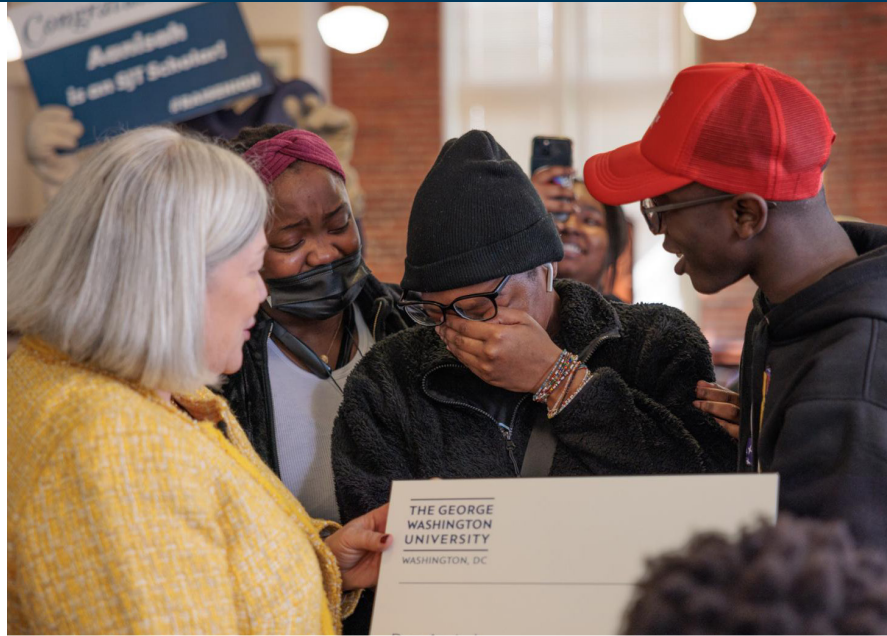


GW SERVES D.C.

and more

2024 REPORT



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WASHINGTON, DC

SERVING D.C., THE NATION AND THE WORLD.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Ellen M. Granberg, President

Dear Members of Our D.C. Community,

I am pleased to share with you the George Washington University's fourth annual civic engagement report. For the past four years, this publication has proudly showcased GW's engagement activities and demonstrated the depth and breadth of the university's contributions to the city we call home. This year, in addition to outlining our work across the District, we've included several inspiring stories of GW Revolutionaries who are tackling health disparities, improving community safety, and fostering innovation, education, and entrepreneurship. These select stories exemplify our GW community's remarkable impact locally, nationally, and globally.

Central to our civic engagement initiatives is the Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service. The Nashman Center, in collaboration with other academic programs and initiatives, is at the forefront of addressing critical issues of the utmost importance to D.C. residents. In the past year, the Nashman Center has played a pivotal role in supporting academic success, civic development, and social-emotional wellness programming within D.C. public schools. It has also hosted several local days of service for the GW community. These activities not only enhance the lives and education of the city's K-12 students but also contribute to training the next generation of teachers, leaders, and citizens.

These efforts stem from GW's robust partnerships across the District's eight wards, founded on a shared commitment to serving our communities. Looking forward, we remain dedicated to strengthening and scaling these invaluable relationships while fostering new collaborations to solve our most pressing challenges. Together, we will continue to drive positive change, making Washington, D.C., an even better place to live, work, and learn.

Thank you for your continued support and for being our partners in building a better, brighter future for all.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellen M. Granberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'g'.

Ellen M. Granberg

ADDRESSING COMMUNITY NEEDS



Senior business analytics and international affairs major Sahas Srinivasan was involved with a project aimed at improving pedestrian and sidewalk safety in D.C.

GW SERVES: SENIOR'S STATISTICAL STUDY SUPPORTS SIDEWALK SAFETY

During the 2023 fall semester, GW senior Sahas Srinivasan used his data analytics skills to help improve the walkability of his adopted college home of Washington, D.C. Volunteering with the Capitol Hill Village Sidewalk Safety Team, Srinivasan analyzed three years' worth of data that investigated the city's response to sidewalk complaints. Srinivasan found that D.C. has a much stronger response rate to pothole complaints—around four days—than sidewalks, which he found averaged roughly 270 days between complaint and repair.

Using the software program R, Srinivasan prepared reports for the Capitol Hill Village Sidewalk Safety Team to present to D.C. legislators and public administrators in a pitch to improve pedestrian safety and culture for residents and visitors alike. The team also presented the data to a local advisory commission in December, which Srinivasan heard went over well. "I really hope [the project] inspires a lasting change," Srinivasan said.

Based on feedback from the Capitol Hill Village team, it seems as though his thorough analytical work will do just that. "[Capitol Hill Village] and the [Sidewalk Safety Team] are grateful for Sahas's tenacity, talent and creativity," wrote Scott Price for Capitol Hill Village News. "We are confident that the legacy of data analysis he leaves behind will result in safer sidewalks for all D.C. residents and visitors."

Srinivasan appreciated the experiences from analytics courses at GW, and the opportunity to work with the Capitol Hill Village through his BADM 4001 course. The Community Engaged Scholarship section of BADM 4001 is facilitated by the Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service, whose director of community-engaged scholarship, Wendy Wagner, helps business students find community-service projects that leverage their unique skill-sets. "It's always going to be important for people making their case to back up those narratives with numbers," Srinivasan said.



