

2014

Annual Report 2013-2014

Student Affairs and Services

Division of Student Affairs and Support Services



On May 6, 2014 GSU became Jaguar Nation with the reveal of institution's first official mascot.

Annual Report

2013 - 2014

INTRODUCTION



“The essence of education is change.” - William T. Jerome, 1965

An annual report, by its design chronicles change, and as Dr. William Jerome, past President of Bowling Green State University, and noted educational leader, famously stated “The essence of education is change.” At GSU, I would paraphrase President Jerome’s quote by saying that the “essence of innovation in education is change.” This 2013-14 annual report chronicles that change and the innovation in student affairs practice as we seek to enhance programs and services for our current students and welcome our historic class of freshmen.

The Division of Student Affairs and Support Services aspires to be recognized as a vital contributor in creating an inclusive, supportive and engaged campus community focused on student success. Our efforts focus on delivering an innovative, comprehensive and integrated student life curriculum with learning outcomes that focus on self-efficacy and determination, personal and professional success, multicultural competence, leadership development, and civic engagement.

This report provides information about the breadth of programs and services sponsored by our team of dedicated and talented student affairs educators and academic enrichment professionals. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments about this report, or if you are interested in partnering with Student Affairs in creating, or expanding, programs and services for the Governors State University community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aurélio M Valente". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Aurélio Manuel Valente, Ed.D.

Dean of Students and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs

SASS EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Aurélio Manuel Valente

Dean of Students and Associate Vice President
for Academic Affairs



Darcie Campos

Assistant Vice President of Career Services



Kelly McCarthy

Assistant Vice President for Student
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Sheree Sanderson

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For a complete listing of the Student Affairs team, please visit:
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Division of Student Affairs and Support Services Annual Report 2013-2014

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Orientation Leaders for 2014 (back left to right) Rakesh Margam, Critisha Ashley, Monique Mobley, Derrick Brown, Dr. Aurelio Valente, Rachel Shaw, Doug Nanfeldt, Ricca Louissaint (front left to right) Maria D'Apolito, Brittany Czech, Doria Scott, Kimberly Mattison

