



# THE LOG

## Divine Word College

August 27  
2019

A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community

Vol. 39 No. 2

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### Birthday Corner

August

28 Omar Gonzalez

### THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

## Please and Thank You, Two Million Times

Very early in my life, I learned three words that have served me quite well. My parents and older siblings taught me to say "please" and "thank you." Those lessons likely involved cookies and candy, but what I learned has been a great help for me throughout the years.

The Development Office at Divine Word College is staffed by people who are real experts at please and thank you. All day, every day, their work is to say please to potential benefactors who might be willing to give a gift to support our college and its mission. The Development Office people are also very prompt at sending a heart-felt thank you to our benefactors for their continuing support.



In the past two years, the total contributions to the College have been rather remarkable. During the fiscal year that closed on June 30, the wide network of DWC friends and benefactors contributed over 2 million dollars. Fr. Linh Pham SVD, Mr. Mark Singsank, Fr. Ky Dinh SVD, Mr. Hai Tran, Ms. Amy Hartman, and Ms. Phyllis Urbain said thank you many, many, many times!

Several times each week, I sign some letters for DWC benefactors. I always add a note to the end of the letter to thank them for their generosity and for their prayers. I also assure the benefactors of our prayers for them. So, I am happy that in most of our liturgies at DWC we make specific intentions for benefactors, families and friends. They are the ones that are helping to pay for tuition, food, salaries and all the rest required to run the College.



"Please" and "thank you" are two of the most important prayers on our lips and in our hearts whenever we turn to God. Let us be sure to remember the members of our Development Office, who do the constant work of saying please and thank-you on our behalf.

## Higher Learning Commission Assurance Argument

The next visit of the Higher Learning Commission to DWC is scheduled for November 11 and 12. In preparation for the visit, fifteen members of the faculty and staff worked throughout the last academic year to prepare an extensive report on five criteria regarding our life and mission at Divine Word College. The five criteria are:



1. **Mission:** The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institutions operations.
2. **Integrity:** The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.
3. **Teaching and Learning – Quality, Resources, and Support:** The institution provides high quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered.
4. **Teaching and Learning – Evaluation and Improvement:** The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness for student learning through processes designed to promote continuous improvement.
5. **Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness:** The institution's resources, structures, and processes are sufficient to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational offerings, and respond to future challenges and opportunities. The institution plans for the future.

DWC's report on these five criteria is our "Assurance Argument" to help the visitors from the Higher Learning Commission better know our mission at programs. In the coming weeks, the Assurance Argument Steering Committee, composed of Dr. Mathew Kanjirathinkal, Dr. John Szukalski, SVD, Mr. Paul Stamm, and Mr. Steve Winger, will be meeting with me to finalize our report.

We are able to present an "almost" final draft of the first section of our report regarding the Mission of Divine Word College. (It is attached to the LOG.) Please read this first chapter and send me any comments that might help us prepare the final report. The other sections will be available just as soon as the Steering Committee has a chance to work through each section. Thank you.

Yesterday Paola Armfeld represented the college's Tutoring Program at the Emmaus Service Expo.

Former tutors, Fabian and Vanessa Parra, talked to Emmaus students about their experience.

There was good interest from potential students volunteers next semester.



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

*Fr. John Szukalski, SVD*

### Academic Dean's List for Spring Semester 2019

The Academic Dean's List publicly recognizes full-time students who earn a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.50 or higher in a given semester. Any student who has received a grade of Incomplete (I), Failure (F), or who is on academic probation is automatically disqualified. The Academic Dean's List is published at the beginning of each semester for distinguished scholarship during the previous semester.

Divine Word College commends the following students, listed in alphabetical order, for their outstanding academic achievement during Spring Semester 2019. Congratulations!

Fr. John A. Szukalski, SVD, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

#### Undergraduate

Mr. Michelet Boncoeur	Sr. Duong Thi Thuy Nguyen, LHC
Mr. Marc Declama	Sr. Xuyen Nguyen, OP
Mr. Mongle Destine	Sr. Dieu Nguyen, LHC
Mr. Hoang Do	Mr. Quoc Dinh Nguyen
Mr. Kodjo Emon	Mr. Tu Dinh Anh Nguyen
Mr. Wisvel Joseph	Sr. Trang Thi Thuy Nguyen, CDM
Mr. Tomerot Lambert	Mr. Truong An Duc Nguyen
Mr. Phong Le	Mr. Friday Onoja
Mr. Samuel Lollar	Sr. Hong Pham, LHC
Sr. Ndigue Formilack Magdalene, SST	Sr. Thi Kim Thuan Phan, LHC
Sr. Florence Muturi, LSOSF	Sr. Huyen Tran Phan, OCist
Sr. An Thi Thuy Ngo, LHC	Sr. Thuong Thi Hoai Phan, FMV
Sr. Bich Hong Nguyen, LHC	Mr. Pierre Solivert
Sr. Kim Tuyen Thi Nguyen, LHC	Sr. Kim Cuc Tran, LHC
Sr. Thu Thanh Nguyen, LHC	Sr. Tram Tran, IHM
St. Tuyen Thi Thanh Nguyen, IHM	Mr. Thong Tran
Mr. Huy Hoai Nguyen	Sr. Tuyen Tran, FMI
Mr. Ha Van Nguyen	Sr. Thu Phuong Thi Tran, LHC
Sr. Van Ngoc Nguyen, OP	Sr. Tho Thi Trinh, ICM
Sr. Liem Thi Hong Nguyen, IHM	Fr. Wilfridus Valiance
Mr. Lam Quang Nguyen	Ms. Ngan Tran Ngoc Vu
Mr. Thinh Van Quoc Nguyen	Fr. Shouzhao "Andrew" Wang, SVD
Sr. Thi Nhiem Nguyen, LHC	Sr. Duong Y, IMM
Mr. Tuan Van Nguyen	Mr. Baruch Zinzou
Sr. Hien Thi Nguyen, LHC	

