NEWS

Commencement 2018 Student Speakers Announced

The student speakers for Governors State University’s 2018 Commencement ceremonies have been chosen. This year, two students will be selected for each ceremony: one representing the student body as a whole, and one representing the first graduating freshman class of 2014. Read the speakers’ bios (https://gsunews.govst.edu/2018-gsu-student-commencement-speakers-announced/) Congratulations to the 2018 Commencement student speakers!

Cap & Gown Pick-up This Week
Graduates, pick up your cap and gown in Engbretson Hall tomorrow, May 2 from 2 – 7 p.m.

Commencement is just around the corner! Visit the Commencement webpage (http://www.govst.edu/commencement/) for more information.

Partnering for Men’s Success

GSU educators and administrators, along with their counterparts from other Southland institutions of higher education, recently gathered to take a stand for the progress of brown and black men striving for progress through education.

“We are committed to supporting our men of color, who at the national level, have low college retention and graduation rates,” said Sean Smith, coordinator of the GSU Male Success Initiative program. (https://www.govst.edu/msi/)

Smith was joined by GSU’s Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Elizabeth Cada and Aurélio Valente, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, as well as seven representatives from Prairie State College (PSC), South Suburban College (SSC), and The Kresge Foundation, to formalize an agreement that promises to support men of color on their respective campuses.

Read more... (https://gsunews.govst.edu/partnering-for-mens-success/)
GSU Class Volunteering in Texas Makes Front-Page News

A class led by Dr. Daniel Cortese, Professor of Sociology, has made the front page news of the local paper in Rio Grande Valley of Texas. The group has been working with La Posada Providencia, a ministry dedicated to providing shelter and programming to refugees from more than 80 countries.

Read the story (https://gsunews.govst.edu/gsu-volunteers-make-front-page-news-in-texas/).

Hungry and Homeless at GSU

Last year, 76 Governors State University (http://www.govst.edu/) students were asked if they struggled to find quality food in the 30 days prior or adequate housing in the year prior as part of a national study of College Student Food and Housing Insecurities led by the Wisconsin HOPE lab. More than half of the students surveyed reported food and housing insecurities.

In the largest survey of this kind, HOPE lab—a university-based applied research laboratory of scientists—talked to 43,000 students from 66 two- and four-year institutions, including GSU, and found 36% of university students were food insecure in the 30 days leading up to the survey. Similarly, 36% of university students reported being housing insecure in the last year.

“Still Hungry and Homeless in College (http://wihopelab.com/publications/Wisconsin-HOPE-Lab-Still-Hungry-and-Homeless.pdf)” shines a light on an issue hidden in plain sight, said Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Aurélio Valente (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8otR2-9PeA).
Great American Bagel Pop-Up Pantry

The Great American Bagel Pop-Up Pantry (https://gsunews.govst.edu/great-american-bagel-pop-up-pantry/) is helping address hunger in the GSU student body by donating bagels three times weekly: Mondays and Thursdays in the Hall of Governors, and Fridays at Prairie Place.

Learn more about this project (https://gsunews.govst.edu/great-american-bagel-pop-up-pantry/).

Trustee Barr Makes Donation to VRC

GSU Trustee Carney Barr has donated $3,000 to the Veterans Resource Center to support efforts to raise awareness of the VRC to both Illinois and Indiana active duty military personnel and veterans, spouses, and dependents; and to create an advisory board for the VRC.

The GSU community extends its thanks to Trustee Barr for his donation.

Fall 2018 Intellectual Life Grant Recipients Announced

Fall 2018 Intellectual Life Grant Recipients have been announced.

“We received an outstanding number of applications for Fall 2018 Intellectual Life Grants,” said Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library and Chair of the Intellectual Life Committee. “The committee is pleased with the selection of the outstanding quality of programs, events, and activities presented.”

