



Alumni E-Newsletter, November 28, 2022



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

It is not an overstatement to say that diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) and social justice are embedded in the university's DNA. After all, two of the Hallmarks created by the learning communities sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur are specifically devoted to social justice and diversity:

- "We educate for and act on behalf of justice and peace in the world."
- "We embrace the gift of diversity."



"The Sisters of Notre Dame have over 200 years of DEI and social justice experience," says NDNU President Beth Martin, Ph.D. "NDNU has always lived and breathed these values. Right now, the university is in a very good position to move the Sisters' work forward since we are no longer serving an undergraduate population with a set of requirements that graduate programs do not. We have the capacity to reach out to underserved or marginalized populations and communities, such as Indigenous people, Hispanic Americans and older students who are starting their education or changing careers. And that is just a start."

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The Hallmarks: A Blueprint for a Notre Dame de Namur Learning Community An Interview with Sister Jean Stoner

We had a delightful time sitting down with Sr. Jean Stoner and discussing the development and implementation of the Hallmarks, as well as what they mean to a Notre Dame de Namur learning community.

Here are some of her remarks:

The Hallmarks were developed about 15 years ago by a team of Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur from Northern California with representation from their elementary schools (Belmont and



Watsonville), high schools (Belmont and San Jose), and university. The team's task was to express what it means to be a Notre Dame school and to come up with a blueprint for what a Notre Dame de Namur learning community stands for. Since then, the Hallmarks have been translated into multiple languages, including Spanish, Japanese, French, and Portuguese, and are used in 16 different countries.

One way to look at the Hallmarks is that they express the values and operating philosophy of an individual or institution. They are very much tied to spirituality, and explore the question: **how do I want to be as a person?** The Hallmarks are truly a spiritual underpinning for how one lives and are applicable to individuals and organizations alike.

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Upcoming Master of Arts Degree in DEI Leadership Is All About Access An Interview with Dr. Susan Charles

Over the last few years, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) jobs have emerged as the hot new career track. But what exactly does a DEI officer do? And what do you need to know in order to become a DEI professional?

NDNU is addressing these questions with the development of a Master of Arts program in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Leadership, and down the road, a graduate certificate geared toward professional development in these areas. These efforts are being spearheaded by Susan Charles, Ph.D., a beloved faculty member in the School of Education, who also oversees two other education graduate programs - an MA in Administration and an MA in Education and Curriculum. The program is funded through the Title V Part B PPOHA grant.



"DEI careers should be based upon a common foundation of knowledge and applied experience," says Susan. "Too often people are placed in DEI positions without truly understanding the intricacies of the job at hand. And that goes for the employers as well." The new master's degree program will help create a foundational body of knowledge and depth to address critical issues of justice and equity in the workplace and beyond.

[More](#)

Giving Tuesday is Tomorrow - 1:1 Match Continues!

It's Cyber Monday ... which means that **tomorrow is Giving Tuesday!**

"What's Giving Tuesday?" you ask. #GivingTuesday is a 24-hour global generosity movement that encourages people to give back in whatever ways they can. This day of giving is about bringing our community together, inspiring each other, and doing the most good.

NDNU is proud to participate in Giving Tuesday, and we've lined up some matching gifts to encourage giving.

Continuing through the end of day, Tuesday, November 29, individual gifts will be matched 1:1, up to \$10,000 total, to double the impact on our campus and in the lives of our students.

[Click here](#) to make your gift to your beloved alma mater!

Together
we give.

Nov 29, 2022

GIVING
TUESDAY

Help Relaunch the Alumni Association by Sharing Your Stories and Ideas



As you may know, we are gearing up to relaunch the NDNU Alumni Association. We look forward to planning some in-person events, sharing news about fellow classmates and finding ways to connect you with other alumni.

To serve you better, we would be most grateful to get your responses to a short survey by [clicking here](#). For more information, please contact Marta Sniezek at (650) 508-3518, msniezek@ndnu.edu.

GIVE TO NDNU

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