## Academic Dean's List for ESL Spring Term D 2019

The Academic Dean's List publicly recognizes full-time students who earn a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.50 or higher in a given term. Any student who has received a grade of Incomplete (I), Failure (F), or who is on academic probation is automatically disqualified. The Academic Dean's List is published at the beginning of each term for distinguished scholarship during the previous term.

Divine Word College commends the following students, listed in alphabetical order, for their outstanding academic achievement during ESL Spring Term D 2019. Congratulations!

Fr. John A. Szukalski, SVD, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

## Intensive English Language Institute (IELI)

Fr. Roberto Alvarenga-Henriquez  
Mr. John-Edeve Augustin  
Mr. Berson Bien-Aime  
Fr. Thinh Cao, SVD  
Ms. Luisa Diaz Gonzalez  
Fr. Duc Do  
Mr. Peterson Forestal  
Mr. Wilson Joseph  
Fr. Hilarius Laja Rebo, SVD  
Mr. Hung Le  
Sr. Tinh Le, LHC  
Fr. Raimundo Maciel Ribeiro, SVD  
Sr. Thom Mai, FMV  
Mr. Nicolas Montenegro

Fr. Joan Manuel Neto, SVD  
Sr. Diem Ngo, IHM  
Fr. Ninh Nguyen  
Fr. Vinh Nguyen, ICM  
Sr. Thoa Nguyen, LHC  
Sr. Thanh Nguyen, LHC  
Mr. Anh-Tuong Nguyen  
Ms. Ana Maria Nino Pardo  
Sr. Tuyet Pham, OP  
Sr. Thuy Thi Tran, LHC  
Fr. Tri Thien Tran, SVD  
Fr. Dinh Vo  
Mr. Tung Cao Vu  
Sr. Thi Dien Vu, LHC



JENGA FUN!

And they all fall down!

## Academic Dean's List for ESL Spring Term E 2019

The Academic Dean's List publicly recognizes full-time students who earn a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.50 or higher in a given term. Any student who has received a grade of Incomplete (I), Failure (F) or who is on academic probation is automatically disqualified. The Academic Dean's List is published at the beginning of each term for distinguished scholarship during the previous term.

Divine Word College commends the following students, listed in alphabetical order, for their outstanding academic achievement during ESL Summer Term E 2019. Congratulations!

Fr. John A. Szukalski, SVD, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

### Intensive English Language Institute (IELI)

Fr. Roberto Alvarenga-Henriquez  
Mr. Junior Jean Baptiste  
Sr. Elsa Castellano, SSpS  
Mr. Jaehyeok Choi  
Ms. Luisa Diaz Gonzalez  
Sr. An Hoang, LHC  
Fr. Shadrach Ketiga, SVD  
Fr. Hilarius Laja Rebo, SVD  
Sr. Tinh Le, LHC Sr. Thanh Nguyen, LHC  
Sr. Thoa Nguyen, LHC

Sr. Thuy Nguyen, MSC  
Ms. Ana Maria Nino Pardo  
Sr. Thi-Hoa Phung, LHC  
Frt. Pedro Francisco Saveia, SVD  
Sr. Thao Tran, LHC  
Fr. Dinh Vo  
Sr. Thi Dien Vu, LHC  
Sr. Magnouwèdéou Woulaou, PSP

## VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

*Fr. Bang Tran, SVD*

- Special thanks to Fr. Huy Tran, SVD, for a successful **day of recollection**. It helped us to understand and reflect on the Mission that God has entrusted each of us. Let us join in praying for Fr. Huy Tran, SVD, and his mission in Chad.
- Tuesday August 28 is scheduled for **Ministry Orientation** at 7:30 P.M, in room 107. It is obligatory for all students engaged in the ministry practicum 2019-2020. ESL and new students are not expected to attend, but are more than welcome to join in the social at 8:30 P.M in the Pour House.
- Thursday, August 29, our first **Vocation Mass** organized by the pre-novitiate group. Sam Lollar will share his vocation journey. Let us come to pray for Fr. Sonny Declass, SVD, the formation director, and his members as they journey together this year, discerning God's call for their lives.
- Sunday, September 1, **Ministry Practicum** will begin. Please contact your ministry group and check the ministry schedule posted on the student board. Early dinner will be served at 5:30 P.M. (Mondays and Tuesdays), 5:15 P.M (Thursdays).