STUDENT AFFAIRS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

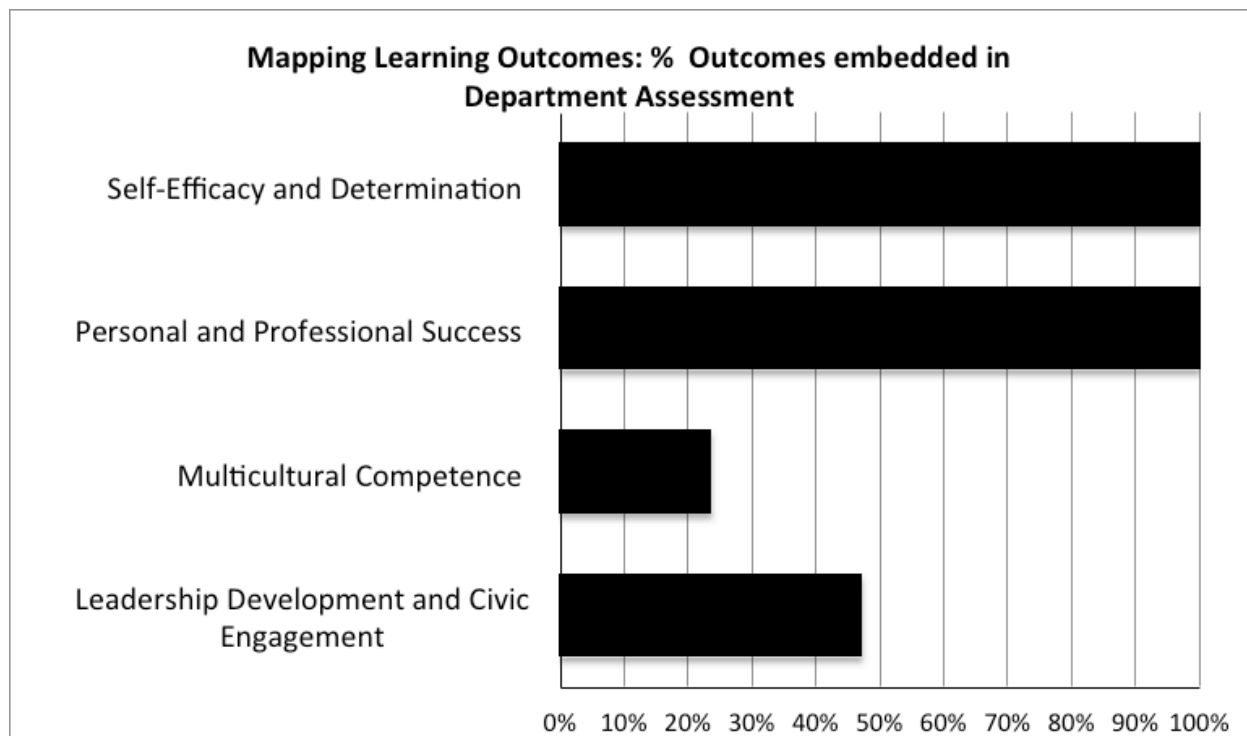
LEARNING OUTCOMES

The mission of the Division of Student Affairs and Support Services is to promote the academic, personal and professional development of our students and inspire them to be responsible citizens and leaders both on campus and in the community.

The Division of Student Affairs and Support Services aspires to deliver an innovative, comprehensive and integrated student life curriculum with learning outcomes that focus on self-efficacy and determination, personal and professional success, multicultural competence, leadership development, and civic engagement.

Students who actively participate in programs sponsored by Student Affairs and Support Services will achieve:

- 1. Self-Efficacy and Determination** by constructing an understanding of self, and commitment to personal responsibility, integrity and wellness, that guides their decisions and actions.
- 2. Personal and Professional Success** by learning and applying knowledge and transferable skills to achieve personal aspirations and professional and career growth.
- 3. Multicultural Competence** by thriving within diverse perspectives, experiences and environments, and building their capacity for being advocates for equity and social justice.
- 4. Leadership Development and Civic Engagement** deploying their knowledge and talents to improve their communities, both as individuals and by mobilizing others towards positive sustainable change.



SELECTED FINDINGS FROM LEARNING OUTCOMES

OUTCOME:

Students participating in the Leadership Institute will examine and assess areas of strength and development in terms of exemplary leadership by using the Leadership Practices Inventory (LPI).

FINDING:

As reported by their assigned Leadership Mentors, 34(94%) students utilized the information and assessment of LPI (Model the Way, Inspire a Shared Vision, Challenge the Process, Enable Others to Act, and Encourage the Heart) in the assessment and improvement of their leadership potential.

OUTCOME:

As a result of participating in regular, one-on-one Writing Center appointments, students will be able to identify the systematized patterns of error in their own writing and correct those errors, leading to their elimination—zero systematized errors.

FINDING:

71 (21%) eliminated or greatly reduced systematized patterns of errors.

OUTCOME:

As a result of students participation as leaders in student organizations they will develop leadership skills, values and attitudes that translate life long leadership in their communities.

FINDING:

21 (91%) reported they were more confident in expressing themselves and speaking with diverse audiences.

FINDING:

20 (87%) reported they were better able to understand different experiences and perspectives.

OUTCOME:

As a result of participating in the Alternative Spring Break Program, students will be able to understand how to build coalitions and address social justice issues.

FINDING:

14 (73%) respondents reported a greater understanding of systemic causes of poverty among youth.

OUTCOME:

After attending career workshops, students will be more prepared for effective internship and job search processes.

FINDING:

86% of students were able to identify the best methods for connecting with individuals on LinkedIn. 95% were able to correctly recognize appropriate ways to develop descriptions on their resumes. 100% were able to identify appropriate follow-up process after an interview. 100% were able to recall the necessary tools to correctly market themselves.

LEADERSHIP, PROGRAMS, SERVICES

The Office of the Dean of Students provides strategic leadership for the division of Student Affairs and Support Services. In addition, the Office of the Dean of Students sponsors a series of programs and services that support student advocacy and community standards.

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Dean's Office Highlights

- The Office of the Dean of Students coordinates a comprehensive Community Standards program that includes a proactive and responsive Student Concerns Program with campus wide stakeholders, a revised Student Code of Conduct supported by a trained Student Conduct Committee and Administrative Hearing Officers, and a University-wide Campus Threat Assessment Team.
- The division sponsored the 2nd annual Student Leadership Institute which drew over 100 applications for a maximum of 60 spots. A Graduate Leadership Scholars program was continued to accommodate interest from graduate students. A distinctive feature of the Student Leadership Institute was a mentoring component that involved 45 faculty and staff who volunteered their time to serve as leadership mentors to the student participants. In all, 51 (85%) students successfully completed both the Student Leadership Institute and Graduate Leadership Scholars programs.