A visit to the GW School of Business by students from Washington Leadership Academy involved a case challenge for Coca-Cola.

GWSB IN THE COMMUNITY: DC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS JOIN BUSINESS CASE CHALLENGE

GW Business partnered with a D.C. high school and SuitUp, a program featuring best-in-class experiential education, to provide a day of hands-on campus activities anchored by a business case challenge.

Thirty-seven students from Washington Leadership Academy, a public charter school focused on science and technology, took part in the April challenge to design new products and services for Coca-Cola. The assignment was coordinated by staff at the F. David Fowler Career Center. Volunteers from four GW student organizations—Fowler Coordinators, the GW Undergraduate Consulting Group, Alpha Kappa Psi professional business fraternity and the Sports Business Association—coached the students on issues related to marketing, design, financing and other elements of the case challenge.

“The students loved it,” said Washington Leadership Academy teacher T’Alfra Holmes, who coordinates all the extracurricular activities at the high school. “The group we had was very competitive. They wanted to show a different side of Coca-Cola, to bring something different to the table. They also wanted bragging rights for the school.”

Holmes said most of the participants were ninth, 10th and 11th graders. Holmes, who teaches two 12th grade research classes, said she tried to select students who may not ordinarily have broad experiences outside of the school. In addition to the experiential learning aspect of the day, one high school senior taking part received community service credit for participating.

SuitUp is designed to give students exposure to the responsibilities of the corporate world and foster interest in careers in business, especially among students from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in the corporate world. SuitUp’s goals dovetail with the School of Business’s commitment to narrowing race and gender gaps in corporate leadership.

Jolie Brown, a senior career consultant with the F. David Fowler Career Center, led the logistics for the daylong activities, which she described as “high energy.” She said it was impressive and inspiring to see the young students’ business acumen.

“It would have taken eight to 10 true business meetings to pull off what they did in two hours. They already know things like key performance indicators,” Brown said. “I thought it was just so great to see students who might not otherwise be exposed to business...to see what they learned come alive and crystallize into actionable business plans.”

Holmes said the high school students were thrilled to learn that one of the four judges at the event was a Coca-Cola executive.

“That was the biggest surprise—an actual person from the company—and it brought the entrepreneurship to life, to have someone from the company giving good feedback,” she said.



GW's Engineering Without Borders chapter designed a community center in Uganda.

ENGINEERING CHANGE IN YUMBE, UGANDA THROUGH COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

In Uganda, a child starting school at 4 years old is only expected to complete 6.8 years of schooling by their 18th birthday. To reverse this trend, the non-governmental organization (NGO) Nested Savings transformed an old building into the first and only library in Yumbe, Uganda, giving community members a place to study and work with access to electricity and educational resources.

To build on the progress achieved by the community library, members of GW's Engineers Without Borders (GW EWB) Chapter have designed a plan to expand on the existing structure and build a full learning center. This center will feature a computer lab, conference room, Early Child Development Center, quiet study spaces for both groups and individuals, and rainwater collection and filtration systems. Mechanical engineering juniors Isabella Elmore and Tamar Todd are co-leading the project.

GW EWB adopted the project in 2019 after being partnered with the NGO by their parent organization, Engineers Without Borders-USA. Following the pandemic, they began design iteration and cultural research and, in August 2023, members Elmore and Jacob "Jack" Hatcher traveled to Yumbe for an assessment trip to receive community input on their design.

Elmore and Hatcher spent 10 days interviewing members of the Yumbe community to tailor each feature of the center to the community's self-identified needs, discussing topics such as day-to-day needs, educational experience and inhibitors, cultural barriers, impacts of climate change, desired skills and knowledge, and more. Elmore said they are fortunate to work with Nested Savings as they are well integrated into the community, which allowed them to speak with women, educators, elders, religious leaders, government officials and refugees to get a holistic view of the complex Yumbe community.

In total, the GW EWB team working on the Uganda project comprises 10 to 15 students who collaborated to transcribe these interviews and incorporate community requests into the learning center's design. For example, women mentioned the library not having a place to bring their kids, leading them to the idea of adding an Early Child Development Center. Todd said that in any area of conflict women and children are affected the most, so this room will allow them to use the facilities of this center without sacrificing their duties as mothers.



GW employs about 20 D.C. youth every summer through the Marion Barry Summer Youth Program.

GW AND THE MARION BARRY SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

For more than 20 years, GW has employed an average of 20 youth yearly through the Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment Program (MBSYEP). The MBSYEP, an initiative sponsored by the District's Department of Employment Services (DOES), employs D.C. youth with summer jobs. Established in 1979 by Mayor Marion Barry, it was created to respond to the disproportionate rates of unemployed Black youth. Over 45 years, the program has offered thousands of District residents ages 14 to 24 work at companies and organizations across the city.

In 2024 when the summer program participants arrived at GW, they ate at the dining hall, familiarized themselves with campus and got a special tour of the Charles E. Smith Center. In the second week students reported to their assigned departments. As one of the largest employers in the District, GW offers a wide range of experiences across a variety of industries. Some youth employment assignments included supporting the Facilities Planning, Construction and Management Department, Office of Government and Community Relations, Elliott School of International Affairs, Corcoran School of Arts and Design and more.