- Monday, September 2 is **Labor Day**. There will be no classes. 5-K Walk & Run organized by the Student Senate will begin at 9:00 A.M in the back parking lot (SVD parking lot) and followed by a picnic in the court yard. Have fun!

**Ministry Commissioning** - On Sunday August 25, Divine Word College community celebrated the rite of ministry commissioning. Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, on behalf of the entire community, called upon 70 students participating in the ministry practicum for the academic year of 2019-2020 and sent them out to serve the poor, the homeless, immigrants and people with disabilities at 14 ministry sites in the areas of Epworth, Cascade and Dubuque. The ministry practicum aims at helping students develop their ministry skills and grow in their identity as religious missionaries and ministers in the Church. Let us pray and ask God to pour abundant graces upon our students as they go out to bear witness to God's love and mercy in places they are called to serve.



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

*Mr. Len Uhal*

**Joint Meeting of the Vocation Directors and the Admissions Committee** -In an effort to improve the admissions process, particularly for SVD candidates, the Admissions Committee members and the vocation directors met last week to discuss admission criteria and the admission process. After the meeting, which was held at the Sisters of the Presentation Convent in Dubuque and facilitated by Fr. Sam Cunningham, SVD, the group enjoyed dinner together at Vinny Vanucchi's Little Italy restaurant on Main Street.



**Mass for Vocations** - This Thursday will be our first Mass for Vocations of the semester. We thank the college community for praying for the efforts of our Vocation Office team as our ministry takes us to many places where we invite and encourage people to consider a religious vocation, particularly to the Arnoldus Family.

**All New Students** - All new students need to visit the Admissions Office to see both Ms. Carolyn Waechter and Ms. Patti McDermott. Carolyn will assist all new international students with visa information. She needs to make sure all your immigration documents are in order and make copies

for our records. Carolyn will also assist all new domestic students with financial aid questions and paperwork. Patti will work with all new students to make sure we have original copies of your educational documents and baptismal and confirmation certificates (for SVD candidates). **ALL NEW STUDENTS, PLEASE VISIT THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE BEFORE THE END OF AUGUST!**

**Returning Domestic Students** - All returning students who are U.S. citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents in the USA (green card holders), please visit the Admissions Office to meet with Ms. Carolyn Waechter. She will assist you with updating your financial aid information. Please visit the office before the end of August.

**Divine Word College Presidential Scholarship** - Students at colleges all over the world look for scholarships to help them cover expenses related to their education—even at seminaries! Students at Divine Word College are no different. Here is a scholarship opportunity that is available to all Divine Word College students who meet the criteria.

Divine Word College first awarded the Presidential Scholarship in 1979. This scholarship is an award to applicants who show superior academic achievement. The Presidential Scholarship is an annual award of \$3,000; it is renewable each year provided the recipient continues to meet the established guidelines. Generally, this award is limited to two (2) each year.

*Criteria for Selection:*

Any new students admitted to the College Program (undergraduate program) at Divine Word College are eligible to apply provided they meet the following criteria:

- Applicants from high school must have a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above.
- College transfer applicants must have a cumulative college GPA of 3.50 or above.
- Applicants who completed secondary school or college/university studies abroad must have an acceptable equivalent cumulative GPA.
- After the first semester at Divine Word College in the undergraduate program, students who are on the Dean's list may apply.
- Applicants from the DWC English Language Institute may apply when they transition to the undergraduate program. They must have a 3.50 high school GPA (or equivalent) or a college GPA of 3.50. A letter of recommendation is required from the Director of the DWC Intensive English Language Institute.

If you believe you qualify for the DWC Presidential Scholarship, please complete the application form by September 13, 2019, which you can obtain from Ms. Carolyn Waechter, the Financial Aid Coordinator. Carolyn can also answer any of your questions.

**Where are they now?** - All of the vocation directors were on campus for almost two weeks. This week, all but Len are gone and are spreading out around the country to promote the SVD and DWC. Frs. Emilio and Anthony are back in California, with Fr. Emilio visiting San Diego this week and Fr. Anthony visiting Our Lady of the Refugees Parish in Stockton. Fr. Adam left Epworth last week to visit a candidate in New York, and will also be in Boston and Chicago before returning to Divine Word College on September 1. Bro. Duylinh left for Chicago on his way to the National Conference of Burmese-American Catholics in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. Fr. Francis has also left the campus and is out and about promoting religious vocations and Divine Word College.

## VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS *Mr. Steve Winger*

**Main Entrance to College Closed** - On Wednesday, August 28, the main entrance to DWC will be closed to all vehicle traffic and parking. The asphalt drive from the entrance to the rear parking lot is scheduled to be removed and replaced with new asphalt. Kluesner Construction will begin work on Wednesday and will provide traffic control. Kluesner estimates this project will only take 1-2 days to complete.