- A collaboration with both the Faculty Teaching and Scholarship Center and the Center for Online Teaching and Learning, the Student Affairs division co-sponsored a presentation by Eric Stoller entitled, What's Your Digital Identity: A Comprehensive Look at Today's Social Media Landscape. This keynote was followed with a summer workshop series entitled Tapping into your Social Media. These interactive workshops included strategies on utilizing Twitter, Instagram, Picasa/Flicker, blogging, and LinkedIn.



Eric Stoller, Speaker

- The Office of the Dean of Students in collaboration with the College of Education and Student Senate, hosted the Restorative Justice Drive-In Conference on April 16, 2014. Over 120 participants representing 28 different community organizations and institutions attended. The keynote speaker was Dr. David Karp from Skidmore College where he discussed best practices for implementing restorative justice practices in the primary schools, higher education, and community settings. The conference schedule included a demonstration talking circle and breakout sessions that discussed theft, ethics, hate crimes and best practices.
- In its third year, the Student Enrichment Program enrolled 140 students. Of the 140 enrolled, 94 were active participants in the program for the 2013-14 year. 39% were enrolled through the Academic Recovery Program while the remainder 61% was first-generation college students who elected to participate in this program. The program hosted in excess of 40 workshops, and more than 300 individual coaching meetings with participants.



Interpreter Araceli Marez, Dr. Aurelio Valente, dean of students, and Orientation Leader, Critisha Ashley



First Year Orientation Student with Academic Advisor, LaTonya Holmes

The Academic Resource Center strives to promote the personal growth of students and to enrich their academic experience. The Academic Resource Center (ARC) provides advising for undeclared students, immunization compliance, mental health counseling, on-campus orientation, access services for students with disabilities, tutoring, first year advising, and writing center services to all GSU students.

In total, the Academic Resource Center served 8,961 visits virtue of its comprehensive services and coordinated four orientation programs hosting 859 new undergraduate, graduate students and guests.

ARC Highlights

- New Student Programs coordinated four orientation programs for Transfer and Graduate Students from August 2013 to May 2014. The first ever orientation program for first year students was held on June 26, 2014. In total, 859 new students and guests attended orientation programs.
- A total of 200 students visited the center 793 times for tutoring in math, science and business. Supplemental Instruction (SI) was implemented during the Fall 2013 semester in College Algebra (MATH 1423); Applied Calculus (MATH 2281) and Statistics (STAT 4720) were offered during the Spring 2014 semester. Preliminary counts indicate that at least 40 students visited at least one SI session; total number of visits was 216, averaging 5.5 students per SI session.

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- During the AY13-14, The Writing Center logged 1,207 face-to-face appointments, 1,098 online contacts, 754 library contacts, served 176 students through workshops and 480 walk-in requests. Students are using the Writing Center more frequently as there was an average of 2.21 interactions per student this year, as opposed to 1.66 from the previous year. In total, the Writing Center supported 3,715 student contacts for the 2013-14 academic year.
- Access Services for Students with Disabilities had a total of 1,783 visits and contacts, 363 for testing accommodations and 1,031 faculty collaborations and consultations; 113 students utilized academic and career advising. Offering self-advocacy workshops was a priority outreach focus for Access Services.
- The Counseling staff provides mental health counseling for students and outreach programming for the GSU community on various mental health issues. In total, there were 1,082 visits for clinical counseling services and 117 participants attended outreach sessions.
- There were 227 placement and testing appointments through March, 2014: 36 CLEP, 27 DSST, 65 ETs and 63 tests proctored for students with disabilities.



Dr. David Rhea gives students information on the University Honors Program

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

The Office of Career Services provides a wide range of services available to currently enrolled students and alumni. Services include individual career advising appointments, assistance with resume preparation and interview skills, and resume and cover letter critiques. In addition, Career Services coordinates job search skills workshops, customized workshops, and career fairs.

In total, Career Services served 914 individual client visits and sponsored 93 programs and events at which 2,166 students, faculty, staff, corporate partners and community members attended.