With this partnership, GW hopes to be a launchpad for program participants and provide them the chance to grow professionally. Diane Conners, the executive director of talent acquisitions, and her team serve as the program facilitators at GW. "I think that the program provides an opportunity for kids who have never thought of GW as a future option, to now think about that," Conners said.

In this program, participants gain valuable professional experience and connections with GW that can aid them later in life. Tenbeka Powell, who worked with the Office of Government and Community Relations as their stakeholder engagement intern, said, "It was a wonderful experience working with this program. I got to build connections with those in the department I worked in and build my network."

GW HOSTS CANDIDATES FORUM FOR WARD 7 AND 8 COUNCIL SEATS

In April, the George Washington University and community organizations hosted public forums for wards 7 and 8 candidates for D.C. Council seats. The forums, co-hosted by the League of Women Voters DC, the Federal City Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the Anacostia Coordinating Council (ACC), provided District voters an opportunity to hear the candidates' priorities and positions on critical issues. They were also rebroadcast at local D.C. Department of Corrections facilities to allow for incarcerated citizens to get informed about these important races.

At Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church in Ward 7, 10 candidates, who sought to replace the retiring Vincent Gray, B.A. '64, a former D.C. mayor, participated in the forum. More than 200 people attended the event, with another 600 viewing the online stream through GW's YouTube and Facebook channels. Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Keith Alexander from The Washington Post moderated the Ward 7 Forum.

Denise Rolark Barnes, publisher and second-generation owner of The Washington Informer, moderated the Ward 8 Forum held at Matthews Memorial Baptist

Church. Three candidates spoke to an audience of over 100 Ward 8 residents. The candidates answered predetermined questions covering topics important to Ward 8 voters as well as write-in questions from the in-person and online audiences collected before and during the moderated event.

Wards 7 and 8 voter concerns mirror those in other parts of the District. Rising crime, health care disparities, falling post-COVID 19 education test scores for students and a lack of basic services and quality-of-life amenities such as restaurants and shopping. Candidates at both forums addressed a wide range of issues, including public safety, education, transportation priorities for economic development through a racial equity focus.

GW and the co-hosts are all nonpartisan organizations that encourage informed and active participation in democracy through education and advocacy. The forums were also used to stimulate and increase voter participation in the upcoming election. Forum organizers reminded those in attendance of the importance of making a voting plan, including how, when and where to vote.



Keith Alexander of The Washington Post moderated the forum at The Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church in Ward 7.



Ten candidates participated in the forum at the Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church in Ward 7.

PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



(Left to Right) Sheri Johnson, Constance Johnson, DCPS Chancellor Lewis Ferbee, M.A. '00, and GW President Ellen M. Granberg.

GW AWARDS 10 D.C. HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS STEPHEN JOEL TRACHTENBERG SCHOLARSHIPS

It all seemed like a regular morning for Constance Johnson, a senior at Roosevelt High School in the District of Columbia's Petworth neighborhood in Northwest. She was finishing up some schoolwork in the library with three of her friends. Her back was turned toward the library door, where a commotion that she could not see slowly began to form. When she turned around, her life would forever be changed.

A contingent from the George Washington University, including President Ellen M. Granberg, greeted Johnson with Buff and Blue balloons, smiles and the largest of rewards for a life of hard work, perseverance and leadership.

Granberg and Dean of Undergraduate Admissions Ben Toll presented her with a signed letter admitting her to GW as a Stephen Joel Trachtenberg scholar, inviting her to join a prestigious and proud program that covers tuition, room, board, books and fees throughout four years at GW for incoming first-year students from D.C. Launched in 1989 by then-GW President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg under the name 21st Century Scholars, the scholars are hand-picked based on exceptional academic performance, leadership and extracurricular activities including community service.

"We have the pleasure of working with over 27,000 applicants from all across the world who want to come to D.C. for their education, but it's incredibly special for us when we can work with students who've grown up here and had an amazing educational experience in our high schools that are able to stay in the area for their educational experience," Toll said.

"I'm overwhelmed and a little emotional," said Johnson, whose eyes were watering because of the tremendous accomplishment she had just achieved. It's easy to understand why. Education has always played a big role in Johnson's life. One of her mothers, Sheri Johnson, is a longtime senior programs specialist at the National Parent Teacher Association and shared the special moment with her on Wednesday. The other is former D.C. Public Schools (DPCS) Officer of Engagement and Partnerships Shanita Burney, who died last March after battling pancreatic cancer. She was there in spirit.

"This is an opportunity for Constance to carry on her vision through her service," said DCPS Chancellor Lewis Ferebee, M.A. '00. "Her service will be a testament to Shanita's service here in DCPS. We know that she is a future changemaker here in D.C."

At nearby Columbia Heights Educational Campus, Jaeden Gbaba experienced a similar fate when Granberg, mascot George and the rest of the GW crew involved burst into his first-period class with the life-changing news that he would be admitted to the university cost free. "This is better than paying off a mortgage!" one staff member at the school proclaimed. His family left Liberia due to civil war, and Gbaba has spent much of his life moving around the D.C. area. Thanks to the scholarship, he'll be firmly planted in the nation's capital with his elated family nearby.

Six other D.C. high school seniors had public reveals as SJT Class of 2028 members. They include Jaden Davis and Esther Espinosa Dilone of Washington Latin Public Charter; Jaden DeGruy of Benjamin Banneker High School; Zyad Shahrlı of Jackson Reed High School; Anisah Myers of Eastern High School; and Brukawit

Tesfaye of Capital City Public Charter School. In addition, Iansa Powell became the first-ever SJT scholar from Georgetown Day School.



President Ellen M. Granberg presents Brukawit Tesfaye with an SJT scholarship at Capital City Public Charter School.

GW SERVES: NATIVE WASHINGTONIAN GIVES BACK TO D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Every now and then, Eden Parker would offer a suggestion she probably could have at any point of the meeting. But mostly, the George Washington University junior sat back and listened to a trio of adolescents at Eliot-Hine Middle School as they shared their own thoughts and ideas on how to best organize an upcoming school dance. This was their show, after all, and she was there to offer support to the school's student council, as she does every Wednesday afternoon when the school day ends.

Parker, a graduate of D.C.'s Jackson-Reed High School, has been involved in service and civic engagement projects since early childhood. She defines leadership as being humble and receptive to community needs, drawing from her experiences, including with the Jack and Jill of America organization that fosters young Black leaders.

Parker, who is majoring in international affairs and Africana studies while concentrating in international development at the Elliott School of International Affairs at GW, was once in those DCPS students' shoes with her own ambitious goals and visions. She was just seeking an opportunity to act on them, and through GW she found it. In 2022, Parker was one of 10 D.C. residents and high school graduates awarded the Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Scholarship.

SJT scholars participate in service-oriented activities and are called on regularly to represent the university in a variety of ways. Parker, who is close and connected to many of her fellow scholars, has been inspired to give back to DCPS students, GW and other community

members since she received the scholarship. After her first year of studies at GW, Parker joined the Civic Changemakers program out of the Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service. Parker helped mentor a group of young students at Sousa Middle School on a project addressing gun violence in the city. She felt inspired by their passion to solve some of the most pressing social issues in their lives and was moved by their creative approaches to the project.

"My interest in giving back is centered around having a connection with other D.C. natives and D.C. students and sharing our experiences together," she said.

As her journey reaches new heights, she'll continue to listen and be curious so she can bring others up with her. Because that's how Parker chooses to lead.



GW junior Eden Parker offers guidance at a student council meeting at Eliot-Hine Middle School.

GSEHD PROGRAM TO HELP D.C. STUDENTS FIND MORE OPTIONS AFTER GRADUATION

Middle and high school students in District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and charter schools searching for additional pathways after graduation have opportunities to learn more about apprenticeships through Project EXPAND, a new initiative that aims to help educators provide students with more options as they plan their futures.

Project EXPAND was created by the Department of Special Education and Disability Studies at the Graduate School of Education and Human Development (GSEHD) at George Washington University in partnership with the D.C. Department of Employment Services Office of Apprenticeship, Information and Training (DOES OAIT).

In 2022, DOES OAIT announced it was seeking proposals for programs that would work with local school districts to help educators learn about apprenticeships as a viable post-high school option and prepare students to develop in-demand academic and technical skills. The Department of Special Education and Disability Studies wrote a proposal for an immersive program aimed at engaging D.C. educators in innovative professional learning experiences focused on apprenticeships.

Beth Tuckwiller, department chair and an associate professor of special education and disability studies, said their goal was to offer educators collaborative professional learning experiences and the opportunity to connect with local registered apprenticeship provider programs through immersive experiences, including visits to apprenticeship training centers and job sites. She explained there are many benefits of apprenticeships for students looking into other options besides directly entering the workforce or going straight to college after graduating high school.

“Apprenticeships have been around for a long time,” Tuckwiller said. “A lot of people associate apprenticeship programs with the trades. But apprenticeships have also opened to what are considered nontraditional pathways now. For example, you can now complete an apprenticeship in cybersecurity, solar panel installation or business management.”

Another big benefit, Tuckwiller said, is through a registered apprenticeship students don’t have to pay to learn a trade or skill but instead get paid to learn.

DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF ARTS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS!

This year the Duke Ellington School of Arts (DESA) is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Established in 1974 by distinguished George Washington University alumna Peggy Cooper Cafritz DESA promotes excellence in art education. Her vision was to provide equitable access to the arts for the District’s talented youth, regardless of background or ability to pay. After years of lobbying, Cafritz secured permission to turn a summer arts program into an arts school. To this day, DESA is the only high school in D.C. to offer a dual curriculum integrating college-preparatory academics with pre-professional arts training in dance, instrumental music, cinematic arts and media production, museum studies, technical, design and production, theater, visual arts and vocal music. GW has been a long-standing partner with the school through the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Project (DESAP), formalized in 2000, which established a public-private school governing board between the university, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Duke Ellington.

The school provides students with a world class educational experience that prepares them for life after graduation, pre-professional artistic training and access to the rich cultural and intellectual resources across the District. Three GW representatives serve on the board of directors. GW also promotes Ellington’s jazz program on GW radio, assisting the school in categorizing and planning its significant art collection, and supporting faculty and students with individual projects. As the school celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, GW is proud to play a role in the legacy of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts.



