

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 20



COLUMBUS STATE
UNIVERSITY

WILLIAM B. TURNER CENTER
FOR SERVANT LEADERSHIP

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ABOUT THE WILLIAM B. TURNER CENTER FOR SERVANT LEADERSHIP

VISION

Transforming the world and empowering the Columbus State community and others to engage in a lifelong commitment to the University's values.

CSU's Definition of Servant Leadership

Ethical, effective leadership through empowerment and service.

CSU's Behaviors of Servant Leadership

1. I will be Inclusive.
2. I will be Humble.
3. I will be Self-Aware.
4. I will be Authentic.
5. I will have Foresight.
6. I will be a Visionary.
7. I will build Community.
8. I will Empower Others.
9. I will Develop Others.
10. I will Encourage Others.



MISSION

Through a widely-recognized community and university collaboration, the Columbus State University William B. Turner Center for Servant Leadership provides students with learning experiences that create growing, self-aware, well-balanced, and insightful servant leaders, enriching the community and the world, while serving as a model for others to follow.

A LOOK AT THE LAST 20 YEARS

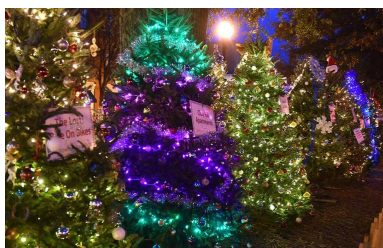
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1999

The undergraduate Servant Leadership Program began with a class of 8 students under the direction of Dr. Mary Sue Polleys.

2006

Fundraising was completed to support the 60 stipend positions in the undergraduate Servant Leadership Program.



The Uptown Tree Trail was started in partnership with Buck Field Tree Farms and Uptown, Inc. The funds the Class of 2016 raised were used to help the children at Truth Spring Academy.

2015

2019

The Center for Servant Leadership assumed the operations of the CSU Food Pantry in March. A gift was made to the Center for Servant Leadership in honor of Mr. Turner in May.

2003



The first Senior Project was completed by the Class of 2003 who planned and facilitated a 2-day workshop for high school seniors to participate in hands-on leadership activities and community service with House of Heroes.

2009

Columbus State University adopted Servant Leadership as one of its six core values, recognizing the the institution's commitment to effective and ethical leadership through empowerment and service.

2017

The Center for Servant Leadership was established to grow the reach of servant leadership on campus by entering into a formal partnership with the Leadership Institute to develop and implement training sessions around the topic of servant leadership for CSU faculty and staff.

2020



The William B. Turner Center for Servant Leadership made its home on the second floor of the Schuster Student Success Center.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

CORTNEY LAUGHLIN



Wow, what a ride the 2019-20 academic school year has been. I truly cannot think of a better analogy for the year than the biggest, most exciting roller coaster I have ever been on.

Fall held all of the traditional classes, retreats, and activities. We began strengthening our partnerships with other departments across campus by offering Servant Leadership training to other student groups. It was that steady climb mixed with a few of the small thrill hills that build excitement and anticipation. In November, I was selected as the Director of the Center, and shortly after, we were asked to move to the Schuster Student Success Center right before the holiday break in December. These were the first lift hills on our roller coaster ride. We are finally feeling established and at home in the new office suite. We are truly looking forward to the day when we can invite our family, friends, and supporters of the Center for Servant Leadership to come and see it.

In the first part of the spring semester, I was fortunate to hire an Assistant Director for the undergraduate Servant Leadership Program. There could not have been a more perfect selection for this role than Laura Pate. Laura comes to us after working for six years in the Honors College, giving her an excess of knowledge about the university and its academic processes and procedures. Her knowledge of the university and of our program has enabled her to help us grow our efforts while learning more about what we do. Making that hire was the second lift hill on our roller coaster ride.

THEN, the outbreak of COVID-19 happened, and students were sent home for the second half of the semester. As all nine of our classes had to be moved online, we got to the part of the roller coaster ride where the cart begins to feel like it is going off-track and starts to make loops. Those twists and turns meant we had to find a new way to do practically everything. The instructional design of the undergraduate Servant Leadership Program has always been face-to-face courses and in-person activities that challenge our students to grow through experiential learning. So, when all of that was no longer possible, we were forced to get creative and come up with new models for course design and student learning.

