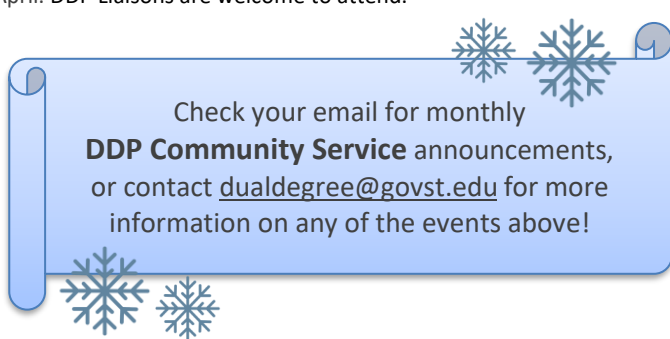
9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. @ GSU Engbretson Hall (B1200)

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 12th – DDP Graduation Celebration & Cording Ceremony

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. @ GSU Center for Performing Arts

DDP students graduating from GSU during the 2019-2020 academic year will be honored with a braided DDP cord acknowledging the completion of their DUAL degrees. Invitations will be mailed in early April. DDP Liaisons are welcome to attend.



Check your email for monthly
DDP Community Service announcements,
or contact dualdegree@govst.edu for more
information on any of the events above!

Important Updates

Fall 2020 DDP Scholarship Applications due Friday, February 28th

DDP students, would you like to attend GSU for FREE? If you are transferring to GSU in fall 2020, 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 multiple awards are encouraged to apply for several, 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). *Illinois undocumented students are eligible for the full award for up to four semesters at GSU!*
- ✦ 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! *Illinois undocumented students are eligible for the full award for up to four semesters at GSU!*

Applications and recommendation forms can be found on the [GSU Scholarship](#) site. Again, application materials are due on **Friday, Feb 28, 2019!**

Kudos and Congrats!

Spring 2020 DDP Scholarship Recipients

The Governors State University (GSU) Promise and Honors Scholarship is a competitive scholarship awarded annually. These scholarships 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 11 students were awarded a scholarship for Spring 2020. Let's celebrate our new recipients!

DDP Honors and GSU Promise Scholarship Awardees:

Fozia Abuali (MVCC)
Amal Assad (MVCC)
Isabella Reyes (MVCC)
Lateasa Reynolds (PSC)

Denzail Robinson (CCC-Harold Washington)
Brenda Salgado-Alvarado (MVCC)
Deijjanie Santana (MVCC)
Lana Shareef (MVCC)

Samuel Shelton (PSC)
Musa Ak Touray (CCC-Olive Harvey)
Marcus Whittaker (CCC-Daley)

Meet DDP's New Graduate Assistant

Name: Manuel Reza

Major: English

Hi, everyone! I'm Manny, and I am the Graduate Assistant for the Dual Degree Program. I am currently in the English MA program, and I aim to have a career in higher education. When I'm not busy with school, I like to act in plays. I have been in a few productions here at GSU, so maybe you have seen me on stage. I am so excited to have the opportunity to work with the awesome staff and students at DDP. As a former member of DDP, I can attest to how instrumental the program was to my own success and the success of my peers. DDP provides the necessary support to ensure that all students are able to reach their academic potential. When I first heard that DDP was looking for a GA, I was quick to apply because I wanted to pay it forward. I wanted to help other students with their transition to GSU similar to how I was helped. Now that I am officially part of the DDP team, I cannot wait to work with the members of the GSU community! If you have any questions about DDP or grad school, feel free to reach out to me! My email is mreza@student.govst.edu, and office is room A2122.



Event Highlights

DDP Fall 2019 Induction Ceremony

On November 1st, 2019, 30 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. Check out the full photo album by visiting the [DDP Facebook page!](#)

Here is a list of those inducted on November 1st, 2019:

Amal Assad (MVCC)
Abigail Barber (PSC)
Patricia Carter (PSC)
Courtney Castilla (Triton)
Carlos Castilla (Triton)
Brandi Castillo (KCC)
Jack Domanski (JJC)
Tomitra Fluker (PSC)
Lucia GarciaGallegos (PSC)
Eva Gloeckner (SSC)

Eunice Gomez (MVCC)
Antonia Guajardo (KCC)
Lessly Hernandez (KCC)
Tiffany Johnson (CCC-Olive Harvey)
Faith Keller (KCC)
James Langer (KCC)
Karen Malahov (PSC)
Koria Manning (KCC)
Amanda Ochoa (SSC)
Chelsey Pizano (KCC)

Heaven Powell (PSC)
Jonathan Qunell (PSC)
Salayah Robinson (PSC)
Denzail Robinson (CCC-Harold Wash)
Brenda Salgado Alvarado (MVCC)
Jasmine Sipla (JJC)
Lidia Swire (CCC-Malcolm X)
Pablo Tellez-Ocampo (Triton)
Markyla Thompson (CCC-Malcolm X)
Vanessa Sevilla (MVCC)



Don’t forget to “Like” and follow the DDP’s Facebook page to view our event photo albums and be notified of future events!

DDP Student Transition Assistants (STAs) are here to help!

Student Transition Assistants are DDP students and graduates of the program who are trained and 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 Dual Degree Program students new at Governors State University;
- Knowledgeable facilitator who provides pathways to people and resources;
- Reliable and energetic role model and advocate for student success.



The Student Transition Assistants are located at GSU in room A2122. For more information or to make an appointment, please email dualdegree@govst.edu or call (708) 235-7173.

You can also check out the [DDP STA website](#) for each semester's office hours, and a full list of STAs and the community colleges they graduated from!

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. September's community service was featured in our previous E-newsletter, and our October, November, and December events were a huge success as well! In October, we worked with The Cancer Support Center's annual fundraiser, The Walk of Hope, to cheer on walkers that were raising money for programs that benefit individuals and families affected by cancer. In November, we assisted the New Lenox Township Food Pantry by organizing and sorting food donations for the homeless. Finally, 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, 2019

On October 6th, 2019 DDP partnered with The Cancer Support Center to host The Walk of Hope. The Cancer Support Center is an organization in Homewood that provides resources that help improve the quality of life for those who are affected by cancer. The Walk of Hope is the only walk in the south suburbs to raise money for programs at no charge benefiting individuals and families affected by cancer. Students facilitated activities and cheered on walkers.



DDP Monthly Community Service (cont.)

November, 2019

On November 12th, 2019, during Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week, students worked with The New Lenox Township Food Pantry. The pantry is a donation-based organization that helps residents get access to food. Students who attended this community service event worked to sort, lift, date, and store various donations to the pantry. The students' work helped provide food security for those in need.



December, 2019

On December 16, 2019, 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!



Thank you for a great semester, and have a wonderful winter break!