

Director's Corner – Come see GSU!

Fall semester is here, so I wish you a warm welcome back to your respective campuses! We wish you well and hope that the year ahead will bring greater learning opportunities and accomplishments toward reaching your educational and professional career goals. The hustle and bustle of the beginning of the new year can become overwhelming; however, DDP is here to support you! You are always welcome to stop by my office in A2128, or the DDP STA office in A2122.

As the leaves turn colors, and midterms come and go, fall is also a great time to start considering your transfer options. Campuses are buzzing with life, so this is a great time to “see” what your next institution is all about. Whether you are working on your associate degree and planning to transfer soon, or a current GSU student considering graduate school, NOW IS THE TIME! We encourage you to attend our upcoming **Graduate and Undergraduate Open House on Saturday, October 12th, from 10am to 1pm**. Join us for a tour, speak with an academic advisor, and hear all about our financial aid and scholarship opportunities. And, don't forget to say hi to DDP Transfer Specialist, Sharita Walker!

RSVP to attend by [CLICKING HERE](#). We hope to see you there!

Best,
Jessica Specht, Director of DDP

2020-2021 FAFSA – Opens October 1st!

DDP students, remember that you will be able to file your [2020-21 FAFSA](#) as early as October 1, 2019!

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 2018 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.

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

DDP's Shining Star

Name: James Langer

Community College: Kankakee Community College

Major: Criminal Justice

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

The Dual Degree Program has influenced my success by giving me a reason to stay focus on school and push through the difficulties of college and life.

What are your future plans at GSU?

My future plans at GSU are to attend Fall of 2020 and work towards completing a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and possibly minoring in Forensic Psychology or Addictions Studies.

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

While I'm excited about furthering my knowledge in the field of criminal justice, I am very enthusiastic about being able to enjoy the beautiful scenery.

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

The tip I have for other students is to always remember why you decided to go to college and your dreams



Important Information & Updates

Spring 2020 DDP Scholarship Applications due Friday, October 4th

DDP students, would you like to attend GSU for FREE? 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 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). *Illinois undocumented students are also encouraged to apply for the full award.*
- ✦ 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 also encouraged to apply for the full award.*

Applications, recommendation forms, and FAQs can be found on the [GSU Scholarship](#) site. Application materials are due on **Friday, October 4, 2019!**

GSU Application Deadlines For Special Programs Are Fast Approaching!

DDP students, if you are planning to transfer to GSU in Spring 2020, 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:** December 6

Student Transition Assistants (STAs) Fall 2019 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** - 10:00am to 4:00pm
- ✦ **Tuesday** - 9:30am to 4:00pm
- ✦ **Wednesday** - 9:00am to 12:00pm & 1:00pm to 7:15pm
- ✦ **Thursday** - 10:00am to 4:00pm & 5:15pm to 7:30pm
- ✦ **Friday** - 10:00am to 1:00pm

Fall 2019 Student Transition Assistants:

Peter Brassea – [Prairie State College](#)
 Isabel Cervantes – [Morton College](#)
 Jerrica Jarrett – [Kankakee Community College](#)
 Omar Martinez – [Prairie State College](#)



Daj'za Mitchell – [Prairie State College](#)
 Cordell Payne – [City Colleges of Chicago](#)
 Bennett Talaber – [Joliet Junior College](#)

Save the Dates! Fall 2019 Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 1st – FAFSA available for 2020-2021 academic year!

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

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.

Saturday, October 12th – GSU Open House for Undergraduate & Graduate Programs

We will have admission and financial aid counselors, academic advisors, and student services representatives waiting to talk to you!

Friday, November 1st – 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 for more information on any of the events above!



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 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.



Dr. Donna Williams, Transfer Director @ Kennedy King College

What colleges and/or universities did you attend as a student, and for what degrees?