COVID-19 has also allowed the Center for Servant Leadership's Food Pantry to serve our campus community in an unprecedented way. Our efforts in the Food Pantry went from being a small part of what we did on a weekly (sometimes only monthly) basis to being the central focus of our operations at least two days a week. During the months of March and April, we distributed groceries and supplies to 15-20 students per week.

This wild ride has changed us in ways that will help us to continue to be successful in our next twenty years, which takes me back to the vision Mr. Turner set for us when the program first began in 1999. His vision was that our program would, "Transform the world by empowering students and others to lead with a lifelong commitment to service." I have done my best to keep that vision at the forefront of every single decision I have had to make this year.

I feel confident that the transformation we have undergone this past year has enabled us to meet the highest priority needs of our students in new ways as the world continues to change around us. This roller coaster of a year has been one heck of a ride, but has also been a year of encouraging growth that has transformed the ways in which we empower our students and campus community to lead with a lifelong commitment to service.



LAURA PATE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Laura teaches courses in the undergraduate servant leadership program and coordinates program activities. She has worked in higher education since 2007 and has been with Columbus State since 2013. Prior to joining the Center for Servant Leadership, she worked as an advisor in the Honors College. Laura also has a background in Enrollment Management having worked as an admissions counselor for both domestic and international students.

Laura stays busy through her involvement with the Junior League of Columbus, the local foster care community, and coordinating a team of volunteers at her church. Most of her free time is spent attempting to keep the jasmine and weeds in her yard under control.



ABBY GRACE MOORE

ALUMNA AND PART-TIME ASSISTANT

Abby Grace has just completed the undergraduate Servant Leadership Program and graduated from Columbus State University with a bachelor's degree in Biology with a concentration in premedical studies. Abby Grace joined the Center for Servant Leadership staff as a student assistant in Spring 2020.

Abby Grace was also a member of the Honors College and the President of Honoris Causa for two years in addition to her roles as the President of the Presidential Envoys and the Overall Chair of the Class of 2020 Servant Leadership Project. She spent most of her time as a student in the undergraduate Servant Leadership Program volunteering with Teen Advisors.

LAURA MCKENNA

STUDENT ASSISTANT

Laura has just completed her second year in the undergraduate Servant Leadership Program and is a rising Junior studying Communication with a concentration in Public Relations at Columbus State University. Laura joined the Center for Servant Leadership staff as a student assistant in August 2019.

