



Alumni E-Newsletter, December 16, 2022



Second in a two-part series

NDNU: a University Steeped in Social Justice; Committed to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Last month, we explored how social justice and diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) are embedded in the university's DNA. This month, we continue the conversation in interviews with Provost and Senior Vice President Greg White, Ph.D., alumna Lauren Lopez and Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management Arlene Cash.

Enjoy!



PPOHA Grant: A Game Changer for NDNU

An Interview with Provost and Senior Vice President Greg White, Ph.D.



As part of our interviews, we sat down with Provost and Senior Vice President Greg White, Ph.D., to talk more in depth about the Title V Part B Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA) grant, DEI and social justice at NDNU.

You have been at NDNU for almost 30 years now. How has the university evolved in the areas of social justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion?

Social justice has always been important at NDNU; this goes back to the mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur to provide an education for those who would otherwise not be able to get one.

Social justice and diversity are embedded in the curriculum of all three graduate schools. Within the School of Business, there are over 50 classes with diversity content included as part of the curriculum, and the same is true for the School of Psychology where practitioners must have this background to serve a broad range of clients. Within the School of Education, social justice and diversity values underlie everything they do, and there are three full time faculty members with exceptionally strong backgrounds in this area.

[More](#)

Interview with Lauren Lopez, NDNU Class of 2021

"NDNU's culture was amazing," NDNU alumna Lauren Lopez exclaims as she describes her unique group of friends and the inclusivity of the community. She attributes the lack of judgment between peers to the fact that everyone at NDNU was so diverse, specifically in terms of socioeconomic status, education, race, etc. Adding to the culture of the university, one of the most valuable aspects of her experience was the support, both from the teachers and the learning centers.

Although social justice work was not a requirement, there were many opportunities to engage in community service and help others. While attending NDNU from 2018-2021, Lauren took an English class that allowed her to visit a nearby juvenile detention center. This sparked her interest in supporting children, especially low-income students. During her stint of online tutoring at the juvenile detention center, she recounted the genuine and honest connections she made with two students through their mutual interest in rap, and how she even helped one of them write a letter of apology to a family member.

[More](#)

It's All About Access: Interview with Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management Arlene Cash



When it comes to diversity and social justice, the Admissions Office is all over it. "Here in Admissions, diversity and social justice are tied to access," says Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management Arlene Cash, M.S.

That means ensuring that NDNU's application policies and procedures are accessible to anyone from any background who is interested in being part of our community.

"We want to make sure that it's easy for people to apply, that admissions and financial aid counselors are available to answer questions and that what we offer lines up with applicants' expectations and values. That entails being culturally humble and really listening to what people are saying.

The Hallmarks are a big part of the reason that Arlene came to NDNU earlier this year and weigh heavily in her team's marketing the university as an exemplary graduate learning community. "Everything we do is connected to the Hallmarks; they are front and center of what we do. They are our North Star."

Save-the-Date: January 19th Alumni Reception at Wiegand Gallery

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Alumni Survey. We have read your responses and heard your needs.

We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a **happy hour event for Alumni on January 19, 2023 from 5pm-7pm at the Weigand Gallery** on NDNU's campus.

Join us for drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and great conversation!



Please RSVP using [this link](#), and we hope to see you there.

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