The Fall 2018 grantees and their programs are as follows:

5th Symposium on Mindfulness and Contemplative Practices in Higher Education – Maristela Zell, Tim Pedigo, and Matt Cooney
Before Columbus: The Art and Cultures of Ancient Mexico – Novia Pagone

Beyond the Box – Lorri Glass

Celebrating Restorative Justice Week with Susan Sharpe – Joao Salm and Alexis Sarkisian

Chicagoland Southland International Film Festival – Sanghoon Lee

Environment, Community, and Social Justice – Jelena Radovic-Fanta

In Their Shoes – Understanding and Experiencing International Students’ Social, Cultural, and Academic Lives – Akiko Ota and Chris Greiner

Laurens and Nate Grant Master Class – Daniel Nearing

Screening of Southwest of Salem: Crime, Justice, and LGBTQ Identity – Lara Stache

Symposium on Social Equity & Criminal Justice Reform – Vincent Jones

The Empty Bowls Project – Leanne Cambric

"On behalf of the Intellectual Life Committee, I would like to thank all who applied and encourage those who did not receive grants to apply again," said Morrow Ruetten. For more information about the Intellectual Life Committee, please contact Lydia at lruetten@govst.edu (mailto:lruetten@govst.edu).

Anthropology Professor Receives Grant

Dr. Jelena Radovic-Fanta (http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/rradovic-fanta/), Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Sociology, has been awarded a $6,000 publication grant from the American Association of University Women (https://www.aauw.org/) (AAUW), an organization which funds research addressing gender inequity.

Dr. Radovic-Fanta's grant will allow her to travel and live in Santiago, Chile, for two months as she continues her research examining the hazardous work conditions of female grape-pickers in Chile's central valley, as well as the impact of labor and gender as it affects them under the context of globalization.

Congratulations, Dr. Radovic-Fanta!

STEAM Camp Student Motivated to Pursue Marine Biology
GSU is sponsoring its annual hands-on science, technology, art, and mathematics (STEAM) camp fun for summer 2018. Through a series of fun, highly interactive activities, students (ages 11 – 16) learn basic concepts in the visual and performing arts, chemistry, engineering, physics, and robotics.

Last year, Kevelin Muhammad, grandson of English Professor Rashidah Muhammad, attended and walked away wanting to become a marine biologist. He and other campers collected water samples for the pond and conducted tests for algae. They found and identified various other living organisms in the water such as snails, leeches, and dragon flies. Kevelin said he enjoyed the hands-on experience of STEAM Camp and the inclusive environment created by faculty and staff.

Don’t miss a chance to register your child this summer for one or both sessions. Camp fees are $200 per child, per week.

Week One: **July 16 – 20** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Week Two: **July 23 – 27** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**STEAM Camp Plus:** Activities are also available Monday to Thursday, 3 to 5 p.m. Additional fee of $60 per session, per camper applies.

**Scholarship Opportunities:** A limited number of partial scholarships for Governors State University’s Summer 2018 STEAM Camp are awarded on a first-come, first-served, need-basis.

For additional information, click [here](http://www.govst.edu/steamcamp) or call 708.534.4088.

**GSU Library Hosts B.Y.O.Bag**
All used books on the library bookshelf, located on the library balcony, are free for the taking this week and next.

Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library, said, “All that we ask that you bring your own bag. We would like to have all of the books go to homes where they are appreciated. This way we can bring out an entire new set of used books!”

For more information, contact the Library (mailto:GSULibraryInfo@govst.edu).

**Reach Your Goals Faster with Vacation Education at GSU**

Summer courses can help you stack on track for graduation and lighten your course load during the fall and spring semesters. View the summer schedule ([http://classes.govst.edu/Lists/Sections/ss18.aspx](http://classes.govst.edu/Lists/Sections/ss18.aspx)) for your degree requirements—or consider taking an elective outside of your major to explore other areas of interest.

And starting this year, you may be able to cover summer tuition costs using your Pell Grant ([http://www.govst.edu/Admissions/Financial_Aid/Summer_Pell_Grant/](http://www.govst.edu/Admissions/Financial_Aid/Summer_Pell_Grant/))!

**Stock Up on Spring Flowers and Benefit Friends of the GSU Library**
You can preorder flats of flowers and plants now through **Thursday, May 3** at 5 p.m. to benefit the Friends of the GSU Library.

All flowers are sold in full flats of 48 plants per color only (no mixing). Flowers include petunias, impatiens, dianthus, marigolds, vinca, begonias, dusty miller, and salvia. The cost is only $12 per flat, or $11 per flat for four or more. Orders and payment must be received by 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 3.

Flowers will be delivered by Sunrise Greenhouses on **Monday, May 7** and all flowers **MUST BE PICKED UP** between 2 and 6 p.m.