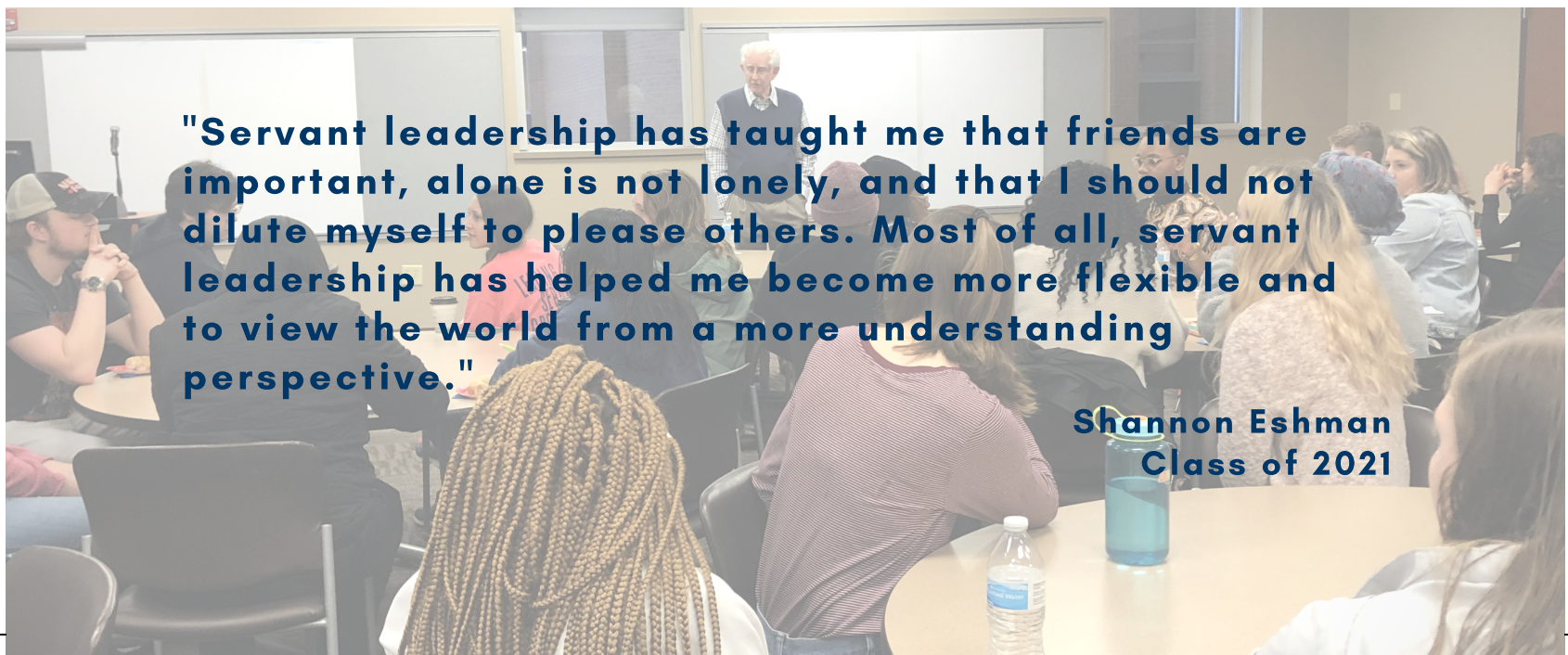
Laura led the charge of creating the Catholic Campus Ministry at CSU in her first year and now serves as the student organization's President. She spends her time volunteering with the American Cancer Society on their Relay for Life event leadership team and her free time exploring the local coffee shops in Columbus.



THE UNDERGRADUATE SERVANT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Learning Objectives

- A comprehensive understanding of servant leadership through theory and practice, and use of servant leadership in all dimensions of life, including work, family, religious, community, school, volunteer work, etc.
- A strong sense of self-awareness, including individual preferences and how those fit in with an organization, local and global communities, and daily life in general.
- Enhanced life skills (time management, money management, interpersonal skills, communication skills, networking skills, and self-confidence).
- A network of peers, sense of community on campus and lifelong friendships.
- A connection to the Columbus community, including a sense of community needs and how they can contribute to filling those needs.
- A sense of how individuals really can “make a difference.”



"Servant leadership has taught me that friends are important, alone is not lonely, and that I should not dilute myself to please others. Most of all, servant leadership has helped me become more flexible and to view the world from a more understanding perspective."

**Shannon Eshman
Class of 2021**

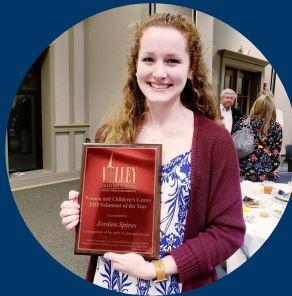
"One of my favorite experiences was the Callaway Gardens Retreat in late October. On this retreat I got to meet so many amazing people who are now some of my closest friends. I learned through the ropes course we did what it meant to be a team and what real teamwork looks like. I am very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this program."

Skyla Taylor
Class of 2023

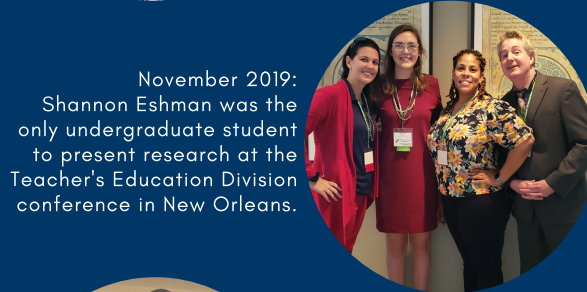
"The positive atmosphere and caring people make me feel right at home. This is the one class I look forward to every week. I am thankful to be a part of a program that pushes me to be a better person."