The Duke Ellington School of the Arts’ Mellowtones performed at the investiture of President Ellen M. Granberg.



More than 800 members of the GW community served during the Welcome Day of Service.



GW volunteers served at 38 sites in the DC area.

THE HONEY W. NASHMAN CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE

The Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service is a university-wide office whose mission is to integrate civic engagement into GW's educational work. We promote equity and active citizenship in a diverse democracy, focus GW's resources to address community needs through reciprocal partnerships beyond the campus and enhance teaching, learning and scholarship at GW.

We do this through three primary avenues:

Community-Engaged Scholarship: Students, faculty and community partners leverage their skills and resources to make a difference through over 80 service-learning courses each year along with dozens of ongoing community-engaged research projects.

Community Service and Engagement: Hundreds of GW students tutor, mentor and serve on a weekly basis in partnership with D.C. Public Schools and nonprofits.

Social Innovation: Students and faculty work with D.C. residents and organizations to turn their ideas for social innovation into action with funding and mentoring provided by the Nashman Center.

Amy B. Cohen, assistant vice provost and executive director, Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service

Recognized for Community Engagement by Carnegie Foundation

In 2020, GW received the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's Community Engagement Classification, an elective designation that indicates an institutional commitment to community engagement. This is the highest recognition a university can receive for its community engagement and reflects how deeply embedded community engagement is in GW's mission, policy and infrastructure. In total, 359 institutions hold this endorsement, which will be valid through 2026.



GW DAYS OF SERVICE

Convocation and Welcome Day of Service

More than 800 George Washington University students, staff and faculty volunteered their time to local organizations during the 15th annual Convocation and Welcome Day of Service.

The longstanding tradition is a way for incoming students to get involved in the culture of civic engagement celebrated at GW and enjoy building community with their classmates and senior university administrators. GW students helped at 38 sites including D.C. area schools. The service projects were coordinated by the Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service.

Izzy Russo, a first-year student studying political science, was one of 36 students at Takoma Elementary School in Northwest Washington. The volunteers split into four groups, dividing the tasks among projects including painting, working outdoors, organizing files and clearing supply closets.

Russo said the Day of Service gave her a chance to get to know more of D.C., give back to the community and meet other first-year students she hadn't yet encountered on campus.

"I'm glad to get out into the community and help out," Russo said. "I'm not from D.C., so it's nice to feel like I'm giving something back to the city that's letting me go to college here. I've always loved volunteering, and this is a fun way to spend our day." Russo was hard at work with her fellow GW students sorting through piles of school supplies.

The group was joined by GW President Ellen M. Granberg who helped move and break down boxes. "This class of 2027 has such great energy and such excitement," Granberg said. "I'm seeing it as we're out and about and looking at the projects they're all working on. It's going to make a difference."

In addition to serving at Takoma Elementary, GW students also volunteered at other D.C. Public Schools, including with the annual D.C. Block Party at McKinley Tech High School. Tropical Storm Ophelia deterred some volunteers, but hundreds still pushed forward to many sites across the D.C. area.

MLK Day of Service and Leadership

In 2024, GW's 29th annual MLK Day of Service and Leadership event was held on a snowy Monday on Jan. 15. This day was "a day on, not a day off" for participants. The day began in Lisner Auditorium with an opening program on the values of King and a panel on the importance of voting.

Participants served in total at 13 different sites with projects including local school cleanups, creating harm-reduction kits, removing broken glass from park trails and transcribing Freedmen's Bureau documents. Volunteers in the Grand Ballroom of the University Student Center were joined in a project to create math, literacy and social, emotional learning materials for preschoolers in GW Jumpstart by acting U.S. Labor Secretary Julie Su.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE & LEADERSHIP 2024



300 PARTICIPANTS
GW STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF
AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS



1,360 SERVICE HOURS



40 LEADERS AND SITE CAPTAINS



13 PARTNERS



\$59,391.20 VALUE OF SERVICE
\$43.67 / hour in D.C.



The GW community served 1,360 hours during the MLK Jr. Day of Service.

VETERAN DAY OF SERVICE 2024



284
SERVICE
HOURS



71
STUDENTS



9,031.20
ECONOMIC IMPACT

Veteran Day of Service

Veteran Day of Service brings together military-affiliated and civilian populations to serve those who have served, connect GW students, faculty and staff with the larger community, and elevate communities across the D.C. region. On March 23, GW's Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service and Military & Veteran Services co-hosted a Veteran Day of Service event. Participants served with Operation Gratitude and Disabled Veterans National Foundation.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE SERVICE

2023-2024



640,669

recorded service hours
university-wide



2,965

individuals serving



525

total Presidents' Volunteer
Service Awards*

*White House honor awarded to students providing more than 100 hours of service in a year

AMERICORPS VISTA

Through a partnership with AmeriCorps VISTA and D.C. Public Schools, the Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service hosts AmeriCorps VISTA members who come to D.C. from around the world to fight poverty by leveraging community partnerships and recruiting volunteers to increase opportunities and access in Title I schools.