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Career Services Highlights

- Individual consultations constitute a significant portion of the personal outreach by the career counseling staff. In total, 914 individual clients constituted 1,303 visits. Of the 914 clients, 732 (80%) were students, 99 (10%) were alumni members, 27 (3%) were members of the community, and 56 (7%) were employers.
- Career, Internship, and Networking Fairs are the most visible programmatic efforts sponsored by Career Services and served 575 job seekers and hosted 131 employers during the 2013-14 academic year. Two of the four fairs sponsored last year were combined to form the Spring Fair 2014 and added the Student Employment Fair. In total, four fairs were sponsored this year and include Student Employment Fair which welcomed 109 job seekers and 27 employers; Health and Human Services Career and Internship Fair which welcomed 118 job seekers and 29 employers; Education Career and Internship Fair welcomed 80 job seekers and 25 employers; and Spring Fair welcomed 268 job seekers and 50 employers.
- In addition to career fairs, the department sponsored 93 programs over the 2013-14 academic year that included class visits, workshops, and presentations that served 2,166 students, faculty, staff, corporate partners and community members attended.
- Two notable additions to the Career Services programmatic portfolio included the addition of the Student Employment Fair held in August 2013 and the advancement of graduate student life programs held throughout the academic year. Graduate student programs included a graduate assistant reception, workshops on conducting research, negotiations, getting published, and personal branding to name a few.



Etiquette Luncheon Group: (left to right) Jessica Specht, Etta James, Jeremy Joyce, and Dartina Dunlap attend the Annual Etiquette Luncheon sponsored by the Office of Career Services

GET FIT, HAVE FUN

The Recreation and Fitness Center (RFC) is open to students, faculty, staff and community members. The RFC team is committed to improving the quality of life and fitness for all participants. The center offers a variety of attributes from fitness and athletics to health and wellness. The RFC facilities include an Olympic style pool, racquetball court, fitness room, and gymnasium will give you the tools necessary to reach your total body wellness goals. The atrium Game Room includes an X-Box station, pool table, ping pong table, and foosball table in addition to plenty of lounge space to relax.

In addition to student members, another 983 alumni and community members constituted 41,093 visits to the Recreation and Fitness Center during the 2013-14 academic year.

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Interim Athletic Director and Head Men's Basketball Coach, Tony Bates joined the GSU family this year.



Men's Basketball Club 2013-2014

Back right to left – Darnell Aytch, Alex Bennett, Brandon Onuselegu
Front right to left – Will Gant, Quinton Crudup, Marcus Butler, Sean Harris, Gerald Rowan, Melvin Hayes, Demarcus Collins, Andrew DiCosmo, Calvin Rowe

RFC Highlights

- Of the 41,093 visits to the Recreation and Fitness Center, 31,311 (76%) visits were to the Pool, 18,859 (46%) to the Gymnasium, 27,288 (66%) to the Fitness Room, and 6,326 (15%) to the Racquetball Court.
- Of the 346 visits logged to the Game Room, 128 (37%) utilized the Billiards table, and 86 (25%) utilized Table Tennis, and 16 (5%) utilized the Foosball, and 156 utilized the Xbox (45%).
- A total of \$85,460 of revenue was generated during the 2013-14 academic year from membership fees and rental of the Recreation and Fitness Center facilities.
- A reenergized Sports Club program including Bowling, Table Tennis, Golf, Softball, Basketball and Volleyball were all active during the year. The NCTTA Table Tennis Tournament was held at GSU on November 9th and hosted by GSU Table Tennis Team and the Recreation and Fitness Center. The GSU table tennis team would eventually win the Mid-west title and finish 14th nationally. The first GSU club basketball team was victorious in the first collegiate exhibition game versus Judson University hosted on November 15. The club basketball team would also win the Mokena Park District spring tournament in April. The club volleyball team won the Orland Park district fall league title in December.
- The Recreation and Fitness Center sponsored Fitness Classes such as Yoga, Aquacise, Zumba, aerobics, and swim instruction; in total, 901 students, faculty, staff and community members enrolled during the 2013-14 academic year.
- Major refurbishments of the GSU gymnasium were completed, transforming the gymnasium from a recreational facility into a competitive college athletic venue. Upgrades are planned to fitness room equipment and locker rooms.



The International Culture Organization was named Club of the Year at the Spring Leadership Awards.

The **Office of Student Life** develops programs and events to provide experiential learning opportunities for the GSU students. Our mission is to support and enrich the Governors State University educational experience through student involvement in its programs, student organizations and services. Students are empowered through interaction in self-initiated or planned activities with fellow students, faculty members and staff. Thus, Student Life is predicated on principles in which the campus climate respects the rights of individuals and groups, encourages student success and insures outlets for personal and professional development.