We need all DWC vehicles moved from the front and side parking lots to the rear parking lot by Tuesday evening. No vehicles will be able to enter or exit the front drive on Wednesday and Thursday. All vehicles will need to use the rear gate (via Seminary Ave.) to access the rear parking lot.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

**DASH – Dubuque Area Swimmin’ Hurricanes** - Their pool isn’t ready yet!

So, the Dubuque Area Swimmin’ Hurricanes (DASH) are renting the DWC pool for lifeguard training, youth swimming lessons and swim team training until they can get into their new pool sometime this winter. Thank you for your patience during this time as we share our resources with the community.



DASH will begin using the pool this weekend. Lifeguard training will take place Saturday, August 31, from 12 PM – 3 PM and on Sunday, September 1, from 8 AM – 3 PM.

*Please be aware that DASH members will use the locker rooms during these times. Please put away all personal items and things that you do not want to get wet.*

Look for more information on the DASH program in the LOG next week.



- |             |                                |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| September 7 | SVD Family Feast Celebration   |
| October 4-5 | Board of Trustees Fall Meeting |
| November 20 | Matthew 25 Celebration         |

**Assurance Argument**  
**Divine Word College - IA**

8/27/2019

# 1 - Mission

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The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.

## 1.A - Core Component 1.A

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The institution's mission is broadly understood within the institution and guides its operations.

1. The mission statement is developed through a process suited to the nature and culture of the institution and is adopted by the governing board.
2. The institution's academic programs, student support services, and enrollment profile are consistent with its stated mission.
3. The institution's planning and budgeting priorities align with and support the mission.  
(This sub-component may be addressed by reference to the response to Criterion 5.C.1.)

## Argument

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The mission of Divine Word College is broadly disseminated and clearly understood by its internal and external constituents. The Mission Statement is the primary document that guides all its operations.

### 1.A.1

The College developed its Mission Statement through extensive deliberation and discussion involving the entire College community, the Administration, and the Board of Trustees.

- Divine Word College, a Roman Catholic seminary, was established in 1964 with the clear mission of preparing young men to serve as missionary priests and brothers for the [Society of the Divine Word \(SVD\)](#). The College is a continuation of the original college program established in Techy, Illinois, in 1912. While Divine Word College still fulfills that original mission, in 2009 the mission statement was revised to enable the institution to extend its educational and formational offerings to religious sisters and laypersons who wish to pursue missionary work or other forms of ministry in broader contexts. The factors that led to the revision of the mission statement included the realization that enrollment of candidates for priesthood and brotherhood was less than in previous generations and that religious sisters and laypersons are playing larger roles in the Church, especially in its missionary outreach. Thus, the College opened itself to the idea of admitting religious sisters and a limited number of laypersons, while still maintaining its original mission and essential nature as a Roman Catholic mission seminary.
- The revised Mission Statement was [developed](#) through lengthy discussion and deliberation involving the entire College community, including faculty, staff, administration, and the Board of Trustees. The Society of the Divine Word, the College's

parent organization, also deliberated on the proposed changes and fully supported the expanded mission statement as a coherent implementation of SVD Constitutions 111 (**Evidence: SVD Chicago Provincial Chapter, March 2009**). The task of revising the Mission Statement began when in October 2006, the Board charged its Formation and Planning Committees with the task of leading the discussion and deliberation about revising the mission statement. Input from those two committees then went to the entire College community - faculty, staff, and students - for extended deliberations, resulting in a draft of the new mission statement. The Planning Coordinator scheduled open forums for the College community to receive additional comments in light of which the original draft was amended and then presented to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees [approved](#) the revised Mission Statement in October 2009, and the Board of Directors of Divine Word College confirmed the change in December 2009.

- The revised [Mission Statement](#) reads as follows:

*Divine Word College, a Roman Catholic seminary in the tradition of the Society of the Divine Word, educates men and women for missionary service as priests, Brothers, Sisters, and laypersons. For this purpose, we offer an education that combines spiritual formation, a liberal arts curriculum, language learning and mission preparation within an environment that teaches and honors the rich cultural diversity of the world. This spiritual, academic, and experiential preparation serves the particular learning needs of our students, promotes their development as whole and responsible persons, and fosters a lifelong commitment to serving God's people.*

