

AFMIX Capstone Reflection

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Being a part of AFMIX has been one of the most meaningful experiences I have had in my eleven years at Xavier University. From the time I stepped foot on campus, I felt as if I had found my fit with the Jesuits. Ignatian spirituality was not a term I was used to hearing, and while I had grown up in the Catholic faith, it had never been challenged or examined the way that it has come to be at Xavier.

As I got to know Xavier better, I found that the values that Xavier stood for are the values that I stand for. Through getting to know and becoming a part of the community of Xavier, I felt truth in what I had always heard about this place. As I learned about our "Gifts of Ignatian Heritage" I saw this play out in everyday life, and felt that I had truly found my fit. I found ways to better myself, and use my own gifts to contribute to this place that have come to mean so much to me.

I have dedicated my time at Xavier to admission, and working with students to find their fit, just as I had found my own. Many of these students need help in making their dream a reality, and I have seen it as my responsibility to help them get there. In a way, I have come to find my work as my service.

As we all do, in my time here I have had to make many tough decisions. While in the past, I often made decisions with my gut, AFMIX truly taught me to use gifts such as reflection and discernment as well as empathy, to consider what decision may be best for me and what may be best for those around me.

As I consider what I have learned in AFMIX, I consider how I will go forward to use this experience to best serve students here at Xavier, day in and day out. As a member of the Enrollment Management and Student Success Division, I work to ensure that students that enter Xavier are prepared to succeed. While not directly involved in the choice that these students make, I work to support that work and the work of my colleagues in any way that I can. I support those who work to advise, coach and retain these students, assisting them in their learning, serving and achieving. And finally, we get to witness these students choose between job

offers or potential graduate programs, and walk across the stage to their lives after Xavier.

With my job, I am in a unique position in which I have the opportunity to share the message of Xavier as students are starting out on their college search, as early as their freshman year of high school. I get to introduce them to a place where each student's differences are embraced, they learn from the diversity around them, and they transform and grow in surprising ways. While this responsibility ultimately contributes to yielding revenue, I focus on the benefits Xavier students receive from their time here.

The work that I do can appear to be communication to the masses, and at times it is. However, while I feel that I have embraced *Cura Personalis* in my time here, I see this most impacting students once they respond to the good word of Xavier that I will help to spread. AFMIX has taught me to read deeper into a student's quest, and therefore respond in a way that is meaningful to them – not just regurgitate the answer as we sometimes feel we do. I feel that I am walking away from AFMIX with a deeper appreciation for each person's individual situation, and a desire to meet them where they are to best serve them. If I can contribute to bringing them here to Xavier, I know they will transform in a way that so many others have.

In addition to learning about the lives of St. Ignatius Loyola and others, as well as participating in small group reflection, one of the most beneficial parts of the AFMIX program was getting to know some of the amazing people that are part of this community at Xavier. As I have gotten to know more of my inspiring, passionate and committed colleagues here, I have become even more confident in the experience that students here will have, and spreading this message will be a key part of what I bring to my position. I believe that those I have met and gotten to know through this program truly embody the spirit of being "All for One, and One for All."