Alyssa Barker
Class of 2023

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



April 2019:
Jordan Spires was awarded the Valley Rescue Mission 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award.



November 2019:
Shannon Eshman was the only undergraduate student to present research at the Teacher's Education Division conference in New Orleans.



May 2020:
Curtis Walker was elected as the Student Government Association's Executive Board President.

Scholastic Honors Convocation Award Winners

The Honors College's Award for Scholarly Activities in Professional Studies: Shannon Eshman

The Department of Earth and Space Science's Award for Outstanding Student in Geology: Collin Gibson

TSYS School of Computer Science's Award for Outstanding Student in B.S. in Computer Science: Cybersecurity Track: Elijah Neundorfer

The Department of Theatre's Award for Outstanding Student in Theatre Arts: Caitlyn Gallagher

"I am so blessed to be able to be in a program such as this one that promotes positivity, love, and service—especially in a time such as this one. This program is a safe place for me and anyone who cares to join, no matter your background or past, and is continually shaping me to become a better student, friend, leader, and servant."

JJ Harrison
Class of 2022

"I truly love the Servant Leadership program because I can see the difference it is making on me as a leader. I have learned so much about myself and my leadership style while actively serving others both on and off-campus. I would not have been prepared to take on the challenges of SGA President if it had not been for my development through Servant Leadership."

Curtis Walker
Class of 2022

QUICK FACTS AND FIGURES

During the 2019-2020 academic year, 99 students made an impact by participating in the following types of services:

3,656

Hours working in local non-profit agencies

3,080

Flex Hours to include service to the university

155

Hours mentoring at-risk children

123

Hours meeting with their mentor

455

Times participating in Reflections and Retreats

538

Hours working on the senior project

8,182

Total Hours



The students from the undergraduate Servant Leadership Program have given more than 205,000 hours of service since the program began in 1999.

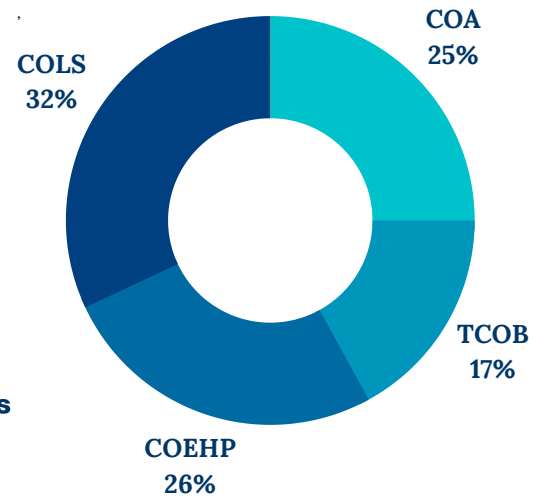
ACADEMIC COLLEGES

COA: College of the Arts

TCOB: Turner College of Business

COLS: College of Letters and Sciences

COEHP: College of Education and Health Professions



17

First Generation
Students

3.51

Overall GPA

28

Majors
Represented





SENIOR PROJECT



Each year, the senior class organizes a project that serves the community, with an intent of enriching as many lives as possible. The goal of the senior project is to give students an experience in applying education to a real-world problem or need by fostering the need to ask critical questions, a desire to seek alternatives and a sense of civic responsibility.

As one senior stated, "Through this project, we practice the servant leadership principles we have learned to transform our community and the world. In the process we model servant leadership by helping the needy, empowering others, and changing our community for the better."

This year, the CSU Servant Leadership Program senior class selected the Valley Rescue Mission Women and Children's Center as its senior project beneficiary. The VRM Women and Children's Center is an Emergency Shelter providing temporary relief from physical trauma. This may be from a fire, eviction, or escape from domestic violence. Relief is provided by meeting the physical, spiritual, and material needs of the resident and offering a support system to individuals coming into the facility for temporary shelter.

Through their Uptown Tree Trail fundraising event in the fall semester, the senior class raised a little over \$10,000 through the support of local businesses and campus organizations. The Servant Leadership Program seniors were able to give back to the Valley Rescue Mission Women and Children's Center by engaging with the residents through creative mentoring activities.

