

2026-2027

Gonzaga Alumni Success Report



“The greatest measure of success isn’t found in titles or accolades – it’s in the living bridge we create together. A bridge we build so that Zags can lead and succeed.”



Dear Zag family,

It brings me such joy to welcome you to this special Alumni Success Report—an inspiring collection of stories that celebrate the power and purpose of our Zag alumni community.

With more than 73,000 living alumni across the globe, our network is nothing short of extraordinary. Every story featured here, whether it’s a professional achievement, a life of service, or a gift of mentorship, reminds us of the heart and grit that defines Gonzaga education.

This report is more than a reflection of success; it’s a reflection of you, Zags! Our alumni continue to lead, to serve, and to support one another. And we are deeply grateful for your generous support of our students, for the example you set, and for the way you show up for each other.

Thank you for being the living proof of what it means to be a Zag for life.

With heartfelt gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kara Hertz". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kara Hertz ('01)
AVP for Alumni and External Relations



The Alumni & Friends team works hard to connect students to alumni and friends in the powerful Zag career network.

Gonzaga Alumni Success Rates

1,013

**ORGANIZATIONS
REPRESENTED ON THE
ZAGSCONNECT
PLATFORM**

\$70,341

THE AVERAGE SALARY
FOR THE CLASS OF 2025
UNDERGRADUATES

TOP EMPLOYERS:

Gonzaga University
Providence Health & Services
Baker Tilly
United States Armed Forces
Deloitte
Spokane Public Schools
University Of Washington

\$82,078

THE OVERALL AVERAGE
SALARY FOR THE CLASS OF
2025, UNDERGRADUATE
AND GRADUATE

\$110,696

THE AVERAGE SALARY FOR
THE CLASS OF 2025 FROM
OUR GRADUATE AND
DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

94%

GRADUATES FROM THE
CLASS OF 2025 ARE EMPLOYED,
CONTINUING EDUCATION,
PARTICIPATING IN A SERVICE
PROGRAM OR SERVING
IN THE MILITARY

95%

**OF ALUMNI SAY
CHOOSING GU WAS
ONE OF THE BEST
DECISIONS THEY
EVER MADE**

Gonzaga Career Treks and Fairs



Gonzaga Career Treks

are designed to connect students with leading organizations across major U.S. and international cities, offering immersive, real world exposure to industries and professionals. Through visits hosted by our generous alumni and friends, students gain valuable insight into career paths, workplace culture, and networking opportunities that support their professional growth.



In partnership with Zag Alumni & Friends, Gonzaga Career & Professional Development (CPD) offers treks in Seattle, New York City, Spokane, the Bay Area, Portland, London, Los Angeles, and Denver—opening doors to meaningful connections and hands on learning in vibrant professional hubs.



Mentoring and Recruitment



Alumni & Student Career Assistance for a Lifetime

3,059 MENTORS

support students and alumni in career development and networking

2261 career coaching appointments ('25-'26)

'25 -'25 ACADEMIC YEARS

206 Connections were made via ZAGSCONNECT



OFFERING:

- Career Fairs
- Career Treks
- Mock Interviews
- Info Sessions On-Campus
- Interviewing Networking
- Socials Alumni
- Classroom
- Presentations

43 ORGANIZATIONS

hosted educational and networking excursions for Gonzaga students

408 ALUMNI PROFESSIONALS

supported students' professional development through the Career Treks and Career Fairs

316 ORGANIZATIONS

recruited students for full-time jobs and internships at Career Fairs

247 STUDENTS

participated in CareerTreks last year ('25-'26)

More opportunities to support student scholarships include Zags Give Day, Gonzaga Day, Twice as Nice, Scholarship Month, and more!



Chapters and Communities

Gonzaga Chapters and Affinity Communities bring Zags together across regions, identities, and shared interests—strengthening connection, belonging, and lifelong engagement. Through events, networking, and service opportunities, these communities help alumni stay connected to Gonzaga and to one another, no matter where life takes them.



49
REGIONAL
ALUMNI
& FRIENDS
CHAPTERS

5
AFFINITY
COMMUNITIES FOR
ALUMNI & FRIENDS

NO FEES
OR DUES—
CHAPTER &
COMMUNITY
MEMBERSHIP IS
FREE!

400
REGIONAL
EVENTS ACROSS
THE COUNTRY

CHAPTERS ARE WORLDWIDE



GET INVOLVED:

- Attend Zag Events
- Become A Mentor
- Alumni Fee Waiver
- Find Your Local Chapter Or Community
- Support Student Scholarships





FIND YOUR AFFINITY COMMUNITY:

- Military Service Community
- Lavender Community
- Gonzaga in Florence Community
- Alumni of Color Community
- Native Alumni Community
- Hogan Entrepreneurial Leadership Program



Zags Spark Change

Avista CEO and Gonzaga Grad Heather Rosentrater

When Gonzaga alumna Heather Rosentrater ('99) became President and CEO of Avista, she made history as the first woman to lead the utility in its 135-year history. Beginning her career with Avista as a student engineering technician while still attending Gonzaga, Rosentrater has spent nearly three decades growing alongside the company, leading innovation across the electric and natural gas industries while remaining committed to serving the communities that rely on safe, reliable, and affordable energy.