Please contact Cheri Garey (mailto:cgarey@govst.edu), x7892, for more information.

### Announcements and Events

**Fourth Annual CAS Reception**

![Mendez 2018](image)

The College of Arts and Sciences invites you to a celebration of student artists and writers at the Fourth Annual Student Achievement Reception taking place **tomorrow, May 2** from 2 – 6 p.m. in the E-Lounge. Join CAS and student literary and visual arts journal [Reconstructed](https://reconstructedjournal.com/) for an afternoon of refreshments, gallery viewings, BFA artist talks, and readings from the 2018 issue of *Reconstructed*.

**SEA Supports Red Nose Day**

Throughout May, the [Student Education Association (SEA)](https://seaatgsu.wordpress.com/) and Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society in Education (KDP) will be supporting Walgreens and Duane Reade in their annual Red Nose Day fundraiser, which brings together people across America to raise awareness and funds to help children in need. Learn more about Red Nose Day and support the mission by purchasing a nose at Walgreens for $1 each. Proceeds go directly toward programs to support children.

### Chipotle Fundraiser to Benefit GPN
Have dinner at Chipotle (4815 W. 211th St., Matteson) on **Tuesday, May 2** from 4 – 8 p.m. to benefit GSU’s Graduate Professional Network. Print or bring an electronic version of this flyer (http://www.govst.edu/chipotlefundraiser18) and GPN will receive 50% of the proceeds.

**Glitter for Graduates!**

On **Saturday, May 5**, all upcoming graduates are invited to a cap decorating party, and we are looking for supply donations. Do you have a bottle of glue? Some puffy paint or sequins left over from a project? Please consider donating them to the next class of alumni from GSU!

Email Angela Denk (mailto:adenk@govst.edu) or call 708.235.2188 to arrange a donation or get more details.

**Nurses Week Celebration Banquet**
Lambda Lambda, GSU’s Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, invites you to a Nurses Week Celebration Banquet on **Sunday, May 6** from 3 – 7 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, Calumet Memorial Post 330, 950 Legion Drive, Calumet City, Illinois 60409.

Entertainment will be provided by Those Funny Little People (http://www.thosefunnylittlepeople.com/), and there will be music, dancing, door prizes, a raffle and silent auction, and a buffet style dinner!

Tickets are $35 per person. Contact Terri Chairse (mailto:tchairse2@govst.edu) (708.534.7894) for more information. You may PayPal your tickets (https://www.paypal.me/GSULambdaLambda) or send checks by mail to Shirley Comer, 1 University Parkway, F-1519, University Park, IL 60484.

**Joliet Slammers Fundraiser**

The Student Education Association (SEA) and Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society (KDP) are hosting a May 30 social and fundraiser at the 7 p.m. Joliet Slammers (http://www.jolietslammers.com/) game on the Silver Cross Field in Joliet. The Slammers, a professional baseball team, will be battling the Washington Wild Things in one of the first games of the season.

There was a great turnout at this event last year; SEA leaders, faculty, and staff from GSU brought their family and friends. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Tickets are $10 per person; portions of proceeds of ticket purchases will go to both organizations. Contact any leader of the SEA to purchase tickets (tickets must be purchased for cash from a student leader). For more information, contact Hannah Gruben (mailto:hgruben@student.govst.edu).

**Highlights**

**Tricia Kerns**

![Tricia Kerns](image)

Tricia Kerns's (http://www.govst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/1kerns/)s fascination with the world of business operations began in the early 80s when her father lost his job at U.S. Steel. His loss kicked off her journey to find answers. She made an early stop at Governors State University (http://govst.edu/) in 1998 as a returning adult student.

The devastating loss of steel mill jobs could be felt throughout the entire community, and young Kerns was inspired to ultimately learn business processes to help ensure others wouldn’t lose employment to global competition.

“Looking back, as much as we wanted to say it was unfair, there was a lot of waste, and foreign competitors had been stepping up,” said Kerns.