Through this collaboration, GW recruits and trains federally funded AmeriCorps VISTA members who serve in the DCPS Central Office, schools and at GW. School-Community Liaison VISTAs build capacity by working directly with school personnel and community organizations as well as the GW community to cultivate partnerships, create volunteer programs and collaborate with the community to develop engaging enrichment programs for youth. Within the DCPS Central Office, our VISTAs work to create and maintain systems informed by experience, research and best practices. Community Engagement and Outreach VISTAs serve with several programs housed in the Nashman Center at GW and build capacity through making connections between the university and the greater community. This includes outreach to community-based organizations, student volunteer recruitment and training, connecting partners to opportunities to work with faculty and Community Engaged Scholarship courses.

“

Our partnership with the Nashman Center has been game-changing for Garrison over the past six years as we have transformed from under-enrolled and under-performing to DCPS' fastest-growing school and the second-ranked Title I school in D.C. Our four VISTA community liaisons have added immense value to our team and school family as partner program liaisons, event organizers and mission-aligned educators who wear many hats each day. We are so grateful for this support—which has helped us not only survive the pandemic but even get back to being able to thrive—and are so excited to continue our GW Nashman Center partnership with VISTAs next year and beyond!

”

—Brigham Kiplinger, Principal
Garrison Elementary School



GW student interns Liseth Widman, Joshua Abraham and Sarah Mann oversaw student civic engagement projects, which were presented in front of friends, family and community members at Eliot-Hine Middle School.

CIVIC CHANGEMAKERS

The Civic Changemakers is an eight-week summer program for middle school students. In 2023 the program, facilitated by 75 college students from around the country, supported the civic education and engagement of middle school students in D.C. Public Schools (DCPS). Civic Changemakers centers the ability of students to make change, helping them understand how decisions are made at the local level—in their school and community—as well as how government systems work. The program aims to address the real and acute need for equity in civic education.

In the summer of 2023, 75 interns took part in this service program. In addition, during the 2023-24 academic year, 12 GW interns supported Eliot Hine’s Student Council and Johnson Middle School’s Career Day. They served 60 DCPS students and completed 24,000 service hours. The economic impact of the service was estimated at \$803,760. The program worked with 16 partners including: Eliot Hine Middle School, Johnson Middle School, Sousa Middle School, Peace 4 DC, Miner Elementary, DC Public Libraries, DC Senior Recreation Centers, Sycamore & Oak, D.C. Mayor’s Office Department of Environmental Protection, Rebel Ventures, DCPS, The Trigger Project, Covenant House, ArtReach DC, Smithsonian Anacostia Museum and AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates.

The volunteers and their teams created 11 community service and civic action projects and implemented them over the course of the program. Some examples include:

- Students from Sousa Middle School video recorded interviews with their teachers, staff and community members about the impact of gun violence in their school and then used that project’s data to write letters to decision makers.
- Students at Johnson Middle School researched how long it had been since the school had a career day and the benefits of career day, and then met with the school’s guidance counselor to get a date for a career day that school year.
- The Uniquity Basketball Summer League and No More Silence End Gun Violence project at Johnson Middle School sought to serve students and the community. Students knew they could not solve the national problem that is gun violence. They sought to keep youth engaged with a basketball league at school instead of being where violence might take place. Two members of the Uniquity team created a song for all impacted by gun violence, including first responders. They performed the song as a service to the community and then at the Peace 4 DC graduation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

The Nashman Center supports faculty in creating and teaching courses that include the community as part of the curriculum. Courses may engage students in direct service like writing or tutoring or in more indirect forms of service, such as research and evaluation. The Nashman Center also supports faculty in community-engaged research partnerships, in which both parties to the research enterprise bring their knowledge and curiosity about a problem or issue and develop new knowledge together.

In the 2023-24 academic year, the Nashman Center supported 77 courses, with nearly 1,000 students.

In GEOG 6293 instructor Mona Atia introduced a variety of social justice issues while students completed projects requested by local organizations. One team, working with DC Action, researched and mapped the availability of mental health services available to homeless youth in D.C. Students also analyzed the data to identify locations with less services as well as gaps in services (ability to prescribe medication, ability to offer emergency shelter and others).

PUBH 4140W is a new senior seminar in public health engaging students in team projects. Working with the Latin American Youth Center, one team created a 10-course teaching manual on substance use disorders, including background information for the instructor, presentation slides and lesson plans with activities and discussion prompts.



MFA student Shawn Shafner explains the use of Indigenous food sources such as acorns.

“ [This service project] made me understand how similar those in my community are to me. The class taught me how to relate to community-based work as well. Challenges included learning how to write in a more active voice to make a policy paper more impactful. ”



Wendy Wagner, Mary Brown and Phyllis Mentzell Ryder discussed mutually empowering partnerships between people from academic and community institutions.

IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH



Andrews Nyantakyi demonstrates CPR on a mannequin at a training session organized by his nonprofit Elijeko Foundation.

