



Office of the Vice President for Mission

TO: The Gonzaga Community
FROM: Frank E. Case, S.J. and Shanea Giroux
SUBJ: Moment for Mission
DATE: October 29, 2013

Breaking down the Mission Statement – Models and expects excellence in academic and professional pursuits

Continuing with our series exploring the mission statement, we look today at what it means to model and expect excellence at a Jesuit University.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus, always sought the *magis* (a Latin term literally translated as “more”), the more, the greater, the best in each person for the greater glory of God and, in turn, for the greater glory of God’s creation, us.

This phrase, “models and expects excellence,” draws on the *magis* St. Ignatius called us to. We expect from ourselves and from each other, our greatest self. We, as faculty, staff, administrators and students at this University, strive to model for one another the leadership qualities we hope will distinguish our graduates. We strive to continually develop our talents in order to give of them to those with whom we will live and work.

We expect the example we set will be followed as our students, in turn, strive to develop their talents in order to give of them, as women and men for others, in our world that is so desperately in need of givers. We, at Gonzaga University, live the *magis* through our lives of leadership and service in which we model and expect excellence in academic and professional pursuits.

Gonzaga University Mission Statement

Adopted: February, 2013

Gonzaga University is an exemplary learning community that educates students for lives of leadership and service for the common good.

In keeping with its Catholic, Jesuit, and humanistic heritage and identity, Gonzaga models and expects excellence in academic and professional pursuits and intentionally develops the whole person – intellectually, spiritually, physically, and emotionally.

Through engagement with knowledge, wisdom, and questions informed by classical and contemporary perspectives, Gonzaga cultivates in its students the capacities and dispositions for reflective and critical thought, lifelong learning, spiritual growth, ethical discernment, creativity, and innovation.

The Gonzaga experience fosters a mature commitment to dignity of the human person, social justice, diversity, intercultural competence, global engagement, solidarity with the poor and vulnerable, and care for the planet. Grateful to God, the Gonzaga community carries out this mission with responsible stewardship of our physical, financial, and human resources.