Now a university lecturer with the College of Business (http://www.govst.edu/cob/) since 2014, Kerns became the first in her immediate family to earn a degree when she completed her bachelor’s degree with a concentration in Operations Management (http://www.govst.edu/BusinessAdministration/) in 2003. She went on to earn her MBA (http://www.govst.edu/MBA) at Governors State in 2006 and her Doctor of Education degree with a concentration in Ethical Leadership in 2011.
COB 2018 Accounting Alumni Hall of Achievement Induction

On Tuesday, April 24, GSU’s College of Business (http://www.govst.edu/cob/) held its 2018 Accounting Alumni Hall of Achievement Induction Ceremony in the Hall of Honors. Two Master of Science in Accounting alumni were honored: Ms. Dana Agusto (CPA, MSA 2014), who is currently an auditor and auditing training instructor at KPMG, a Big 4 Accounting Firm, and Ms. Colleen Ivancik (CPA, MSA 2010), who is an assistant professor of accounting at Prairie State College.

About 65 COB students attended the event, and after the induction ceremony, students engaged in an interactive Q&A to learn more about the career options of CPA and outlooks of accounting profession.

Accounting faculty committee selected the honorees. Dr. David Green, AFME Division Chair, and Dr. Jun Zhao, Dean of the College of Business, attended and participated in the ceremony too.

Workshops & Trainings

A list of workshops for students, faculty, and staff can be found here (https://gsunews.govst.edu/workshops-and-training-opps/preview/0e8930bfc4328ea9bc13bfbe19bbe3e3df7125f).

Faculty: If you have not already done so, it’s time to have a new headshot photograph taken. Please refer to the schedule (https://gsunews.govst.edu/workshops-and-training-opps/preview/0e8930bfc4328ea9bc13bfbe19bbe3e3df7125f) to find a convenient time.

Do you have a story or event you want to submit for the GSU View? Click here to learn about our submission guidelines. (http://www3.govst.edu/adecastro/GSUIView/guidelines.html)
Chicago, IL, May 01, 2018

2018 Student Commencement Speakers Announced

Jamal McPherson thanks his worldwide exploration for helping him find his true path. A U.S. Navy veteran who served aboard the U.S.S. Harry S. Truman, Jamal sought the military to hone a sense of discipline he had missed since leaving home at 15.

Although Jamal earned his high school equivalency diploma at 17, he recognized the pathway he was on was untenable. Naval service not only provided an opportunity for self-reflection and personal growth, but also shone a light on three critical traits Jamal wanted to master: humility, discipline, and punctuality.

Upon completion of his service, Jamal volunteered for Urban Warriors, a youth safety and violence prevention program connecting veterans with at risk youth in Chicago. His ability to speak both candidly and from experience resonated with the youth. His distinct approach was picked up by the media, resulting in Jamal receiving a letter of commendation from President Barack Obama praising his commitment to serving the community.

Jamal’s dedication to community service also was recognized at GSU when he became the first recipient of the Global Learning Scholarship. This scholarship enabled Jamal to travel to Nicaragua as part of GSU’s Public Health Brigade (https://gsunews.govst.edu/gsu-students-learn-outside-university-walls/) where he helped with sanitation infrastructure. A proponent of becoming comfortable with being uncomfortable, Jamal considers this experience a concrete example of his desire for greater personal growth and development through constantly expanding his comfort zone. Although a firm believer of education as key to success, Jamal never underestimates the value of self-reflection and knowing oneself.

Upon graduation, Jamal intends to pursue a master’s degree in Public Administration (http://www.govst.edu/MPA/) so he can help create policies for community development and empower youth throughout Chicago.

First Class 2014 Commencement Speaker Justin Smith (https://gsunews.govst.edu/gsu-studen-senate-president-garners-prestigious-award/) has left an indelible mark on Governors State University informed by the values with which he was raised.

The youngest of 12 children, Justin’s desire to give back to his community was shaped by the support and encouragement he received from his brothers and sisters as he discovered and pursued his passion, music. Combined with his parents’ emphasis on the value of higher education, Justin’s contributions to GSU exemplify student success and achievement. During the state budget crisis, one of the most challenging times in GSU’s history, Justin was immediately on the front lines as a tireless advocate for the school, presenting eloquently on the values of GSU and higher education at panels and events throughout the Southland.