IN GHANA, NURSING ALUMNUS' ORGANIZATION SAVES LIVES ONE BYSTANDER AT A TIME

Andrews Nyantakyi, A.B.S.N. '22, has a sweeping ambition for his home country. "My goal for Ghana is that every individual will be able to know how to do effective CPR," said the George Washington University School of Nursing alumnus, who is founder and executive director of the Elijeko Foundation. The nonprofit, which has promoted community health education and preventative care in Ghana since 2016, is currently focusing on training bystanders to perform pre-hospital interventions on patients in crisis, including both CPR and wound care. Elijeko's Bystander CPR Initiative trainings are run in collaboration with the Ghanaian National Ambulance Service.

There are practical reasons to democratize and expand such training beyond health care professionals, Nyantakyi said. Many Ghanaian communities are rural, and even in urban centers, traffic congestion can mean emergency response times are slow. For some patients, a knowledgeable bystander could mean the difference between life and death.

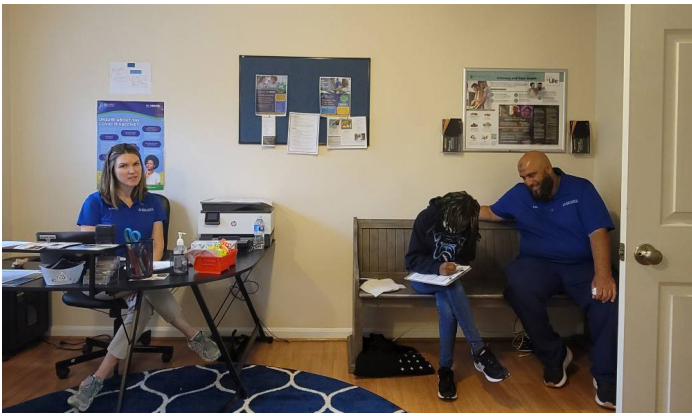
After Nyantakyi emigrated to the United States with his wife in 2012, he joined the Navy. When the couple's eldest

daughter was born in 2015, Nyantakyi became intimately aware of the meaningful impact good nursing could make. Baby Eliana—for whom the foundation is partially named, in combination with her sister Jekolia—suffered from meconium aspiration syndrome and had to spend the first week of her life in a neonatal intensive care unit.

"But it was amazing the way the nurses took care of her," he said. "Just seeing the quality of care made me start to think 'I should go back to school and learn what they're doing.' That was the turning point for me."

Nyantakyi came to GW Nursing in 2021, in part on the recommendation of a friend from the Navy who touted GW's mutually supportive student community, engaged professors and focus on preparation for the real world of full-time nursing.

"I think GW created a culture where students felt comfortable helping other students, and anytime you reached out to any of the professors, they were willing to come on board and help too," Nyantakyi said. "GW was a community that would really help prepare you for your nursing career, not just your exams."



Erin Athey (left) with a community member and team member in one of the C3 Cares clinics.

D.C. PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS BECOME HEALTH CARE HUBS

Erin Athey has spent decades working in community medicine in Washington, D.C., a career that made her painfully aware of the disparity in care access between the city's high-income and low-income residents. "There is a 20-year difference in life expectancy between the White House and Ward 8," the adjunct and former assistant professor at the George Washington University School of Nursing said. "So this is a system that needs a massive overhaul."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, while running a series of mobile clinic events with the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA), Athey noticed that DCHA properties often have a small number of empty apartments reserved for community service providers. An epiphany dawned: Could these unused public housing units be used as "wellness hubs," providing convenient health care services in the communities that need them most?

Athey won funding from a Johnson & Johnson Quickfire Award, which she used to start her company, C3 Cares. C3 Cares now runs four clinic locations in DCHA properties in wards 6, 7 and 8, offering a range of services from vaccination to general primary and preventative care. Each is overseen by a nurse practitioner and staffed by an on-site public health nurse and a community health worker. The latter, Athey said, are particularly essential to the clinics' success: They are trusted neighbors who can spread the word about the clinics and ensure that they offer services targeted to community needs.

"Our motto is 'Let's get better together,' meaning of course the patients but also the health care system," Athey said. "People have had terrible experiences with health care, especially in these under-resourced areas, so there is a certain amount of distrust. But we use a nurse-led model that is very patient centered. Instead of telling

you what's wrong with you and what you need to do, we want to talk about what's going on, set goals together and help you meet them. We want to be sure folks understand the health information they're getting, and we also do care management in between visits to check in and make sure the patient is supported. It's a treatment model for the whole person."

TRAINING A NEW GENERATION OF HOLISTIC, 'POLICY-SAVVY' PHYSICIANS

The District's dire health disparities were on the mind of D.C. native Madeline Taskier, M.D. '19, when she chose a career in family medicine as the best way to help her community. After earning her degree at George Washington University, she pursued a family medicine residency—and encountered the tremendous barriers her patients often faced in health care.

"The other trainees and I were constantly frustrated by the way our patients were treated within the system," Taskier said. "I'd think, 'Why is the medicine I've prescribed not covered by insurance? Why does my patient have to wait a month and a half for this test?' This all relates to health policy, and I came away from residency wanting to understand why this doesn't work for us and our patients."

Taskier has returned to GW as the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) Health Policy Fellow, which gives her the opportunity to explore systems—such as Medicare for individuals with disabilities or who are 65 and older—that make a major impact on health and well-being by dictating how health care is delivered and accessed.

