**XSIL Reflection & Plan, Melissa Burwell – April 2024**

After participating in XSIL, one of the things I have learned to appreciate about Xavier is its singular commitment to promoting Jesuit values, not just in the classroom but in every corner of campus life. It is clear who Xavier University is and what it values. It is an expectation that staff, faculty, administrators, and students engage with those values and ideas regularly and in structured ways. The stories told and practices shared through XSIL make real the stated values and ideals. There is clarity and comfort in a shared language and commitment that allows leaders to point to something bigger, the common good, that offers inspiration when times are challenging.

In my day-to-day role in Student Success and Retention, I have the privilege of seeing how two central Jesuit values, reflection and *Cura Personalis* ground the work of the Student Success Center. We simply cannot do our work supporting students without those two elements. From our weekly staff meetings which start with a reflection to the structured questions we ask students in meetings to our efforts to coordinate outreach when students struggle, the team knows and embodies those two Jesuit values. But what about our other Jesuit values and ideas about leadership? How might I invite my team to engage with those ideas in new ways? XSIL has provided me with tangible and practical strategies to try. It also helped me identify which shared Jesuit values and ideas authentically align with my own ideas and expressions of what it means to lead.

My goal in the year ahead is to take our three planning days (August, December, and June) and incorporate discussion, reflection, and engagement with the concepts of Communal Discernment, Humble Leadership, and Hospitality using the tools and reflections shared in XSIL. As the Student Success Center team has evolved over the past year adding several new staff, these tools will create space for dialogue and invite colleagues to see themselves as part of this wider community. As a leader, it means creating enough space on an agenda to take the time to dig deeper and to wrestle with ideas that may or may not align with their own ideas and experiences of leadership. I found those three topics most challenging to implement but also inspiring. My hope is to incorporate opportunities for the team to consider what is different and similar about their own leadership and values in light of a Jesuit perspective. How do we remain true to who we are while also embracing this shared commitment and set of values? How do we make space for differing perspectives? How do we create space at our table? As we create space for students to wrestle with big questions, I want to encourage my staff to do the same.