**Capstone Project/Reflection**

The Inaugural Xavier Senior Ignatian Leadership course has been AMAZING!!!!!!

I walked into this journey wanting to know more about the Ignatian history, maybe a few perspectives on leadership and meet some great people. Throughout the 12-week course, I have checked those three boxes….and more!

I have seen how to incorporate Ignatian principles such as discernment, reflection and service to others into my leadership style. One of the key principles I have integrated into my work is the concept of magis, which challenges individuals to strive for excellence and to continually seek opportunities for growth and improvement. As a leader on campus, I am fostering a culture of magis by encouraging my colleagues to push beyond their comfort zones, ask difficult questions and challenge the objective/goal and then to think about alternative (out of the box) ways to get to the end goal.

Furthermore, the practice of cura personalis has been instrumental in shaping my approach to leadership. cura personalis underscores the importance of recognizing the inherent dignity and worth of each individual. I frequently say and hear others use the phrase “I’m not judging” but we all are – based on our experiences in life. I am taking cura personalis to not only care for the whole person – but understand where that person comes from, what struggles and obstacles have they overcome and what successes and joyous moments has the individual seen. What lessons or key points were taken from the situation? The goal is to understand where others come from and create a supportive environment to draw upon their strengths and empower my team to reach their full potential.

Additionally, the Ignatian emphasis on discernment has guided my decision-making process within the department. By engaging in reflective practices such as the Examen, I have gained clarity and insight into complex issues, enabling me to make more informed and ethical choices. This discerning approach has been particularly valuable by allowing me to navigate challenges with confidence and integrity.

I hope to inspire others to embrace Ignatian principles and weave them into their everyday actions. By sharing my experiences and insights, I hope to lead (by example) and demonstrate how impactful these principles are having on our community, culture and individual growth. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in XSIL and am committed to continuing my journey as a reflective and purpose-driven leader.