#### 1.A.2

- The College's [academic programs](#) and student [support services](#) are consistent with its mission. A Bachelor of Arts degree in [philosophy](#) is offered to meet the educational needs of the seminarians for later theological studies. There is also a certificate in pre-theology for students who have completed a B.A. degree before entering the College. As required by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the philosophy curriculum conforms to the stipulations of the [Program for Priestly Formation](#)(PPF). A Bachelor of Arts program in [theology & religious studies](#), introduced after the Mission Statement was revised, provides an appropriate course of studies for the religious sisters, Religious Brother candidates, and lay students. The College also offers a major in [intercultural studies](#) (formerly called Cross-Cultural Studies) to help to develop intercultural competency in students who aspire for careers as missionaries in multi-cultural communities worldwide. All students take courses in intercultural studies, either as required by their major, minor, or as electives, to help them acquire intercultural competence. All priesthood candidates are required to choose intercultural studies as their minor.
- The College offers a robust program in English as a Second Language (ESL) through its [Intensive English Language Institute](#). The establishment of our ESL program was related to the historical context when the College admitted Catholic seminarians from Vietnam, who arrived in the United States as refugees in 1975. They came with little or no English. In October 1975, sixteen Vietnamese seminarians were admitted to Divine Word College and enrolled in our first ESL program. The College continues to admit students from Vietnam and students of Vietnamese origin who are in the United States as well as

students from other non-English-Speaking countries, who require English proficiency before pursuing a degree program. The majority of ESL students transition to degree programs upon completion of their ESL studies. During the 2014-2018 period, of the 131 students who departed the College program, 86 first completed the ESL program [**Memo for evidence**]. After extensive consultation and deliberation among the faculty, the ESL program was recently reorganized into an 8-week, 8-level program from a 16-week, 5-level program to make it even more robust and intensive and to allow students to progress at a faster pace.

- Consistent with its mission, the College offers many [student support services](#) to assure their success, retention, and graduation while providing them ample opportunities to discern their religious vocation. Support services currently available to the students include housing, religious [formation](#), student financial aid, health services, athletic programs, student organizations, counseling services, spiritual direction, disability services, instruction in study skills, tutoring services, and a learning resource center. Some of these services are organized under the Dean of Students, while others are managed by the VP for Operations or other administrators. To meet the spiritual needs of female students, the College employs religious sisters in Formation and Spiritual Direction programs. A one-credit hour course, titled [Freshman Seminar](#), added in 2013, helps new students navigate the College's academic life. This course also introduces students to learning resources and support services such as library holdings, Information Services, the Learning Resource Center, and advising services.
- The College's enrollment is consistent with its mission. As expected, the enrollment profile of the College has changed considerably, thanks to the revised mission statement. A substantial number of enrolled students are religious sisters. **[In fall 2018, 44 women (39% of total) and 69 men (61% of total) were enrolled, while lay enrollment remained very small (9% female and 6% male). Need Latest data]**
- **Citizenship records show that our students come from 20 different countries of birth (Angola, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Columbia, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, Togo, USA, and Viet Nam). The majority are from Viet Nam (62), followed by Haiti (13), USA (11), Saudi Arabia (4), Indonesia (3), and the remaining (20) from other countries. Eighty-two percent are non-resident aliens. Prior to 1975, the student body consisted entirely of male students, most whom were white, and domestic. [Need latest enrollment data]**

### 1.A.3

- The Mission Statement is the key document that guides the College in its [planning](#) and [budgeting](#), and it is frequently invoked as the main guide for all institutional operations. For instance, success in achieving the goals identified in the planning document is periodically tracked through a [scorecard](#). (Please refer to 5.C.1 for details about the planning process). The detailed [budgeting process](#) allows for more careful deliberations and transparency to assure that it is guided by the institutional mission. The process starts with the VP for Operations, who produces a preliminary budget, taking into account the previous year's spending patterns. The preliminary budget is first reviewed and approved by the Financial Affairs Committee of the College. A member of the Strategic Planning

Committee sits on the Financial Affairs Committee and verifies that the budget is in line with the strategic plan of the College, which is based on the Mission Statement. The preliminary budget is then reviewed and approved by the Board of Administration to verify that the budget meets the priorities of the College. The budget is then reviewed by the officials of the SVD Chicago Province, the parent organization of the College, and presented for approval to the College's Board of Trustees. After the Board of Trustees approves the budget, the [Board of Directors](#) gives it the final approval.

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- VPAAmemo2018.09.08
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## 1.B - Core Component 1.B

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The mission is articulated publicly.

1. The institution clearly articulates its mission through one or more public documents, such as statements of purpose, vision, values, goals, plans, or institutional priorities.
2. The mission document or documents are current and explain the extent of the institution's emphasis on the various aspects of its mission, such as instruction, scholarship, research, application of research, creative works, clinical service, public service, economic development, and religious or cultural purpose.
3. The mission document or documents identify the nature, scope, and intended constituents of the higher education programs and services the institution provides.

### Argument

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Divine Word College has articulated and published its Mission Statement in many ways.

#### 1.B.1

- The College publishes its [Mission, Vision, and Core Values](#) in numerous ways, including the Academic Catalog and the College website. Reflecting the diversity of its student body and the international character of the Society of the Divine Word that owns and operates the College, the Mission Statement appears in the Catalog in [multiple languages](#) (English, Vietnamese, Chinese, Spanish, and French). The College motto, "Educating Tomorrow's Missionaries," greets visitors entering the College through the front doors. A copy of the Mission Statement is prominently displayed in the front lobby, in the main meeting room, and in the Trustees' meeting room.