Seniors met biweekly to plan both small and big events with the residents of the Valley Rescue Mission Women and Children's Center with an emphasis on building relationships with the youth and children. Smaller events such as Craft Night, Movie Night, and the Kickball Tournament were held on the Center's campus with both the women and children involved. As the seniors wished for the children to experience fun in the community, they took the children and parents to places around Columbus like Sky Zone and Rocket Fizz to further their relationships with the residents.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the seniors were able to support several local families and SafeHouse Ministries in need of supplies. Also, seniors donated to the United Way Stuff the Bus Campaign which fills backpacks with school supplies for children in need.



STUDENT SERVICES

FOOD PANTRY

In March of 2019, the Center for Servant Leadership took on the operations of our campus Food Pantry, a very small but important service available to all CSU students. Between then and the beginning of March 2020, there were less than 20 students who requested help from the Food Pantry. Then, the COVID-19 pandemic took the world by storm, and the number of students in need of help increased dramatically. Since March 12th of 2020, when students were notified of the University's plans to transition to online classes for the rest of the Spring semester, the Food Pantry has filled more than 200 requests for students in need.

Adult Learners

Parents and/or Helping Support Families

International Students

90 different students have received help from the Food Pantry. Many of those students are...

Veterans

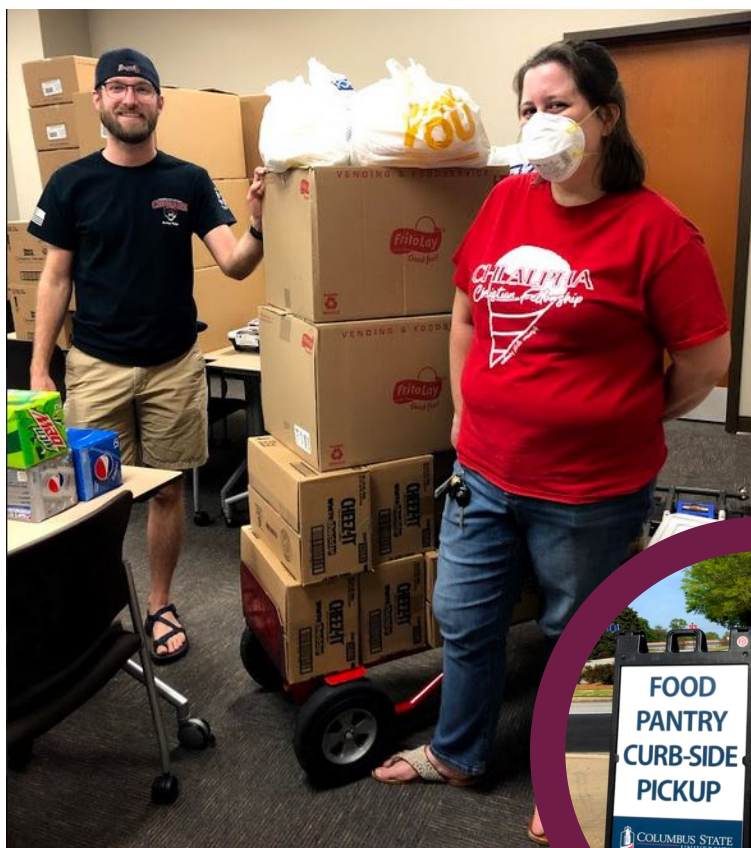




To fund the supplies needed for Food Pantry, we asked for help from our campus community. We received an incredible amount of support from faculty, staff, and student organizations; all of whom have donated much-needed items as well as monetary gifts. We consider it a great honor to provide this service for CSU students year-round but have been especially grateful for the chance to help meet the needs of our students during the difficult times of COVID-19.

A special thanks to the Food Pantry's biggest supporters this year:

- The Abbey Presbyterian Student Center and their partner First Presbyterian Church
- Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship and their partner Evangel Temple
- Delta Sigma Theta and their fellow Pan-Hellenic Conference chapters
- CSU University Advancement team and all who donated through the CSU Cougars Care Campaign
- The Coronavirus Relief Fund through the Community Foundation and United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley





STUDENT SERVICES

COLLABORATIONS

In the 2019-2020 academic year, the William B. Turner Center for Servant Leadership has reached more students at Columbus State University than ever before. Our efforts to reach more students is important because of the fact that Servant Leadership is one of the university's six core values, and it is our responsibility to ensure that every student who attends CSU has an opportunity to be exposed to the philosophy of servant leadership.

