

## DDP Director's Corner

Dear Dual Degree Program Students, Alumni, and Supporters!

Spring semester is upon us, which means – it is already time to start planning for fall! As you know, DDP students can compete for scholarships that cover their *full* tuition and fees if they choose to attend GSU: the **GSU Promise Scholarship** and **DDP Honors Scholarship**. These are *only* available to DDP students. The scholarship application deadline for those transferring in Fall, 2018 is February 16, 2018. More information and application materials are available at [www.govst.edu/ddp](http://www.govst.edu/ddp).

DDP students: APPLY TODAY! Illinois Dreamers are also encouraged to apply for the GSU Promise Scholarship for the chance to earn a \$600 book stipend for four semesters. The selection committee reads through every application thoroughly and takes many factors into consideration. We encourage all DDP students to apply, even if you have never received a scholarship, have never held a leadership position, etc. You can also contact your DDP Transfer Specialist and/or a Student Transition Assistant (STA) if you need help applying.

Best Regards,  
Jessica Specht

## DDP's Spring 2018 Shining Star

**Name:** Manuel Reza

**Community College:** Prairie State College

**Major:** English



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

Being part of the Dual Degree Program helped me keep my academic goals in perspective. Having to check in with my DDP advisor each semester always served as a reminder to remain meticulous with my work and to keep pushing forward.

### What are your future plans at GSU?

My overall career goal is to be a college professor and to write my own book. I plan to attend GSU to complete my bachelor's degree and to earn my master's degree. Afterwards, I plan to transfer to another institution to earn my doctorate degree.

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

I am most looking forward to getting involved in the GSU community. I would like to be involved with the theatrical productions of the school in addition to other student organizations. I am also excited about taking part in the various English courses that GSU has to offer.

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

The best piece of advice that I can offer students is to not be afraid to put yourself out there and to take risks. I know this advice sounds cliché, but it's true. The best way to grow as a person is to never limit yourself. Be creative, be spontaneous, be yourself!

## Meet the DDP Transfer Specialist Team

A key resource for DDP students at the community college is our team of DDP Transfer Specialists. Transfer Specialists are present on all 17 partnering community college campuses to assist students with making a seamless transition from graduating with their associate degree, to transferring to a college or university to complete their bachelor's degree. The DDP Transfer Specialists also communicate regularly with community college staff and stakeholders to provide updates regarding GSU's current programming and general transfer processes.

Over the last year, DDP has welcomed three new Transfer Specialists to the team. We are pleased to introduce (*from left to right*) **Ivan Soto**, **Sharita Walker**, and **Juan Gonzalez!**



If you have not reached out to meet your new DDP Transfer Specialist this semester, now is the time! Contact them now to schedule an appointment to update your DDP Study Plan, discuss the upcoming DDP scholarship deadline, or just chat about your day! You can find their full contact information at [www.govst.edu/contact-ddp/](http://www.govst.edu/contact-ddp/). You can also find their campus schedules and locations on each of the community colleges' pages on [www.govst.edu/ddp/](http://www.govst.edu/ddp/).

## Important Events and Updates

### Fall 2018 DDP Scholarship Applications due February 16<sup>th</sup>

DDP students, would you like to attend GSU for FREE? If you are transferring to GSU in Fall, 2018, make sure to apply for the [GSU Promise Scholarship](#) and/or the [DDP Honors Scholarship](#). These scholarships are only available to DDP students, so you have less competition than with other scholarships. Students who qualify for both are encouraged to apply for both, although students may only be awarded one or the other.

