



All Things Ignatian



Ignatian College Connection

The mission of the Ignatian College Connection Program is to empower underrepresented students to complete post-secondary education through pre-college enrichment activities, rooted in Catholic and Jesuit traditions.

About ICC

Ignatian College Connection (ICC) is an innovative pre-college enrichment program that was implemented in response to President Lannon's desire to make more of an impact locally and increase diversity at Creighton. ICC is designed specifically for students in 11th and 12th grades that reside in the greater Omaha metropolitan area. Annually, the program serves forty high school students, exposing ethnically, racially, and socioeconomically diverse young people to higher education and Creighton University during their high school years.

As a Jesuit Catholic institution, we are charged with the task of finding out how to best engage, enroll, educate, and graduate students from groups historically underrepresented in higher education: African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos/Hispanics, Native American/Alaska Native, and those from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds. In order to facilitate greater enrollment in higher education, and increase their representation and graduation rates, annually two ICC participants will be eligible for full-tuition scholarships to Creighton University and will receive additional support once they matriculate at Creighton.



First ICC cohort orientation, July 12, 2013

Program Benefits

Educational services such as academic counseling and support, tutoring, writing development seminars, ACT preparation, career guidance and exploration, resume development, college preparation workshops, a summer program, mentoring, financial literacy, financial aid, and scholarship assistance (especially for the Gates Millennium Scholarship) are provided in an effort to overcome economic and social barriers that impede the pursuit of higher education.

The Ignatian College Connection Program consists of four components: (1) bi-monthly Saturday seminars, (2) summer academy, (3) community service, and (4) mentoring.

- ❖ Saturday Seminars—to aid in their preparation for college readiness, participants are required to attend two monthly Saturday seminars during the academic year.
- ❖ Summer Academy—participants have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the academic, social, and spiritual aspects that the university has to offer.
- ❖ Community Service—students are required to complete 10 hours of community service per semester for a total of 20 hours per year. Additionally, in the fall and spring participants participate in an ICC sponsored service project.
- ❖ Mentoring—each ICC participant is paired with a Creighton University student who assists them with achieving their personal, academic, and future career goals.

Ignatian Values

Men and Women for and with Others: Participants are provided with ample opportunities for service and are taught that action drives social change. To-date, students have completed over 1,200 hours of service in their communities.

Cura Personalis: Participants are provided with the holistic support required to help them enter higher education and achieve a baccalaureate degree.

Magis: Participants are exposed to a diverse learning environment to develop their leadership for the service of all.

"ICC helped me grow in many ways. It helped me get more involved in my community and helped me develop my personal skills. It also helped me realize what my priorities are and what comes first in my life. I truly feel blessed that I was given this opportunity."

Alejandra Jacinto
Senior at Omaha South High



Volunteering at the C-Unity Mural Painting

Building Bridges

The ICC program is designed to achieve its objectives through the support of experienced staff and strong campus partnerships. ICC is a collaborative effort that brings together Creighton entities with thirty five plus years of experience successfully working with and serving low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented populations. Through partnerships with Student Support Services, the Creighton Native American Advancement Program, EDGE, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and various other internal partnerships, ICC is effectively providing opportunity through education. As a new initiative, ICC heavily relies on Creighton volunteers—faculty, staff, students, and alumni—to implement the program and its workshops. Since July 2013, Creighton volunteers have donated over 100 hours of their time to assist with workshops and activities to support ICC participants.

In addition to building campus-wide bridges, the ICC program has external partnerships with organizations in the Omaha community, including Urban League, Omaha Public School District, Bridge to Success, Partnership 4 Kids, Arts Access and EducationQuest. ICC continues to develop extensive networks and partnerships that contribute to the successful recruitment and retention of underrepresented students in higher education.



Brad Brown from EducationQuest leading the first ICC Family Workshop on financial aid

Want more? Contact Vanessa Rodriguez at vanessarodriguez@creighton.edu

Sponsored by the Creighton University Jesuit Community, in association with the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality.