

University of Dayton

eCommons

Historical Context of Vocation at UD

Institutional Learning Goal: Vocation

12-1-2021

Summaries of Mini-Grant Awards, 2018-2021

University of Dayton. Vocation Implementation Team

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Summary of Vocation Mini-Grants 2018 - 2021

Mini-grants have impacted a wide range of students across schools and divisions, and many programs intersect with other institutional priorities. Recipients have gained great momentum with initial pilots, and have designed curriculum/programs that are well-suited for long-term implementation and broader impact.

AY 21-22:

Exploring Engineering Vocations Within the Academy - Carson Running

This project will manifest itself in a semester+ long book study and seminar series focusing on the discernment of academic careers for engineering students. This project is the very beginning of a larger-scope project that I am spearheading within the School of Engineering to assist our graduate students in their discernment processes.

Vocational Exploration for Undecided Students in HSS - Sabrina Neeley, Corinne Daprano

The proposed project is a guided book group discussion with students in Health and Sport Science who are undecided about their vocation and major/concentration. The group will follow the 9-step in-depth vocational discernment tool and process outlined in the book *You Don't Have to Be a Doctor: Discover, Achieve and Enjoy Your Authentic Health Career* (J. Oxendine, 2020). Additionally, we will invite guests to discuss their own vocational discernment journey during some sessions.

Leveraging Student Experiences in Community Engagement to Understand Engineering as a Vocation - Scott Schneider, Kelly Bohrer, Peter Fabe (ETHOS)

This project will entail the creation of a vocational learning module that can be employed after community engaged engineering activities to cultivate vocational awareness in engineering students. The module will be crafted with three main components: time for student reflections on their skills built through the community engagement activities, opportunities to learn how alumni have leveraged similar experiences to inform their career choices, and an introduction to resources to further vocational discovery.

Participatory Action Research: Discerning vocation during sophomore year for students who come into the CMM major from a different major - Heather Parsons, Matthew Witenstein

Using an integrated framework that Heather developed through her dissertation of the self-authorship and sense of belonging theoretical frameworks, we will explore second year (sophomore) students who have changed their majors from their declared major starting UD. We will conduct a participatory-action research (PAR) study with 5-8 sophomore CMM students, discussing topics including vocation, their decision making process, their development in the self-authorship framework and their sense of belonging. The goal is to develop tools/resources to help assist with vocational discernment between academic advisors and second year students who switch to CMM.

Pro Bono Pop-Up event/Ohio Governor's Expedited Pardon Project (OGEPP) - Lauren Devine, Ericka Curran and Katie Wright (UDSL Leadership Honors Program)

This pro bono program will allow students to practice the "soft skills" that comprise 50% of the legal work they will engage in their future practice, like interviewing clients, particularly individuals from marginalized communities, and having an opportunity to work with real world clients to provide them with much-needed assistance. This program will facilitate an opportunity for discernment and reflection in which students can truly reflect on their chosen profession to better guide their work during, after, and beyond law school.

LatinX Student Retreat - Sam Ortiz

There is a deep need for LatinX students to have a space to explore not only who they are and want to be but how being part of the LatinX community influences and impacts the choices we make both career wise and in identifying our purpose. This retreat will bring together students, as well as some faculty and staff coordinators, to engage in deeper dialogues around identity and "discovering our place" through our connection to Latinidad.

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Emerging Business Leaders: Pursuing Your Vocation at UD - Theresa Popelar, Vince Lewis, Nate Perry

This collaborative event between the Office of Recruitment and Admission and the SBA/Hub will be open to admitted SBA majors for the incoming FA22 class. This experience will be designed to help students get to know other accepted students, learn about leadership and vocation opportunities at UD, and will offer intentional and guided reflection time to help students discern their vocation within the School of Business.

Amend: Tracing the History of the 14th Amendment & Its Impact on Social Justice Movements - Kyler Palmer, Maureen Anderson

In collaboration with up to six student organizations at the School of Law, the Lambda Legal Student Association is spearheading a series of events relating to the history of the 14th Amendment and the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Equal Protection Clause (EPC). Centered around the docuseries "Amend: The Fight for America," this series is an opportunity to connect classroom takeaways to social movement activism.

