

## **The Cortina Community Program Statement 2004-2005**

Community • Service • Faith • Justice

### **PHILOSOPHY**

The Cortina Community is a collaborative program developed by the Creighton Center for Service and Justice (CCSJ), the Department of Residence Life, Academic Affairs and Cardoner at Creighton. This initiative can be characterized as a communal, living-learning experience; rooted in the Ignatian tradition of the service of faith and the promotion of justice. The program welcomes students of all faith traditions. Our vision is inspired by Rev. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., Superior General of the Society of Jesus, who challenges us to raise our Jesuit educational standard to "educate the whole person of solidarity for the real world." The Cortina Community seeks to enable students to call each other to live authentic lives of faith, and be women and men for and with others.

### **GOALS**

**The Cortina Community is structured such that participants will:**

- ❖ form a community with fellow sophomores who support one another, serve others, work for justice, develop their faith, and further envision and discern their life's calls.
- ❖ develop relationships with people who suffer injustice, and confront and analyze the socio-economic and cultural realities, assets and challenges of the people of urban Omaha.
- ❖ learn and reflect together, thereby further integrating community, service, faith, and justice into their life choices and commitments.

### **ELEMENTS**

**General Requirements for Participation in the Cortina Community:**

- Reside with community members on the Cortina floor, currently on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of McGloin Hall.
- Be enrolled in the Cortina course in the fall semester (ANT 111 for Fall 2004) and one of a menu of Cortina-designated courses in the spring semester.
- Attend Cortina retreat held over Labor Day weekend.
- Meet monthly with a Cortina staff mentor or a spiritual director from Creighton to reflect and share about ongoing life experiences as tied to Creighton and Cortina.

The following program elements were designed to help more fully integrate the four pillars of **COMMUNITY, SERVICE, FAITH, JUSTICE** into the participant's life:

#### Community

- **Programs and Dinners (CDPs):** Students are expected to participate in monthly Community Dinners that incorporate educational programs emphasizing justice and vocation.
- **Cortina Action Teams (CATs):** Students are expected to serve on a small work team that meets weekly for the enhancement and development of the Cortina Community. Action teams are responsible for planning and organizing all major aspects of the community under the guidance and supervision of the Cortina staff.
- **Weekly Meals (Encouraged):** Students are encouraged to gather with fellow community members every week for their Sunday evening meal. Other informal meals and floor activities are also encouraged to further build the Cortina community.

#### Service

- **Action:** Students are expected to engage in 20 hours of direct service each semester that meets real community needs, especially the needs of the most vulnerable.
- **Service Trip/Immersion (Encouraged):** Students are encouraged to participate in service trips and/or immersion experiences offered or resourced through CCSJ.

Faith

- **Reflection Groups:** Students are expected to meet weekly for an hour with a small faith sharing/reflection group.
- **Individual (Encouraged):** Students are encouraged to engage in a daily 10 minute examination of consciousness based on Ignatian spirituality to help integrate all pillars of Cortina.

Justice

- **Education:** Students are expected to attend one guest lecture per semester on an issue of justice, preferably the Cortina sponsored lecture. Students will also be exposed to local and international issues of justice and the moral priorities of Catholic Social Teaching.
- **Action (Encouraged):** Students are encouraged to participate in various opportunities to act on behalf of justice.

Anticipated Time Commitment

Daily  
ANT 111 / Service Learning Coursework

Weekly  
Service - 1.5 hours  
Reflection Group - 1 hour  
CAT - 1 Hour

Monthly  
CDP - 2 Hours  
Mentor / Spiritual Director - 1 Hour

Semester  
Justice Lecture – one night  
Retreat – one weekend (fall)