"Engineering is about solving problems that improve people's lives—and that's exactly what our communities need from us every day."



Rosentrater earned her Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Gonzaga in 1999, where she built the technical foundation and collaborative leadership skills that would shape her career. While still a student, she joined Avista as an engineering technician, gaining hands-on experience that reinforced her passion for serving communities through innovation and reliable energy solutions.

What began as a student opportunity quickly evolved into a lifelong career with the company. Throughout nearly three decades at Avista, Rosentrater has held leadership roles across engineering, operations, customer solutions and executive management. Each role provided opportunities to better understand the challenges facing customers and communities throughout the Inland Northwest. She credits Gonzaga's emphasis on critical thinking, ethical leadership and service as key influences that prepared her to lead through periods of growth and change. Today, Rosentrater continues to encourage students to remain curious, seek out mentors and embrace opportunities that push them outside their comfort zones. She believes that some of the most valuable career experiences come from asking questions, building relationships and staying open to learning throughout every stage of a career.

As President and CEO, Rosentrater leads Avista through a rapidly evolving energy landscape, balancing affordability, reliability and sustainability while investing in the future of the communities the company serves. Her leadership extends beyond delivering safe, dependable energy. She is committed to preparing the next generation of engineers, innovators and community leaders who will shape the region's future.

Rosentrater remains closely connected to Gonzaga, supporting partnerships that provide students with internships, mentorship and meaningful industry experience. She believes connecting classroom learning with real-world application helps students enter the workforce with confidence and purpose. For Rosentrater, leadership is rooted in service, integrity and collaboration. Her journey from Gonzaga engineering student to CEO of one of the Northwest's leading energy companies shows how curiosity, perseverance and a commitment to serving others can create lasting opportunities for individuals and communities alike.



For more Alumni
success stories, visit
gonzaga.edu/alumni

A Driven Vision

Anthony Verducci Connects Gonzaga Values with Disability Service Innovation



Anthony Verducci ('16) graduated from Gonzaga University with a degree in Special Education, establishing a career defined by service, innovation, and community advocacy. During his time on campus, Anthony was a central student leader in Gonzaga University Specialized Recreation (GUSR), an organization that deeply shaped his mission. It was during his leadership that he coined the phrase “Celebrate Abilities” and launched the annual Run for Respect, initiatives that permanently strengthened campus culture around inclusion and awareness. Throughout his college years, Anthony deepened his hands-on experience by working part-time for Special Olympics Washington and spending his summers as a counselor at a camp in the Colorado mountains for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

A few years after graduation, Anthony relocated to Denver to begin working in the nonprofit sector. While serving at a local organization, he observed firsthand the administrative burdens and fragmented systems that families and case managers navigated daily. Driven to fix these gaps, Anthony spent his weeknights and weekends building a vision for a modern digital platform. Eventually, he made the leap to leave his nonprofit job and found Wayfinder full-time, a public benefit company dedicated to connecting individuals with disabilities to quality supports through modern software.

“Connecting people with disabilities to the right services shouldn’t require endless phone calls and scattered spreadsheets. When the right connections happen at the right time, everyone in the community benefits.”

A few years after graduation, Anthony relocated to Denver to begin working in the nonprofit sector. While serving at a local organization, he observed firsthand the heavy administrative burdens, endless phone calls, scattered spreadsheets, and fragmented systems that families and case managers navigated daily just to access basic care.

Driven to fix these systemic gaps, Anthony spent his weeknights and weekends building a vision for a modern digital solution. Eventually, he made the brave leap to leave his nonprofit job and found Wayfinder full-time—a public benefit company created to connect individuals with disabilities to quality supports using smart, intuitive software.

Today, Wayfinder works directly with and is funded by government-designated entities called Community Centered Boards (CCBs), which oversee case management for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. By bringing provider discovery, RFP management, and network analytics together into one unified workspace, the platform replaces outdated systems with streamlined digital workflows that make care coordination faster and more reliable.

To date, Wayfinder’s platform empowers case managers, service providers, and families to coordinate care for more than 35,000 individuals across Colorado. Anthony’s path embodies what it means to be a Zag—identifying a critical community need, responding with empathy and innovation, and building scalable solutions that strengthen communities, expand access, and elevate dignity statewide.

FORGING *Forward*

Uniting Zags Coast to Coast

From Washington, D.C. to Puget Sound and cities nationwide, President Katia Passerini's Forging Forward tour brought Zags together to celebrate our shared mission. Alumni, students, families and friends gathered to reconnect, celebrate and affirm a bold vision for Gonzaga's future. Thank you for making this tour an unforgettable success.



Read the full recap and view the photo gallery:
gonzaga.edu/ForgingForward