AY 20-21:

OutMentors - Lis Regula, Jacob Cress, Patrick Thomas, Anthony Rodriguez

Mini-grant is supporting the design of a mentoring program that will connect students who are LGBTQ+ to university LGBTQ+ -identifying staff and faculty (and, eventually alumni). Mentors will act as guides to help students engage in vocational discernment concerning their gifts of being LGBTQ+ and the particular ways that LGBTQ+ identities help students to recognize their roles and responsibilities in communities, and their possible pathways toward self-fulfillment.

Propelling a Purpose-Driven Early Launch - Brad Balsler

The Early Launch program allows students to enroll in courses that would help them get a head start on their collegiate studies. This grant funds 3 graduate students to design and teach a supplemental Early Launch mini course that incorporates the language of vocation into each class period and structured interactions outside of the classroom.

Vocation and Black & Latinx Art and Philosophy - Ernesto Velasquez, Sam Ortiz, Julio Quintero, Judith Huacuja

This project is an extension of the past mini-grant which focused on the theme of vocation as it occurs in Liberation theologies and philosophies. This project delves into vocation as it is embodied in black and latinx art and philosophy through film discussions, have co-teaching collaborations, invited speakers, and student presentations.

Discerning Your Vocation (Time and Time Again) - Daniela Canas Baena

MEC hosted community panelists from various professional backgrounds to share how their vocation has changed through time, what shifting trajectories feels like, and the skills (courage/reflection/networking/ transferable skills) they utilized and developed in order to follow their vocation.

Engineering an Impact: An Exploration of Vocational Journeys - Julieta Phillips

This grant is funding 2 CMM students to create a series of videos interviewing a variety of faculty, staff, employers, alumni, student tech groups/clubs, etc. about their academic and vocational journeys. This content will be used as a regular component of EGR 102 Intro to the University Experience for Engineers course (required for all first year students).

Exploring the Vocation of an Intervention Specialist - Catherine Lawless Frank, Connie Mathes

Provides middle childhood/intervention specialist teacher education candidates the opportunities to explore the vocation of an intervention specialist through observations, experiences, and reflections. Also includes a round table discussion and resource sharing with practicing intervention specialists.

Perspectives and Practices for the Art Education Professional - Darden Bradshaw

Monthly seminar/workshop events in which art educators, activists, artists, and wellness practitioners from the Dayton community will share strategies/tools/techniques that art education students can use to support self-care in intentional and creative ways. Each participant received a visual journal kit to use as a way to document the strategies and tools they gain throughout the year.

Diversity Peer Educators - Megan Woolf

Diversity Peer Educators (DPE) program brings together students from diverse backgrounds and experiences to promote social justice education and intergroup relations, with the goal of better understanding self and others. The grant funded a training program that gave the DPEs space to evaluate their mission, vision and goals, and see how their peer leadership skills can be utilized in their calling.

MEC Study Care Packages- Merida Allen

Vocation mini grant funds were utilized to create 50 MEC Study Care Packages for students as they went home to finish the semester remotely. When students picked up their care package, they were engaged with questions ranging from their connection to MEC to what it means to pursue vocation.

How Should A Person Be? - David Fine, ENG 387: Literature & Ethics

As they wrestle with the question--"How should a person be?"--students will necessarily engage with questions of vocation, ethics, and citizenship. Moreover, they will tackle tough questions about UD's responsibilities to the city. What the grant makes possible is students' continued engagement with the Undesign the Redline project to deepen the reality and meaning of their community-engaged learning.

CLAY: BODY Exhibiting Artist Student Conversations - Geno Luketic

Pilot for what I intend to be a longer program utilizing the language and strategies of vocational discernment with more intentionality with upper level art students in conversation with artists, activists, curators and writers to emphasize the process of discovery, connection and community essential to thrive as an artist (artist the vocation - in comparison to artist the career).