The health policy fellowship has stable, secure, perpetual funding through an endowment from the ABFM Foundation. The perpetual gift is an investment into long-term collaboration between ABFM and GW's family medicine program, said Robert Phillips, executive director of ABFM's Center for Professionalism and Value in Health Care.

The School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) will launch a family medicine residency program when Cedar Hill Regional Medical Campus, GW Health, located in Ward 8, opens in 2025. The hospital will be the focal point in training much-needed family medicine practitioners. "There is a shortage of primary care providers in D.C., and the shortage is worse east of the river," said Maria de Lourdes Portela, chief of the SMHS Division of Family Medicine. "Family medicine physicians deliver the largest proportion of primary care and serve more frequently in underserved settings."

Family medicine practitioners provide a wide range of

care—from routine physicals and procedures to partnering with nutritionists and social workers. They build long-term, trusting relationships with entire families. Their holistic approach embraces both patient-centered and community-centered care and helps patients achieve better health outcomes.

A local and GW alumna like Taskier, Emmeline Ha, B.S. '14, M.D. '18, now an assistant professor of emergency medicine at SMHS says, "We're trained in everything. We can really reach out and be there for the community."

HEALTH RIGHTS LAW CLINIC RESTORES ESSENTIAL HOME HEALTH AID FOR DC RESIDENT WITH DISABILITIES

The Health Rights Law Clinic, directed by professor Drake Hagner, recently won an important victory for client Noah Harrison, a low-income gentleman with physical and cognitive disabilities. The client's name and certain details have been changed to respect client confidentiality.

Harrison requires daily help from home health aides to live independently. DC Medicaid pays for at-home care when seniors and individuals with disabilities need help with their personal care needs. Unfortunately, in Harrison's case, the DC Medicaid program significantly cut the number of home health aide hours he received each day. With an annual income of less than \$12,000, he was unable to hire an aide for the additional hours he needed. His case worker helped him appeal the decision, and the presiding judge referred his case to the Health Rights Law Clinic.

Harrison's student attorneys in the fall 2023 semester, first-year law student Akshara Anirjita and Clare Choi, J.D. '24, worked tirelessly to learn about his needs and secure evidence. After reviewing his records, the student



Health Rights Law Clinic Student Attorneys Akshara Anirjita (top left), Clare Choi (top right), Kaitlin Lee (bottom left), and Hanadi Chidiac (bottom right).

lawyers discovered DC Medicaid was largely unaware of his cognitive disability and its impact on his daily needs. Concluding that it was crucial to supplement the factual record in his case, the student lawyers traveled in person to three different medical offices until they were finally able to meet face-to-face with his doctor. Impressed by their commitment to the case, his doctor later provided a detailed letter describing Harrison's personal care needs and his underlying medical conditions.

Anirjita and Choi prepared a brief describing the new evidence and arguing that Harrison required eight hours of daily care. New student lawyers for the spring 2024 semester, Kaitlin Lee, J.D. '24, and Hanadi Chidiac, J.D. '24, took over representation of Harrison. Fortunately, their diligence paid off and DC Medicaid granted full restoration of his home health aide services after reviewing the brief and new evidence.

NEW PARTNERSHIP AIMS TO IMPROVE IMMUNIZATION EFFORTS IN CONFLICT-AFFLICTED AND UNDER IMMUNIZED SETTINGS

PATH and the George Washington University, in partnership with several universities and research organizations in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, Pakistan and Somalia, were awarded a \$5 million, five-year award by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to establish a Learning Consortium focused on routine immunization in conflict-afflicted and under-immunized settings.

Since the 1950s, there has been a 99% reduction in polio cases, and during 2023 there were only 12 cases of wild poliovirus in the world. However, polio remains a challenge in countries with inequitable access to routine immunization services for children. Wild poliovirus continues to circulate in 10 conflict and post-conflict countries, and vaccine-derived polioviruses have created a novel threat in such settings. Stopping polio transmission requires strengthening effective coverage of routine immunization in high-risk countries and ensuring that vaccination programs miss no children.

"Children everywhere deserve to live healthy lives, and routine immunizations are a proven intervention that protects them from diseases that can have a negative impact on their futures," said Nikolaj Gilbert, PATH president and CEO.

"The new program's focus on learning we hope will boost vaccination rates in high-risk countries," said Wolfgang Munar, associate professor of global health at the GW Milken Institute School of Public Health. "We expect the participatory nature of this program, the timely production of evidence and the closeness to domestic and global partners to contribute to visible improvements in children's health."

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS



The Office of Government and Community Relations (OGCR) is the primary liaison between the university and critical stakeholders in the federal, regional, District and neighborhood sectors. Located in the heart of the nation's capital, GW is well known for its proximity to the country's leaders and powerful civic institutions. What makes our university unique: GW is embedded in D.C. life and culture. GW's character and mission are deeply connected to the social and economic life of the District.

OGCR works closely with the GW schools and colleges and programs to promote promising university projects and programs that highlight GW's civic contributions to the D.C. region, nation and world.

Pictured Left to Right:

Abby Paulson, *director of federal relations*

Renee McPhatter, Esq., *associate vice president for government and community relations*

Kevin Michael Days, *executive director of government and community relations*

Gabrielle Sosa, *director of government relations and stakeholder engagement*

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