#### 1.B.2

- The Mission Statement was last revised in 2009. The revised Mission Statement and related documents inform the nature, extent, and the focus of the College's educational, formational, and other co-curricular programs. In keeping with the spirit and [charism](#) of the Society of the Divine Word, the College's educational programs are designed to enable students to prepare themselves for missionary work throughout the world. Reference to a liberal arts curriculum in the Mission Statement emphasizes the requirement for students to be broadly educated, responsible, and mature persons who have developed habits of creative and critical thinking. The Core Beliefs of the Society of the Divine Word, the Core Values of the College, and the Vision Statement combine to convey the College's unique approach to education and what it expects our students to learn in formal and informal settings.

- The core values of the College encompass not only in its educational offerings but also the daily living of the community. The [institutional culture](#) emphasizes diversity, community spirit, spiritual growth, service, integrity, and lifelong learning. To visually remind ourselves of the value of [diversity](#), the halls of the College throughout are decorated with artwork from many countries with diverse themes. The flags flying in front of the College proclaim its international and global character.

### 1.B.3

- The mission, core values, and vision documents, repeated in College [manuals](#) and [Bylaws](#), describe the nature, scope, and the intended constituents of the programs and services the institution provides. The College intentionally recruits, admits and enrolls students who are genuinely interested to explore and deepen their [vocation to missionary life](#) within the context of the Society of the Divine Word and the Catholic Church. The College only offers undergraduate degree and certificate programs. Its [philosophy degree](#) program is the first stage of the required education for [priesthood candidates](#) who wish to pursue a master's degree in theology or divinity. Degree programs in theology/religious studies and intercultural studies are also offered to religious [sisters](#), religious brothers, and lay students who wish to further their education and become more effective in their ministry.
- The Core Values make it abundantly clear the College's reach and character are international and [intercultural](#) as it welcomes students from around the world. The **August 2019 student body represents xxxx countries**. As demonstrated by its history of welcoming immigrants and refugees from Vietnam, Sudan, Haiti, and elsewhere, it is especially committed to providing opportunities to marginalized and displaced persons who seek their rightful place within the Church and the larger society. A focus on reaching out to the [poor and the marginalized](#) is reflected in the statement of the [core competencies](#) required of students as well as the composition of the student body itself.
- Through their [ministry programs](#) in the community, students learn to demonstrate compassion and care for the elderly, residents of nursing homes, the poor in homeless shelters and at soup kitchens, and the youth who need assistance. The College annually presents an award to an outstanding community leader who serves the poor with the [Mathew 25 Award](#) as an example for the students to emulate. Each of the Core Values is presented as a part of the aspirations and expectations that drive the institution, beginning with student recruitment and continuing with the College's commitment to supporting students' life-long learning after graduation. Students also benefit from the presence, active participation and examples of the experienced SVD personnel who administer, teach, offer counseling, spiritual guidance, offer support, and lead formation groups.

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## 1.C - Core Component 1.C

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The institution understands the relationship between its mission and the diversity of society.

1. The institution addresses its role in a multicultural society.
2. The institution's processes and activities reflect attention to human diversity as appropriate within its mission and for the constituencies it serves.

### Argument

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DWC's academic and formation programs, environment, and practices demonstrate that it clearly understands and emphasizes the relationship between its mission and the diversity of the society.

#### 1.C.1

- Through the statement of its [Mission, Vision, and Core Values](#), the College proclaims its role in advancing a diverse and multi-cultural society of the human community. The values of diversity and interculturality are embedded in the very mission of the College. The [Mission Statement](#) asserts that the College offers "an education ... within an environment that teaches and honors the rich cultural diversity of the world." Appreciation of diversity is abundantly reflected in the College's liberal arts curriculum, its formation program, students' community ministry, and the daily life of the College.
- The liberal-arts-based Core Curriculum includes courses in cultural anthropology and world history that are intended to expose the students to an awareness of the breadth of the world's cultural and civilizational diversity. The degree program in intercultural studies requires students to take courses in intercultural communication, globalization, as well as theories of society and culture. Within the Philosophy program courses are offered in Asian philosophy and the philosophy of Gandhi. Required courses in Theology & Religious Studies include Non-Christian Religions, Missiology, and SVD Heritage & Mission.
- Acquiring skills in cross-cultural living is a major facet of the [Formation Program](#). Following the values articulated in the Constitutions [**Need Constitutions to link**] of the Society of Divine Word, students' religious formation emphasizes the need of meeting everyone with "goodwill ..., growing into their historical situation, customs, and mentality" and becoming familiar with the history and culture of those whom they are to serve (501).
- As a college whose students are mostly international and from diverse backgrounds, DWC celebrates, honors, and advances the richness of human diversity. [Intercultural competence](#) an ability to "demonstrate knowledgeable, respectful participation in cultures beyond their own" is one of the five core competencies expected of every DWC graduate. The College promotes multicultural awareness and intercultural competence through its daily living as well as through its planned activities and celebrations such as the [Mission](#)