In total, Student Life and GSU recognized student organizations sponsored major programs and events at which 10,614 students, faculty, staff and community members attended.

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Student Life Highlights

- At the beginning of the fiscal year Student Life began an initiative to increase engagement of student clubs and organizations. In the 2013-14 academic year, eight new student organizations, and three honor societies were introduced, representing 73 clubs and organizations. Newly recognized student organizations include: GSU Speaks Up, Toastmasters Chapter, Upsilon Pi Epsilon Honor Society, Upsilon Phi Delta Honor Society, Sustainability Club, and Graduate Student Network.
- Student Life launched the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service to serve as a clearinghouse for community service and civic engagement activities. The Center is staffed by two AmeriCorps VISTAs through support by Illinois Campus Compact. Notable accomplishments in the Center's inaugural year include; participation in the Carnegie application process; established the Community Service Student Council, Service Days, Alternative Spring Break; Hunger and Homelessness Week; Civic Engagement Blog; and re-launch of the GSU Food Pantry.
- Student Life established the GSU Program Council (GSUPC) as a campus wide student sponsored programming board. The GSUPC works in conjunction with Student Life to sponsor programs focused on community building events, Open Mic Nights are a signature GSUPC initiative.
- Student Life sponsored 74 programs and events with a total attendance of 10,614 students, faculty, staff and community members in attendance. Student Organizations sponsored 56 campus events with a total of 4,645 students, faculty, staff and community members in attendance.
- Notable student leaders accomplishments; Four GSU Students were chosen as "50 for the Future" by the Illinois Technology Foundation; GSU hosted the 2014 Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition Team; GSU student Tamisha Rose (past president Computer Science Club) was invited to the White House to participate in a special meeting sponsored by the Council on Cyber Security and the Department of Homeland Security; International Culture Organization was honored as the club of the year at the Annual Leadership Awards Banquet.

Student veterans have likely made sacrifices and faced hardships unknown to most students. For this reason, the **Veterans Resource Center**, established in Fall 2012, supports student veterans in their transition between the military and civilian environment, and helps ensure that student veterans can thrive at GSU. The VRC serves as a central resource for information or assistance, whether it is regarding their VA benefits, GSU related topics, or civilian matters. Equally important, the VRC is also a welcoming space where student veterans can network with each other. In total, GSU enrolls nearly 300 veteran students, of which approximately 50% receive aid requiring certification for various state and federal programs. An additional 35 dependents of veterans were certified through the Veterans Resource Center.



Student Veterans Association (SVA) Vice President Risa Stegall (National Guard), Veterans Coordinator James Flagg (Army), SALUTE Inductee and SVA Treasurer Greg Dole (Marines), and SVA President Ken Walker (Army).



Joshua Morris, SALUTE Honor Society Inductee, poses with his family.



Dr. Rupert Evans, Air Force Veteran and the Chair for the Department of Health Administration was the honorary recipient of this year's SALUTE Honor Society.

Come From" and Footprints of Veterans - Veterans from St. Leo's Residence. The week also included the Veterans Entrepreneurial Boot Camp sponsored by the Small Business Development Center and a Missing Soldier Brunch concluded a very successful Veterans Appreciation Week. There was a presentation on veterans housing initiatives by representatives from The Department of Veterans' Affairs Supportive Housing Program.

- The newly established Veterans Advisory Council comprises of GSU student veterans, faculty and staff will meet regularly to share resources and ideas of how to best serve our student veterans and their dependents here on campus. The advisory council focuses on getting a better understanding of who our student veterans are and establishing a system of best practices to meet their many needs as they transition into college and out into their respective careers.
- A group of 25 student veterans participated in the 2nd induction of SALUTE Honor Society which represent the foundations; Service, Academics, Leadership, Unity, Tribute, and Excellence.

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VRC Highlights

- GSU held its first Veterans Appreciation Week from Nov. 9 – 14, centered around Veteran's Day Celebrations. The week kicked off with GSU's participation in the annual Richton Park Veterans Day Parade hosted by VFW Post #311, a seminar entitled "Transitioning: Are Veterans Failing College?" in collaboration with the Social Work Program, and continued with two events sponsored by The Intellectual Life Committee; "Where Soldiers



Fellow Veteran and Office Support for Career Services Kevin Smith (Coast Guard) speaks to the Student Veterans Association on Tactical Thursday.

Student Affairs and Support Services Directory

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