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). 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). If you are a Chicago STAR scholar, you 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 their community college Honors Program or chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, and have a 3.25 GPA or above. There are two (2) scholarship categories: one scholarship award covers \$1,000 for books/campus dining for a maximum of four (4) semesters (excluding summers); and the other covers \$7,200 annually for campus housing for a maximum of two (2) years (excluding summers). Applications, recommendation forms, and FAQs can be found on the [GSU Office of Financial Aid](#) site. Application materials are due on **Friday, February 16, 2018!**

### DDP & MSI Career Mini-Conference

On Friday, March 2, 2018, the Dual Degree Program will join the Male Success Initiative in hosting its fifth annual Career Mini-Conference (previously titled 'Get Jobs: Career Symposium') from 12:00pm to 5:00pm on the Governors State University campus. During the conference, students will be provided with helpful resources to aid in being successful in their pursuits of a new job, internship, etc. Each session will cover a different topic related to job search preparation, career development, and resources available at GSU to achieve your dream job. Workshops will be offered in two tracks: one track for first-time attendees, and one track featuring new workshops for students who have attended this symposium before. All students are asked to dress as they would for an interview. Don't miss out on this great opportunity! Be sure to check your email for the sign-up link!

### DDP Induction

Mark your calendar for DDP Induction on Friday, April 27, 2018! DDP Induction is for any newly enrolled DDP student who was unable to attend DDP Induction last semester. During DDP Induction, students will have the opportunity to meet the GSU President, GSU Provost, faculty, staff, and current DDP students who attend GSU. Attendees will receive additional information about the many benefits of being in the Dual Degree Program, have the opportunity to take a tour of GSU, interact with other students on their path to academic success, and will be officially inducted into the program! Email invitations will be coming soon.

### DDP Graduation Celebration & Cording Ceremony

On Friday, May 11, 2018, the Dual Degree Program will congratulate and celebrate 2017-2018 GSU-DDP graduates! Each DDP graduate will receive an honor cord to wear over their robe during GSU's Commencement ceremony. Invitations will be sent soon. Also, if you graduate in Spring or Summer 2018, remember that you should have already submitted your application to graduate and participate in the GSU Commencement ceremony that will take place on May 19, 2018. Contact your GSU academic advisor immediately if you missed the deadline.



May 2017 DDP Graduation Celebration & Cording Ceremony

## Important Events and Updates (continued)

### DDP Student Transition Assistant Spring, 2018 Office Hours

The DDP Student Transition Assistants (STAs) are located at GSU in room A2122. Their office hours for Spring, 2018 are as follows:

**Mondays:** 10:00 am – 2:00pm

**Thursdays** 9:00am – 11:00am & 12:00pm – 3:00pm

**Fridays:** 10:00am – 2:00pm

For more information or to make an appointment contact [dualdegree@govst.edu](mailto:dualdegree@govst.edu) or call 708.235.7173.

Our trained team of DDP Student Transition Assistants can provide assistance with transition issues and concerns, lists of academic, financial, and personal support resources, information on upcoming campus events, programs, and workshops, as well as contact and meeting information for GSU clubs and extracurricular activities. They also ALWAYS have FREE snacks...AND MUCH MORE!

### STA Spotlight – Public Health Brigade Trip to Nicaragua

While DDP students have the opportunity to participate in monthly community service events, one DDP Student Transition Assistant took things a bit further over his winter break. Antoine Hawkins chose to spend his time, along with a group of GSU students and faculty, traveling to Nicaragua and bringing necessary sanitation facilities to a small village. When asked what inspired Antoine to participate, he said, *“I would say I have a heart of service, I believe that is why I am a Social Work major and why I chose to go serve in Nicaragua. Being a part of the Dual Degree Program we have an opportunity to volunteer and give back to our local community. However, this trip was different. Although I have had the opportunity to give back I have never experienced it on this level. I have heard that service learning projects gives students the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the culture and truly learn what is important to not only the families you are serving, but the community at large. This was definitely something I wanted to experience first-hand.”*

