Seminars on Ignatian Leadership

Final Reflection

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When I first saw the advertisement for this program last year, I was curious as to what God might be calling me to in addition to my daily work at Xavier. Since that time, in speaking with others who were a part of the initial cohort, a lot has changed around me. This opportunity never faded from my sight and I knew I was meant to be a part of it this year.

Although Ignatian Pedagogy was not complete new to me, over the years it has challenged me to become a more open and reflective person. One area where it has challenged me the most is in my level of patience as it relates to God’s presence in my life. With all of this being said, my time in this seminar led me to reflect specifically on the Ignatian principle of discernment and the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm. In my current role, the ability to take time to discern is critical to keeping a positive outlook on graduate enrollment efforts in an everchanging Higher Education world. I also relate that ability very closely with the IPP. So many times, I find myself or in our team’s work following the core elements of the IPP being used as we constantly try to be better in our professional abilities.

A new initiative I would like to pursue is to have our graduate school team take turns sharing an “Ignatian” moment at the beginning of our staff meetings that both utilizes discernment and one or more of the key IPP principles. Our roles are very student facing prior to an individual joining the Xavier family. It is imperative that everyone creates an environment that is person-centered, especially, as we sell someone on our community. So many times, we all have many updates to share with each other that we do not always take the time to take a step back and reflect on an example of the goodness we bring each and every day. How we make a prospective student feel determines their willingness to make Xavier their graduate school home.

My hope is this initiative will foster a greater sense of belonging among my peers and serve as a first-hand reminder for why we do the work we do. Collegiate recruitment can truly be a grind depending on the time of year, how many events are scheduled, and with the consistent interactions with our prospective students. To be able to reflect on how our work is valued can drive team morale and a positive outlook on what’s to come the next day.