His support of GSU’s principles is reinforced by the depth of his involvement in the GSU community. Whether participating in the school’s student choir, or acting as a peer mentor, student ambassador, and orientation leader, or serving two terms as Student Body President, Justin embodies his firm belief that when someone
gives, they also get back. “We’re all blessed to bless each other,” he often says, and his ability to view the world from multiple perspectives, share, and listen has helped him both succeed academically and grow as a person. His dedication to building and supporting his community was formally recognized in 2017 when he became GSU’s Lincoln Laureate award recipient.

Justin graduates—without student debt—with a B.A. in Business Administration (http://www.gvst.edu/BABusinessAdministration/) with a focus on business administration and management. Threading his passion for music and community with his business degree, Justin intends to support the music community on myriad levels, whether managing and producing shows or helping artists successfully negotiate contracts.

Jerry Davis-EL (https://gsunews.gvst.edu/unshackled-promise/) is a champion for social justice, working with the traumatized, socio-economically deprived, and marginalized adults and children. As a behavioral health specialist, he utilizes his personal and professional experiences to illuminate and champion holistic solutions to injustice. In addition to counseling adult populations with mental illness and co-occurring mental disorders, Jerry also counsels children, adolescents, probation juvenile detention communities, and at-risk children at an alternative high school.

Jerry earned a Bachelor of Social Work Degree (http://www.gvst.edu/BSW) from GSU with a 3.5 GPA in 2016 after receiving the Illinois Student Laureate Award in 2015 for his civic engagement and excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities. On May 19, Jerry will graduate with a Master of Social Work (http://www.gvst.edu/MSWP).

Jerry credits trauma classes at GSU as a critical first step in reclaiming time lost to a vicious cycle of prison, poverty, drugs, and despair. The courses helped Jerry find healing, the promise of peace, and his own voice.

That voice has subsequently presented at national and local conferences and events on the issue on incarceration and higher education. He also co-founded Generating Hope, a student organization to support, advocate for, and empower GSU students impacted by mass incarceration. As part of his legacy, a scholarship was created in honor of Professor Lori Glass, (http://www.gvst.edu/Site_Navigation/Contact/Directory/Iglass/) and Generating Hope, a student organization he co-founded to support, advocate for, and empower GSU students who have been impacted by mass incarceration.

Since his final release in 2010—after 16 years in and out of the Illinois prison system and one month after learning of his daughter’s murder—Jerry was determined that her death would not be in vain. He vowed to make social injustice the cause to which he would now dedicate his life.

And last year, in a nod to his achievements, the Cook County Circuit Court expunged his criminal record, officially creating a clean slate to launch his professional life. After graduation, Jerry plans to open a social service agency and write about his journey.

First Class 2014 Student Commencement Speaker Simone Jones has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to health service driven by her desire to help others flourish.

As the eldest of four children, this first-generation college student embraced being a role model for her siblings. She also sought to help others in her community as early as elementary school, where she was involved with the Lighthouse Youth Center, which provides recreational opportunities for underprivileged populations. In high school, Simone continued to give back to her community, participating in the Truth ‘N’ Trauma outreach, working with students from impoverished neighborhoods dealing with violence and trauma. She also worked at a daycare center, where she saw first-hand the impact of early childhood experiences.

Although Simone was well-prepared to participate in the GSU community upon admission, she is quick to acknowledge the challenges of adjusting to the rigors of academic life: her first semester GPA of 1.7 testified to that. A testament to Simone’s fortitude, discipline, and drive, however, was her 3.8 GPA the following semester.
Simone credits the community of Prairie Place, GSU’s on-campus housing where she lived for the entirety of her collegiate career, for the personal growth that helped shape her academic success.

Another pivotal moment for Simone was hearing Jerry Davis-EL speak at a Generating Hope student group event. She recognized similarities in their life stories, and his willingness to be so open about his past inspired her to keep pushing herself to shape her future. Their exchange also exemplifies a core tenet of GSU—peer-learning in an intergenerational community. Simone is graduating May 19 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Community Health (http://www.govst.edu/chhs/bch/) with a concentration in Pre-Occupational Therapy.

She plans to pursue a graduate degree in Occupational Therapy with a focus on geriatric care, driven by her belief that people should live their lives to their fullest capacity to the very end.