Vocation in the Library - Henry Handley, Diane Osman, and Amy Rohmiller

Held three professional development opportunities for all library faculty and staff that included a group book read and the creation of four oral history interviews with current UD students and recent alumni. Through these sessions, we accomplished our goals of raising awareness of vocation and the library's role in students' vocational discernment at UD.

Discerning Vocation as a Student Library Employee - Kristina Schulz, Heidi Gauder and Katy Kelly

Thanks to the Vocation Mini-Grant, University Libraries offered a new optional, free, and engaging program for its undergraduate student employees. This cohorted virtual program engaged with library student employees in order to develop their vocational ideas and goals.

Sociology Student Retreat - Laura Leming, Anya Galli Robertson, Jeanne Holcomb

Hosted a retreat experience for our junior students to provide a cohort experience to give a sense of identity, shared perspective and explore the value of our discipline in this time of social transformation. Moving forward, we continue to explore ways to incorporate vocation into the experiences of our majors.

Art and Real Life - Ashley Jonas

Art and Real Life is a series of conversations and visits with artists and creatives that have discovered and held onto their vocation. Engaging in authentic conversations with artists and creatives allows our students to see a future for themselves in which they can be gainfully and meaningfully employed while remaining true to their vocation of creativity.

Success Steps in MEC - Merida Allen and Cynthia Payne

The Success Steps program contributes to the mission and vision for vocation at UD by addressing the personal needs of students and helping them become aware of their values. Student leaders who design the Success Steps program and students who participate benefit from considering their purpose and non-academic needs in the context of their gifts and skills.

PEERS Program - Merida Allen and Sam Ortiz

The P.E.E.R.S. (Program to Engage and Exchange Resources for Students) mentor program is dedicated to engaging and empowering first-year students to successfully navigate the college experience. The program is designed to give multi-ethnic students a way to create and maintain meaningful relationships with peers and build a connection to the greater UD community.

The Journey to Vowed Religious Life - Sr. Nicole Trahan and Mike Bennett

Inviting UD alumni who graduated from UD after 2000 and who have entered religious life to submit writings, artwork, videos, audio, etc. discussing/displaying their journey of discernment from UD to where they are now. These resources will be made available for future student retreats and discernment.

Vocation and Discernment Dinners - Colleen Brown

During this project, students explore the intersection of faith and life in their college experience, and the discernment of their personal vocation. This will be an opportunity to slow down, encounter faith traditions, reflect, dialogue, and share a meal together.

Spiritual Direction for Religious Vocations - Father Ted Cassidy

Personal spiritual direction with students is an important part of the relationships that develop in this ministry. To aid this direction this project uses Marianist books that aid in this direction.

AY19-20:

Communication Student Mentors - Heather Parsons

This past spring semester we piloted our CMM 491 Vocation capstone class. The goal of this project was to pair our seniors up with first-year students and create a mentorship program. Students would discuss vocation and learn from each other by reflecting on their past and exploring their future (questions were provided during the organized gatherings).

Legal Vocations for the Common Good - Tan Boston, PLW350/LAW6003 (Legal Research Writing & Analysis)

Inside and outside of class, we engaged with law as a vocation through the book, guest speakers, discussion forums, volunteer activities and an oral report. The goal was to get the students to reflect upon how they could use the law as a vehicle to promote the Common Good.

My Leadership Journal - Chris Fishpaw

The leadership journal is a 150 page journal created entirely by the Student Leadership Programs office that introduces students to the concepts of leadership for the common good and vocational discernment. The journal has been distributed and utilized in a range of student programs.

The Healer's Art for Physician Assistant Students - Molly Middleton

In 2017, our UD PA Program became the first and only program to offer The Healer's Art course to PA students. This course aligns with UD's mission of vocation and contributes to the Common Good by enabling PA students to reflect upon their vocation by recalling why they chose this profession, as well as remember and honor aspects of themselves that they will bring to their work in healthcare.