Antoine also said that while in Nicaragua he learned more than he thought he would. *“I learned the true meaning of humility, gratitude, and humanity. Nothing else really matters. Imagine not having the comforts of hitting a switch and lights come on, or going to a sink and have running water, how about something as simple as enjoying a simple cube of ice in a drink on a 90 plus degree day. Going on this trip right after the Holiday Season really put things into perspective for me. I was able to examine my life and take inventory on events and decisions I have made thus far. This trip allowed me to see my own life with clarity.”*

If you are thinking about participating in a service learning trip, Antoine says, *“Don’t say you want to do it. Do it! It will change your life.”*



For more information about studying abroad and service learning opportunities at GSU, visit [www.govst.edu/studyabroad/](http://www.govst.edu/studyabroad/)

## Important Events and Updates (continued)

### Spring, 2018 Community College Graduation Petition Deadlines

CCC: See Advisor	KCC: May 2	SSC: February 1
COD: March 15	Morton: April 1	Triton: February 7
HC: One week after Midterms	MVCC: February 1	WCC: February 15
JJC: March 24	PSC: March 1	

To read more about your college's graduation and Commencement procedures, click on the school's logo below.



## DDP Monthly Community Service

### December, 2017

On December 15, 2017, DDP volunteers assisted at Respond Now in South Chicago Heights, IL. Volunteers assisted the Respond Now team in choosing and distributing children's toys and clothing, and helped families load their holiday food baskets for transport. There were 19 volunteers that included current DDP students, Student Transition Assistants, and DDP professional staff. The event was coordinated by DDP Student Transition Assistant Anna Maris Briz and DDP Director Jessica Specht.



## DDP Monthly Community Service (continued)

### DDP Community Service Project – February 2018

Along with long-term care and economic insecurities, socializing is still a very important aspect of senior vitality! According to the Harvard School of Public Health, seniors who engage in an active and social lifestyle, live longer, happier and healthier lives. The Rich Township Senior Center of Park Forest, Illinois provides such services as day trips, exercise classes, entertainment, and lunch services for the township's senior residents, giving them the opportunity to remain active community members. You, too, can become part of this community's great effort to keep their senior members happy and healthy! This community service activity is great for students wanting to pursue a career in Social Work, Community Health, Communication, and Health Administration, and any DDP student wanting to give back to the community.

**When:** Wednesday, February 14th, 2018 from 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

**Where:** Rich Township Senior Center and Cafe (297 Liberty Drive Park Forest, IL 60466)

**Who:** ALL DDP students are welcome to volunteer - First RSVP, first serve basis!

**What:** DDP students will volunteer at the Rich Township Senior Center Cafe. Volunteers are needed to serve senior residents a deliciously hot lunch, pass out Valentine's Day cards and treats, and to socialize with the center's patrons.

**Why:** Volunteering your time will show your support, care, and respect for this population. In addition, DDP students will have the opportunity to connect and establish viable relationships with community partners.

#### Other details:

- Coordinated by DDP Student Transition Assistants, Anna and Danielle
- To volunteer for this event, you must email Anna at [abriz@student.govst.edu](mailto:abriz@student.govst.edu) or (708)-620-9593 before February 10th, 2018
- All volunteers must arrive by 11:15 a.m., and volunteers must provide their own transportation
- Volunteers must enter the main entrance of the center located on 297 Liberty Drive Park Forest, Illinois 60466
- Volunteers should wear their Blue DDP T-shirts

If you have any questions, contact Anna at 708-620-9593 or email [abriz@student.govst.edu](mailto:abriz@student.govst.edu)

## Save the Dates – Spring 2018

### Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> – DDP Scholarship Due Date!

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

### Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> – DDP & MSI Career Mini-Conference (GSU Main Campus)

Participants will learn about helpful resources to aid in a successful pursuit of a new job, internship, career and beyond!

### Friday, April 27<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.

### Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> – DDP Graduation Celebration & Cording Ceremony (GSU Main Campus)

For DDP students graduating with their bachelor's degree at GSU in the 2017-2018 academic year. Verification of application for graduation is required for participation. Learn more on the [GSU Graduation Application](#) site.

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!