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
1 University Parkway,
University Park, IL 60484-0975

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(http://www.govst.edu/Contact/Maps_and_Directions)

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College of Arts

and Sciences (http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Arts_and_Sciences/)

College of Business (http://www.govst.edu/COB/)

College of Education (http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Education/)

College of Health and

Human Services

(http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Health_and_Human_Services/)

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Admissions (http://www.govst.edu/admissions/)

Freshman (http://www.govst.edu/Admissions/Admissions_Process/Freshman/)

Dual Degree Program

(http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Degree_Programs_and_Certifications/Dual_Degree_Program/)

Transfer (http://www.govst.edu/Admissions/Admissions_Process/Transfer/)

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Tuition (http://www.govst.edu/tuition)

Requirements

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Scholarships (http://www.govst.edu/scholarships/)

Visit Us (http://www.govst.edu/opentouse/)

Campus Life (http://www.govst.edu/campus_life)

Athletics (http://www.gsujaguars.com/)

Bookstore (http://www.govst.edu/bookstore/)

Campus Safety (http://www.govst.edu/campus-safety/)

Childcare (http://www.govst.edu/FamilyDevelopmentCenter/)

Dining & Housing (http://www.govst.edu/Campus_Life/University_Housing/)

Health & Counseling

Recreation Center (http://www.govst.edu/Campus_Life/Recreation_Center/)

Student Affairs (http://www.govst.edu/Campus_Life/Division_of_Student_Affairs_and_Support_Services/)

Emergency Information (http://www.govst.edu/emergency)

Give Now (http://www.govst.edu/Donate/)

Give to GSU (http://www.govst.edu/DonateForm/)

GSU Alumni Association (http://www.govst.edu/Alumni_and_Donors/Alumni_Association/)

GSU Foundation

(http://www.govst.edu/Alumni_and_Donors/GSU_Foundation_and_Alumni_Association_Scholarships/)

Fulfill the Promise (http://www.govst.edu/fulfill-the-promise-here-is-your-chance/)

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https://gsunews.govst.edu/2018-gsu-student-commencement-speakers-announced/
University Park, IL, April 30, 2018

**Partnering for Men’s Success**

Governors State University (http://www.govst.edu) (GSU) educators and administrators, along with their counterparts from other Southland institutions of higher education, recently gathered to take a stand for the progress of brown and black men striving for progress through education.

“We are committed to supporting our men of color, who at the national level, have low college retention and graduation rates,” said Sean Smith, coordinator of the GSU Male Success Initiative program.

https://www.govst.edu/msi/

Smith was joined by GSU’s Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Elizabeth Cada and Aurélio Valente, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, and seven representatives from Prairie State College (PSC), South Suburban College (SSC), and The Kresge Foundation, to formalize an agreement that promises to support men of color on their respective campuses.

The ultimate goal is to create a seamless pathway for minority men from community college to graduation from a four-year institution. Moraine Valley Community College (MVCC) also formalized their partnership with GSU but was unable to attend the signing.

This is the second formal agreement GSU has entered this year to open doorways for higher education.

Earlier this year, GSU signed a memorandum of understanding with Crete Monee High School
(http://gsunews.govst.edu/gsu-crete-monee-high-school-partner-in-historic-move/), establishing a historic partnership that will bring students from CMHS to GSU.

In 2011, The Kresge Foundation began funding GSU’s lauded Dual Degree Program
(http://www.govst.edu/DDP) with a 3-year $875,000 grant. The DDP is a partnership with 17 Chicagoland community colleges that bridges the two-year degree to a four-year degree at GSU.

In 2016, GSU was awarded additional $450,000 to disseminate the program nationally and to expand it to target the men of color. The goal of the DDP-MSI program (http://www.govst.edu/ddp-msi/) is to enroll, retain, and graduate men from minority groups. Both the DDP and MSI are hands-on in nature and rely on outreach and mentoring to succeed.

In 2017, Smith began outreach to area colleges, as mandated by the grant, to introduce the benefits of the DDP partnership to male students at their campuses.

While all institutions expressed interest, not all were in a position to formalize a partnership. PSC, SSC, and MVCC, all DDP partners, are the first schools to enter the MSI formal agreement, said Smith, who plans to extend partnerships with Joliet Junior and Kankakee Community colleges during the 2018 – 19 school year.