[Sunday](#) celebration, the Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Lunar New Year. The celebration of Mission Sunday starts with a liturgy that incorporates elements from many cultures and is followed by an International Food Festival in which students, staff, and faculty prepare and share dishes from their home countries. Many members of the local community attend the liturgy and the international food fair. The feasts of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Josephine Bakhita focus on the cultures of Mexico, Africa, and the Caribbean. Finally, the annual celebration of the Lunar New Year draws friends of of Divine Word College to help celebrate the major festival of East Asia, with with Vietnamese and Chinese food and entertainment. The [F.A.N.](#) (Friends Across Nations) Club [**Needs Link**], which was set up to help DWC students learn about American life, provides area families with exposure to students from other cultures and provide them new windows on the world. These celebrations are not only purely religious in nature but also cultural in as much the liturgy and the festivities are informed and enhanced by the cultural richness and the diverse talents that the students bring to the College community. Students thus learn the intimate links between spirituality and culture and the expression of the message of the Gospel in different cultural settings.

- Recent initiatives in the SVD approach to missionary work have included “[Prophetic Dialogue](#)” for which students are encouraged and enabled to acquire intercultural competence. In its missionary approach, Divine Word Missionaries stress the importance of dialogue with other religions and cultures to learn more even as they serve. Being adept at ministering to people of diverse cultures is a requirement for SVD missionaries who minister in a variety of contexts. That spirit of honoring and celebrating human and cultural diversity is bequeathed to the students through the formal and informal education they receive at the College. Occasionally, students also make [presentations](#) on cultural diversity to the larger community. The physical environment of the College reminds everyone of the importance of honoring cultural diversity. For instance, the six stained glass panels in the student dining room and the stained glass windows of the chapel symbolize the idea of passing to other cultures, in dialogue with great religions, in service to the poor, and in openness to God’s word. To enhance opportunities for students to have inter-faith and ecumenical contacts, the College has recently enrolled in the ESL program a limited number of Muslim students from Saudi Arabia. The Annual Ecumenical Peace Vespers [**Need evidence**] and the Week of Prayer for Christian unity all provide opportunities to embrace religious diversity. Faculty and staff also come from a diverse religious background.

#### 1.C.2

- The College rightly reflects the SVD’s commitment to, and celebration of, “the rich cultural diversity of the world,” explicitly acknowledged in the Mission Statement. Diversity is one of the College’s core values. All facets of the College’s education include an emphasis on preparing our already diverse student body to thrive in, and contribute to, the societies in which they will eventually live and work. The College uses its multicultural student composition for preparing students to relate, on a daily basis, to others who are culturally different from themselves. From their first contact with recruiters, potential seminarians understand that they not only will join a multicultural

organization but that they will be part of a [campus community](#) that values and celebrates differences. All potential recruits spend a few days at the College in a “Come and See” [Need link] program that enables them to directly observe and experientially learn what it means to be intercultural.

- The College consciously strives to improve its faculty diversity. recognizing that the composition of the teaching faculty is not as multicultural as it could be. Many faculty have international experience in living and learning. Also, among the staff who reported their [race/ethnic identity](#), a significant number is non-White. There is, perhaps, unexpected diversity of faith backgrounds among the faculty. While all the SVDs, and many of the other instructors are Catholic, there are also teachers from other denominations or no faith at all, who provide important perspectives for students who will themselves be dialoguing with people from many faiths and people of no faith.

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## 1.D - Core Component 1.D

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The institution's mission demonstrates commitment to the public good.

1. Actions and decisions reflect an understanding that in its educational role the institution serves the public, not solely the institution, and thus entails a public obligation.
2. The institution's educational responsibilities take primacy over other purposes, such as generating financial returns for investors, contributing to a related or parent organization, or supporting external interests.
3. The institution engages with its identified external constituencies and communities of interest and responds to their needs as its mission and capacity allow.

### Argument

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The institution's very nature as a mission seminary involves a deep commitment to serving the public good.

#### 1.D.1

- Divine Word College's mission is to prepare men and women to serve as missionaries around the world. By its very nature, this mission involves a commitment to serving the public good. The College strives to instill in students a preferential love for the poor and the disadvantaged. Coming from diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds in **developing countries** [[Link to Student Demographics](#)], most of the students would be otherwise unable to pursue a college degree. Some of the students are preparing themselves to return to their home countries to serve in ministries that serve the public, such as administering programs for childcare, schools, clinics, or hospitals, or ministry in local churches. By preparing students for public service in impoverished communities, in the USA and around the world. Divine Word College is contributing materially, socially, and culturally to the good of the public, especially to traditionally underserved populations.
- The College provides many unique services to its external constituents. Examples include [ministries](#) by students and members of the Society of the Divine Word. The College also offers various [cultural programs](#) such as art [exhibits](#) that are open to the public.
- College facilities are made available for the use of the community and community organizations. Our athletic facilities provide unique resources to the community. For instance, the tennis courts are open to the public, except during designated hours. The [swimming pool](#) is open to the public at designated hours. The College is designated as the local [community's emergency shelter](#). Facilities are made available for gatherings such as the [Archdiocesan Priests Convocation](#). Many of the employees are [active](#) in local civic and [religious organizations](#). Many are serving their churches in liturgical music or other leadership roles. Some are active in local arts associations, writers' groups, book clubs, and other civic groups. The College hosts art shows by artists from the region. **Instructors** are professionally involved in their disciplines, and such activities form part of their annual evaluation. Students and faculty make cultural **presentations** [[Log ESL](#)