I started my college career at a community college in DeKalb, IL, Kishwaukee College. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism w/a specialization in Advertising from Southern Illinois University @ Carbondale, a Master of Science degree in Integrated Marketing Communications from Roosevelt University, and most recently I received a Doctorate in Interdisciplinary Leadership w/a concentration in Higher Education from Governors State University. *Go Jaguars!!*

What is your most memorable moment of college?

I have a number of memorable moments throughout my college career, but I think one of the most memorable moments was completing my doctorate degree. Completing this degree took a level of sacrifice and determination I did not know I had. This is also the degree that I believe will help me to make the greatest impact to the students I serve

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

While in undergrad, I could not have lived without my daily super-size fry from McDonalds. On my way to class every day, I would stop in the student center and buy an order of fries to eat on my way to class.

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

I would have slowed down and enjoyed the experience. As an undergraduate, I was so focused on finishing; I did not take the time to really appreciate the experience.

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

Get involved, actively meet new people and challenge your "comfort zones".

Event Highlights

DDP Cording & Welcome Celebration

On August 22, 2019, 31 DDP students encompassing 11 of our partnering community colleges participated in this fall's DDP Welcome & Cording Ceremony. Students who transferred to GSU in the spring and fall 2019 semesters were honored with a cord representing the community college where they recently graduated with their associate degree. In the company of several partnering college Presidents and GSU administration, students were corded by their respective DDP Transfer Specialists while proudly displaying their new DDP "One Degree Down!" t-shirts.



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

Elan Benge (KCC)
 Brian Blewitt (PSC)
 Samantha Brinley (WCC)
 Jessica Brooks (JJC)
 La'Janiece Burnett (MVCC)
 Janeya Burton (CCC-MaX)
 Isabel Cervantes (Morton)
 Mathena Crawl (MVCC)
 Lorena Diaz (SSC)
 Margaret Epperson (PSC)
 Rodolfo Garcia (MVCC)
 Chasitivity Garland (CCC-HWash)
 Felicia Goodrich (KCC)
 Tamiki Harris (CCC-KKing)
 Tara Henry (SSC)
 Derron Jackson (CCC-KKing)
 Sashay Jones (CCC-HWash)
 Jeanine Latrice Koger (PSC)
 Morgan Langer (KCC)
 Stephanie Maltos (CCC-Daley)
 Aryanna Mancilla (MVCC)

Stephanie McToy (CCC-KKing)
 Dianna Mireles (SSC)
 Jaliyah Mitchell (CCC-Daley)
 Dorolyn Peters (MVCC)
 Shannon Porter (PSC)
 Tyler Riemenschneider (KCC)
 Bennett Talaber (JJC)
 Melany Villagomez (KCC)
 Dylan Webb (PSC)
 Joshua Wisniewski (KCC)



Event Highlights (continued)

7th Annual “Get Money” Scholarship Symposium

On Friday, September 20th, 2019, the Dual Degree Program (DDP) collaborated with the Male Success Initiative (MSI) in hosting our 7th Annual “Get Money” Scholarship Symposium on the Governors State University campus. Featured presenters included GSU faculty and professional staff, as well as returning presenter Brenda High, College and Career Coach and “[Scholarship Mom.](#)”



DDP Welcome Back Social

On September 4, 2019, 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 & wing party in the GSU E-Lounge. Students were able to mix and mingle while playing games, listening to music, and winning prizes.



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.

August 2019

Our first DDP Alumni service event! On August 10, 2019, 10 current and former DDP students came together to volunteer at Cradles to Crayons, a Chicago non-profit organization that provides children from birth through age 12 with everyday essentials they need to thrive—at home, school, and play. The group spent the day sorting through clothes and reminiscing about their days at GSU while in DDP.



September 2019

On September 21, 2019, seven DDP students assisted at Crete Park District's Acorn Fest. The Acorn Fest is a fun event for the Crete residents to fellowship and kickoff the fall season. DDP students assisted and supervised children during the fest with games, arts and crafts and other fun activities.