Meanwhile, he plans to connect with MSI leaders at PSC and MVCC, to increase exposure to GSU’s campus and programs. Among other activities, he will administer an assessment to help students identify their strengths. The Clifton StrengthsFinder survey is part of an anti-deficit model GSU has adopted to create greater successes among faculty, staff, and students by taking the focus off shortcomings and weakness.
The model was the focus of an all-campus symposium earlier this year. “We want to shift the spotlight to what students do well so we can build on that to help them be successful,” Smith said.
University Park, IL, May 01, 2018

GSU Volunteers Make Front Page News in Texas

The undergraduates recently worked with La Posada Providencia in San Benito, a ministry dedicated to providing shelter and programming to refugees from more than 80 countries.

The students assisted with various chores at the site such as painting the structures, composting, weeding, and helping with the children as part of a service learning project.

Read the full story here.

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

Academics (http://www.govst.edu/academics/)
Programs (http://www.govst.edu/ProgramListing/)
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University Park, IL, April 30, 2018

**Hungry and Homeless at GSU**

Last year, 76 Governors State University students were asked if they struggled to find quality food in the 30 days prior or adequate housing in the year prior as part of a national study of College Student Food and Housing Insecurities led by the Wisconsin HOPE lab. More than half of the students surveyed reported food and housing insecurities.

In the largest survey of its kind, HOPE lab—a university-based applied research laboratory of scientists—talked to 43,000 students from 66 two- and four-year institutions, including GSU, and found 36% of university students were food insecure in the 30 days leading up to the survey. Similarly, 36% of university students reported being housing insecure in the last year.

"Still Hungry and Homeless in College (http://whopelab.com/publications/Wisconsin-HOPE-Lab-Still-Hungry-and-Homeless.pdf)" shines a light on an issue hidden in plain sight, said Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Aurelio Valente (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8pTR2-9PeA).

"It raises the visibility of this issue on our campus. We cannot assume that students have the critical foundations of safety, employment, housing, and food access necessary to focus on their academic pursuits," he said. "This is a truly critical issue for student well-being and student success."

The report defines basic needs insecurity as food insecurity, homelessness, or "housing insecurity", which means the inability to pay rent or utilities or the need to move frequently.

"Homeless" is defined as someone without a without a place to live, often residing in a shelter, an automobile, an abandoned building or outside.

"Food insecurity" is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or the ability to acquire such foods in a socially acceptable manner. The most extreme form is often accompanied with physiological sensations of hunger.

At GSU, about 74% of students surveyed experienced at least one of these forms of basic needs insecurity in the previous year, and 13% had experienced all three forms of basic needs insecurity.

Regardless of the specific need, the impact can be devastating and disproportionate.

GSU's student demographic—51% are students of color and 56% received Pell grants in fall 2014—is among the hardest hit and at the highest risk, according to the study.

"Sizable fractions of students who were doing very poorly in college, getting grades below the C average typically required for maintaining financial aid and avoiding academic probation, were dealing with food and/or housing insecurity."

At GSU, the issue of homeless and hungry students came to the forefront in 2017 following a national survey of college students' basic needs. Since then, the GSU Office Dean of Students (http://www.govst.edu/DOS/) has launched programs to connect students to food and housing resources on and off campus.
GSU4U (http://www.gvsu.edu/GSU4U/) provides community connections for students in need. As part of the on-campus reach, the Office of Student Life (http://www.gvsu.edu/Campus_Life/Student-Life/) coordinates the Jaguar Den, which provides food, personal toiletries – even clothing - to students.

On-campus resources (http://www.gvsu.edu/uploadedFiles/Campus_Life/Student_Activities/7Vs/Student_Activities/Inside_Pages/GSU4U%20Campus%20Resources%20Toolkit.pdf) include the GSU Food Pantry (http://www.gvsu.edu/Campus_Life/Civic_Engagement/GSU_Food_Pantry/), Operation Healthy, the Career Closet, distributing emergency necessities (D.E.N.) and the popular Great American Bagel Pop-up Pantry (https://manager.presspage.com/manager/cases.php?caseId=274730&lang=en-us) on campus three days a week.

While students’ privacy and dignity is of the top concern, Valente said the increased visibility of the issue is necessary to attract support.

“GSU faculty and staff can be part of the solution by becoming a GSU4U ambassador, who can help students connect and navigate resources if they are aware of the challenges students may experience around hunger and housing. Ambassadors can be identified by the GSU4U Ambassador sticker.”

