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Ignatian Leadership Capstone Reflection Paper

**Reflection on Ignatian Belonging and Spiritual Resourcefulness**

As I reflect on the skills I’ve gained and the powerful messages delivered throughout the recent seminars, I am continually drawn back to the *Ignatian Belonging* session presented by Ivy Banks. That session spoke deeply to me—both personally and professionally.

In my role as Assistant Director for Graduate Admission and Recruiting across four programs, I’m reminded daily of the unique journey our graduate students undertake. Their path begins with a simple inquiry, progresses to becoming a prospect, then an applicant, and eventually leads them to being admitted, registered, and—finally—earning a license, certificate, endorsement, or graduate degree from Xavier University.

Through each of these stages, I remain committed to using both my professional expertise and my spiritual gifts to guide and support our students. I strive to remind them that they are never alone. As the Book of Job teaches us, just because the season or the room feels dark does not mean that God doesn’t know where you are. Many of our students are older, often working full time, caring for families, or raising children. Despite their strength, the demands of higher education can create anxiety, self-doubt, and even fear.

But I will always plant seeds of courage.

I tell our students that being afraid—of the workload, of deadlines, of tuition, or of maintaining work-life balance—is normal. But fear will not stop them. They will not be defeated. The fruit of spiritual courage holds weight, and when harvested, it brings strength in the winning season.

I will continue to pray in silence, trusting that God will deliver **spiritual resourcefulness** as we work to reframe the doorways of discernment. When the doors of higher education begin to show wear—especially under the pressures of evolving legislation affecting DEI—we cannot simply block the draft. We must find power in our work, not just in our words.

Ignatian Belonging calls us all in. It makes room for everyone and ensures that every table has a seat to be taken.

To be seen and heard is vital—for students, staff, faculty, and administrators alike. It’s a recognition that we all belong in spaces where we can thrive together, in support of one another. I will continue to speak life into every person I encounter, using my words to affirm their value, their presence, and our shared purpose.

There is power in prayer when doing the business of God. Our foundation is rooted in **Our Values**, guiding us as we build spiritually resourceful doorways for the universal good. And together, we walk through Xavier University—"*For the Greater Glory of God", Jesuit motto.*