Brotherly Ties: Black Male Vocation Retreat - William Coleman, Brian Jackson, Craig Johnson, Karlos L. Marshall, Sam Ortiz, Rev. Dustin Pickett, Carlos Stewart, Donnell Wiggins, Aaron Witherspoon

The retreat set out to engage undergraduate african-american males in several different areas related to vocation, and with a specific emphasis on how it is seen through their identity as african-american males.

Chaminade Scholars Capstone - Chaminade Scholars 2020 cohort

The Chaminade Scholars had planned a conference, Our Common Home: Sustainability and Vocation Conference. Due to COVID-19, the planning group cancelled the conference plans and instead engaged in a facilitated

conversation with faculty and the senior cohort of Chaminade Scholars. The conversation focused on vocation amidst the pandemic using the article "Dear Students, There is No Afterwards."

Fruitful Conversations and eSCENTial Reflections - Jen Morin-Williamson

Collaboration with RA's in VWK to host short conversations with their residents in their lounges, as students made smoothies and discussed vocation. A second program integrated the use of essential oils.

"Reset" Zine - Logan Zinkhon, Abigail Hines, Abby Almanrode (students)

IACT students created "Reset," a zine filled with thought-provoking questions, advice from peers, and relevant resources on-campus. Distributed to 500 first-year students through RAs in their residence halls.

"A Day In The Life: What We Do for the Common Good" - Caroline Waldron, Lisa Borello, Marcia Donohoo - This session for faculty and staff hosted a panel and discussion over lunch in which we invested in time to share, reflect, and analyze the conditions we meet on a daily basis in our particular roles for UD.

AY18-19:

Piloting Your Purpose - Amy Lopez-Matthews

Six-week program targeted to sophomore students. 2 participants engaged in personal reflection/writing; took the Clifton Strengths Assessment; viewed and discussed *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch; and integrated that into our conversation about legacy and living a meaningful life. Closed program with development of personal vocation plans that included diagramming their personal values, purpose, theme song, strengths, and involvements and using that self-knowledge to develop a plan for their future involvements, relationships, academics, and spirituality.

Design Your Life - Adrienne Ausdenmoore

1-credit mini-course - UDI 373: Design Your Life, 32 students (1st-year to PhD) enrolled. Curriculum uses design thinking to discern vocation and build creative confidence to tackle complex, open-ended challenges encountered in many of today's (and tomorrow's) professions. Mini-grant has been used to build a sharing library of *Designing Your Life* books. Books used as supplement to work in the course, and as a tool for continued vocational discernment beyond graduation.

PreMed International Immersion and Vocation Reflection - Dr. Zaiba Malik

11 students in Med 339/Med 480 engaged in dinner discussion and activity session onsite in Oaxaca, Mexico after experiencing some clinical days and community center volunteering- transformative, in-depth discussions about their experiential learning. Students engaged in "Vocation Journey Workshop" led by the Office of Experiential Learning; created visual "mind maps," integrating experience with their future careers, sense of purpose.

Vocation and Immersion - Maria Ollier Burkett, Castel Sweet, Kelly Bohrer, Mary Niebler, Matthew Witenstein
35 Students from CSC cross-cultural summer immersion, ETHOS summer (domestic & international), UHP Global Flyers: India, Summer of Service participated in a Spring Mini Retreat connecting the following themes: vocation, journey, immersion, sense of home & place.

Hidden Gems - Chaminade Scholars 2019 Cohort

Cohort members engaged in conversation and interviews with students and professors of various fields, faith backgrounds, and levels of professional experience in order to understand how individuals perceive vocation and have incorporated vocational discernment or contemplation within their unique journeys. Narratives and photos were curated for a campus conversational exhibit/celebration May 2 (about 60 people attended).

A Sacred Voice is Calling - Chaminade Scholars 2020 Cohort/Vocation & the Arts, Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski

The student team created an online/blended learning experience to enable UD students to explore the meaning of vocation with a social justice component. Students created 5 modules which include videos, Powerpoint, reflection questions and exercises. Chaminade Scholar alums will serve as facilitators for online course when it goes live.