AFMIX – Capstone Reflection

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 As I wrap up my two years with AFMIX, I stopped to think how this program has not only shaped me personally, but also professionally. When I originally signed up for AFMIX I was intrigued to learn more about the Jesuits, Jesuit education, and Jesuit history. With the nature of my job, recruiting students, I am often asked what sets Xavier apart from other schools. For me, the answer usually is the Jesuit values. However, I realized, before AFMIX, I couldn’t expand on these values as I can now, having spent the last four semesters learning about our mission and what sets up apart. AFMIX has given me the opportunity to truly appreciate the mission of Xavier and how we support not only students, but the entire community.

 AFMIX was sometimes a struggle for me to open up during reflections and sharing personal parts of my life. As someone who was Catholic educated her entire life, I have a stagnant relationship with God since high school. Ironically, I’ve worked most of my career in Catholic education, and the familiarity of it has always felt welcoming. As I learned more in AFMIX and began to reflect on my own journey, I feel even more aligned with the values I share with Xavier and that I get to share with others. Carving out an hour every week to listen, learn, and reflect has taught me that it is important to make time for myself and sit with my thoughts and feelings instead of focusing on other things.

 While virtual AFMIX presented some challenges in feeling connected to a group and getting comfortable opening up, by the last session it was bittersweet to leave behind colleagues I now considered friends. I hope we can continue to grow our relationships with one another as we continue to grow at Xavier. I look forward to continuing to share with prospective students all the wonderful things Xavier has to offer, feeling hopeful and aligned that we as a university are on the right path forward with our mission and values in today’s world.