We were able to grow our reach by:

- Offering more academic courses
- Seeking new collaborative partnerships with other departments
- Providing more services to a broader spectrum of students

We increased access to our LEAD 1705: An Introduction to Servant Leadership course, by offering more seats and sections.

- In the Fall of 2019, we had 40 students enrolled in the section of this course that was open to all CSU students; that course has only had 24 students in it in years past.
- We also had 37 students enrolled in the section of this course that was designated for students in our program; previously, 27 was the largest number of students that had ever been enrolled.
- In Spring 2020, we offered an additional section of the LEAD 1705 course that had 23 students enrolled in it.
- As a result, approximately 100 CSU students completed the Introduction to Servant Leadership course this year, which is a 20% increase from the previous academic year.

We have also collaborated more with the Office of Student Life and Development.

- We facilitated Servant Leadership: 101 - a session designed to provide a crash course of servant leadership for students during Orientation.
- We also facilitated an additional session of this same content virtually in the spring for the presidents of the Register Student Organizations (RSO) after the University moved to an online format for the semester.
- We worked with the staff member who was responsible for the training of Camp PROWL leaders to create a session on the fundamentals of servant leadership that these student leaders could facilitate.

We also worked with the Office of Student Life and Development in January of 2020 to form a partnership and help execute the University's iLead program.

- iLead is a student leadership development program that is available to all CSU students and can be completed at their own pace over the course of their time as a student.

We were given the opportunity to facilitate sessions for all of our student-athletes in the CSU Athletic Department during the months of January and February of 2020.

- We worked with Tracey Willey, CSU's Project Coordinator for the Violence Against Women Program, to create a two-hour presentation that became a component of our student-athletes' required training hours for the NCAA.

Lastly, but certainly not least, we have grown the number of students in the Servant Leadership Program.

- Based on our historical records, the largest number of students the undergraduate Servant Leadership Program has ever had was 87 before this year.
- This year, we have reached 99 students, all of whom are enrolled in at least one of our academic classes, fulfilling our service requirements, meeting our academic standards, and participating in various service activities in our community.

Through our increased efforts to work collaboratively with other departments on campus, we were able to deliver the message of servant leadership to more students from our campus community than in years past.



OUR SINCEREST THANKS

We are truly grateful to get to do the work that we do in the William B. Turner Center for Servant Leadership. Our work would not be possible without the private support that the Columbus community has so graciously given. The undergraduate Servant Leadership Program would never have been able to thrive, graduating 240 students in the last twenty years, without the support of so many. We are thankful for the investments in our students and for all the buy-in that this community has committed to the philosophy of servant leadership. Our hope is that the partnerships we have formed over the years will continue to transform the lives of students and others in our community to enrich the world around us.



We would also like to express our sincerest gratitude to those who have supported the mission and vision of the Center for Servant Leadership. We are especially grateful for **the Turner family** for being our biggest cheerleaders and **the Bradley-Turner Foundation** for its support of our student services. We also are thankful for **The Coca-Cola Foundation**, which gifted us a million dollar endowment in honor of our community's patriarch of the philosophy of servant leadership, Mr. William B. Turner. With the support we have received this year, the lives of several hundred CSU students have been enriched with learning experiences that have helped create growing, self-aware, well-balanced, and insightful servant leaders.



UNIVERSITY CORE VALUES

Excellence - Commitment to best practices in teaching and learning, scholarship and creative activity, student engagement, cultural enrichment and campus environment.

Engagement - Active civil participation by students, faculty and staff in the university experiences.

Creativity - The pursuit of distinction through inquiry and innovation, challenging convention and focusing on solutions.

Servant Leadership - Effective, ethical leadership through empowerment and service.

Inclusion - Fostering and promoting a campus that embraces diverse people, ideas, views, and practices.

Sustainability - Commitment to behaviors that recognize and respect our environmental context.



COLUMBUS STATE
UNIVERSITY

WILLIAM B. TURNER CENTER
FOR SERVANT LEADERSHIP

creative to the core.

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