**Reading Program African Students at Dubuque]** to the community. Receptions for speakers and artists are held in the art gallery. [Mission Sunday](#) is a major College event held every October in which the public is invited to a culturally focused liturgy followed by an International Food Fest in which the public can sample foods from various cultures prepared by the students and faculty free of charge.

#### 1.D.2

- Generously supported by the Chicago Province of the Society of Divine Word, the College is under no pressure to turn a profit and it does not turn a profit. It is not dependent on revenue generated by tuition and student fees. Thanks to the financial commitment of SVD Chicago Province to support the College, the College is fiscally stable and able to concentrate, without worrying about finances, on educating students.
- The College's activities are strictly limited to its educational and formational work, as described in the Mission Statement. The SVD expects that the educational and the spiritual formation that its candidates and others receive meet [established standards](#) so that they are prepared to move on to graduate school or to work in their chosen field of service.
- Even while the Society of the Divine Word hopes that many of the seminarians continue to pursue their vocation to the priesthood or religious life, it is keen on enabling them to discern their vocation freely and without pressure in a safe environment. The College considers it a success when students receive an excellent education and during the course of their studies, they freely choose to pursue their life goals. The Society is certain that many students who choose other paths make their contributions to the Church's missionary outreach as committed laypersons.

#### 1.D.3

- The College engages its external constituencies and communities and responds to their needs in numerous ways, as evidenced by the following examples:
- DWC students work at local agencies as part of their "Ministries Program" for a few hours each month during the school year. Soup kitchens, retirement homes, centers for the developmentally disabled, and local parish churches are served by our students. The students' ministry experiences are discussed and evaluated with the formators. The College recognizes the ministries of others who serve the poor and the disadvantaged with its Matthew 25 Award, a recognition of individuals, both lay and clerical, who minister "to the least of these." Since the inaugural award in 2001, there have been 15 individuals honored for their work with a special prayer service, a banquet, and a cash gift. Their photographs are displayed on the wall outside the Chapel.
- A number of area residents come to daily Mass at the College. SVD priests from the College celebrate Mass and [help out](#) in Catholic parishes with both regular and special service needs at area nursing homes and local parishes.
- Divine Word College engages its graduates and former students in many ways. All are added to the College's Development Office's database so that they receive the College's quarterly newsletter on a regular basis to stay abreast of happenings at the College. They are also invited to support the College in its mission by prayers, volunteer work,

assistance with student recruitment, and gifts as they are able. To assist with alumni relations, the College partners with its parent organization, Divine Word Alumni Association [**Need info**], which is headquartered at Divine Word College . This Alumni Association is sponsored by the Society of the Divine Word's Chicago Province (owner of Divine Word College). It maintains contact with alumni from Divine Word schools by hosting a website, sponsoring regional alumni gatherings, and printing a regular newsletter. The College strives to keep the former students informed of the current activities and opportunities at DWC. It also encourages continued missionary outreach among all the alumni. Responses from former students also allow the College to further gauge the effectiveness of the education and training they received here. Because of the close interactions among students and SVDs on the faculty, many students maintain frequent contact with them after graduation and many former students return for special events such as Mission Sunday and Holy Week.

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## 1.S - Criterion 1 - Summary

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The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.

### Summary

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While maintaining its core mission and nature as a seminary that prepares SVD candidates for missionary service, in 2009 the College broadened that mission, enabling it to admit religious sisters and a limited number of lay students. The new Mission Statement resulted from much discussion and lengthy deliberation by all its constituents and it is clearly articulated in the College Catalog, College By-Laws, and manuals. It is publicly displayed in several places within the College. The Mission Statement and the statement of vision and core values serve as the guiding document for our budgeting, planning, and operations.

The broadening of the Mission Statement required the College to establish a new major in theology and religious studies. The broadening of the Mission has helped to further diversify the student body and help to maintain a healthy enrollment.

While pursuing its educational mission, the College serves its public in numerous ways. Our faculty and staff are provided support to be professionally active and they use their talents and skills to serve the larger community. Lectures and cultural programs offered by the College are open to the public. Students provide services to local agencies as part of their ministries program. The College stresses the importance of serving the poor and the powerless, which is symbolized by recognizing annually one or more individuals from the area with the Mathew 25 Award. The College offers a range of services and opportunities to the local community and its external constituents, which include making its facilities available to the community for meetings and events as well as opening its religious and cultural celebrations to the public. The employees and students serve the community in numerous ways, consistent with its mission.

### Sources

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*There are no sources.*