Contact gsu4u@gvsu.edu (https://owa.gvsu.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=JXbJ3nS0FmF19dC06E75CUMWEnCBA008k7D5mgd6E7ebc2F67VCA.) & URL=mailto%3agsu4u%40gvsu.edu for more information on how to become an ambassador or to learn about workshops.

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University Park, IL, April 30, 2018

Tricia Kerns

Tricia Kerns’s fascination with the world of business operations began in the early 80s when her father lost his job at U.S. Steel. His loss kicked off her journey to find answers. She made an early stop at Governors State University in 1998 as a returning adult student.

The devastating loss of steel mill jobs could be felt throughout the entire community, and young Kerns was inspired to ultimately learn business processes to help ensure others wouldn’t lose employment to global competition.

"Looking back, as much as we wanted to say it was unfair, there was a lot of waste, and foreign competitors had been stepping up," said Kerns.

Now a university lecturer with the College of Business since 2014, Kerns became the first in her immediate family to earn a degree when she completed her bachelor’s degree with a concentration in Operations Management in 2003. She went on to earn her MBA at Governors State in 2006 and her Doctor of Education degree with a concentration in Ethical Leadership in 2011.

It was no easy feat.

As she worked her way through classes, Kerns continued her career in Operations and Supply Chain Management. She often shares her story with her students, reminding them they may face challenges, but the end result is worth the sacrifice.

"I tell them it can be a slow road sometimes, a very challenging journey, but to stick with it."

She also shares the challenges she faced, as a woman, in the workplace with female students. Oftentimes, she would be the first female forklift driver in a particular company or one of a few female supervisors.

"It's become a point of conversation with students who have concerns about moving into Supply Chain Management field because they are women," said Kerns, who was once given a pink hard hat by one of her supervisors.

GSU Newsroom: In layman’s terms, how does supply chain management impact consumers?

Kerns: Supply chain management is the idea of how we maximize our value for customers by understanding the demand to delivery model. Orders come in to a warehouse and are processed in the right place at the right time to get the product or service to the customer when they need it. I think about the Supply Chain process of Weber grills waiting for the summer demand. They are in stores now, but the process was probably planned two years ago. Supply chain management is the value we add to actively satisfy customers expectations.

GSU Newsroom: How did your father's job loss inspire your doctoral thesis?

Kerns: My father lost his job due to global competition, and I wanted to understand what that was. My dissertation “Global competition: A qualitative study exploring the change in business models and strategies of Midwest manufacturing companies that address their competitiveness in the global economy” showed me how American companies were wasting resources while foreign companies were stepping up and doing it better and faster. We needed to be thinking about working smarter, not harder. I have a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt
certification, which is a system of continuous improvement that works in any market place. I also hold an APICS CPIM (Certified in Production and Inventory Management) and CLTD (Certified in Logistics, Transportation and Distribution) certificate to improve my skills and help my students succeed. I want to make an impact by helping students help companies work smarter so ultimately people won’t lose their jobs.

Kerns: I want my students to walk out of my ethics classes prepared to face an ethical dilemma, and when it does happen, they will remember the classroom discussions or online discussions.

It’s easy to understand what’s legal and what’s not legal. But, when it comes to the gray areas, the “If I see it, what do I do?” situations, what I like to tell students is that the decisions they make—and it could be a split second decision—could ultimately change their career path forever. It is critical to set an example, the right example, every time. That even one small decision that is unethical or in this gray area can create lasting effects. We need to be ethical even when others aren’t.

GSU Newsroom: You said you enjoy watching students come full circle? What did you mean?

Kerns: We are in the middle of the Midwest where products are flowing from the east coast to the west coast, and we have multibillion companies building here—Amazon, Dot foods—all these companies are now at our front door saying, ‘We need people.’ My task and the task of faculty at GSU is to understand what those needs are so we can prepare students to exceed them.

When I arrived at GSU in 2014, the Supply Chain Management program was just picking up speed and I was working really hard to translate employers’ needs to what I was teaching. I think we’re getting it right because GSU alumni who come back to share their experience share how they understand those demands. They thank me and say, ‘When is the Career Fair? We need more people.’