



COLUMBUS STATE
UNIVERSITY

WILLIAM B. TURNER CENTER
FOR SERVANT LEADERSHIP

ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022

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What is Servant Leadership at CSU?

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Cortney Wilson

To put it simply, 2021-2022 was a good year. It was good mainly because we could return to in-person activities and interactions with our undergraduate Servant Leadership Program students. And it is hard for me to put into exact words why being able to share in the physical spaces where our students are learning and working together feels so good, but I can say that being able to do so just makes my heart happy.

The school year started with the return of our Freshmen Retreat, a longtime program favorite. It might sound a little crazy to say that we were ecstatic to take 18 first-year and 9 fourth-year college students out into the woods for a three-day retreat in the middle of August, but we were. We were thrilled to be able to go on the retreat because the experience is so incredibly valuable for both our students and us. We have come to realize that the Freshmen Retreat is an opportunity unlike any other that lets us get to know our new students and them to get to know one another. The bonds our students built and the deep, meaningful conversations they had about life with one another—completely unprompted by me or any trip coordinators—reminded me of how special this program is.

This program is special because it allows students to discover who they are as individuals while also learning how important it is to see beyond themselves. Our students have the unique opportunity to figure out who they are and the kind of impact they want to have on the world while being loved and supported by a group of like-minded individuals. Seeing the tremendous amount of personal growth and development our students experience in the short time they are in our program is beautiful.

If asked, I think our students agree with my statement that 2021-22 was a good year in the William B. Turner Center for Servant Leadership. Our enrollment numbers in the undergraduate Servant Leadership Program for the year indicate that students do enjoy being involved in it and think the experiences we provide are valuable. For instance, 89% of students who participated in the undergraduate Servant Leadership Program in Fall 2021 returned in Spring 2022. 14 of the 15 Seniors in the Class of 2022 spent four years as members of our program. And 94% of the students who participated in the program in Spring 2022 returned for the Fall 2022 semester.

Even more importantly, I think our students would agree that the undergraduate Servant Leadership Program is a close-knit community that loves and supports them during a critical time in their lives. And I hope that the love and support they feel will be what they remember when looking back on their experiences over the last year—and for all of the years they choose to be in our program. I hope they will also look back and fondly remember the good times we have had together.

FACTS AND FIGURES

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the 70 students in the undergraduate Servant Leadership made an impact in the Columbus community by participating in the following types of services:

3,303

Hours working in local non-profit agencies

2,690

Hours doing meaningful work in various organizations

400

Hours mentoring at-risk students

394

Times participating in Reflections and Retreats

44

Hours engaging in service on-campus

525

Hours working on the Senior Project

**For a total of
7,356**

Hours of service in our community

The estimated economic impact of these service hours is **\$53,331**.

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the William B. Turner Center for Servant Leadership awarded:

\$141,000

in scholarship dollars.

Those funds helped **62** students cover the costs of their tuition and fees, and **8** students participate in Study Abroad programs.

FACTS AND FIGURES

The undergraduate Servant Leadership Program is made up of a diverse group of individuals.

Gender



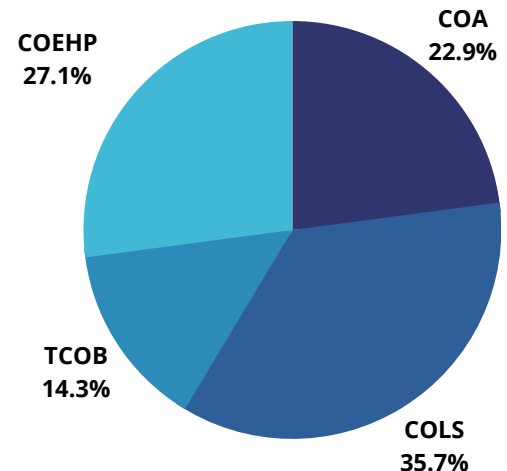
Ethnicity

Asian	6
Black	26
Two or More Races	4
Other	2
White	32

15

First Generation Students

Academic Colleges



There are 24 majors represented by the students in the undergraduate program.

3.54

Overall GPA

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the William B. Turner Center for Servant Leadership:

- Filled **188** requests for **91** unique students experiencing food insecurity through the Food Pantry. We also provided Thanksgiving meals for **16** students and their families.
- Had **192** non-program students take LEAD 1705: Introduction to Servant Leadership, a course that now counts towards students' graduation requirements at CSU.
- Worked with the Office of Student Life and Development to provide **19** different leadership training sessions for current students in their Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) and offered **16** "SL 101" sessions for new students during summer Orientations.

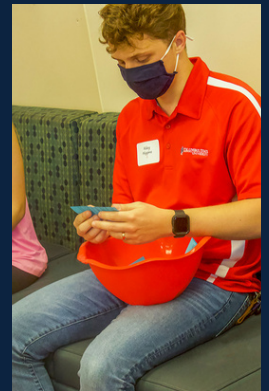
CALLING ALL SERVANT LEADERS: OUR FIRST-EVER CONVOCATION

In March of 2021, we held a focus group with students from the undergraduate Servant Leadership Program to ask for their feedback on what they think we do well and what they think we could do better. The group that gathered was small but had big ideas.

One thing that we heard from this group was that we do not do enough all-program events. They told us they did not know their peers in the Servant Leadership Program but wanted to, so we should offer more opportunities for all of our students to gather in one place. Of course, we loved that they wanted us to find a way to bring all of our students together so that every student will know all of the other students in the program. With that, the idea for our first-ever all-program event was born.

We gathered on August 22nd in the Davidson Student Center for fun and fellowship. Students had the chance to get to know one another in small groups built to allow them to meet students outside their classes in the Servant Leadership Program. In their smaller groups, students were asked to share a fun fact about themselves by writing a fact on a piece of paper in private. Each person's piece of paper was then placed in the group's bowl, and the group had to go around to guess whose fact belonged to whom. Our Seniors did a great job (as they always do) of leading these conversations and making sure that this was a fun and engaging experience for all of our students.

After the Convocation, we asked for input about the event and were very pleased to hear that students enjoyed this event and thought it worthwhile, so we have decided that this will now be an annual event. We are looking forward to making it bigger and better every year with the help of our students.



CELEBRATING SERVANT LEADERSHIP: A GRAND AFFAIR



In 1999, the undergraduate Servant Leadership Program was launched under the direction of Dr. Mary Sue Polleys. The vision for this comprehensive leadership development program was cast by Mr. William B. Turner and Dr. Frank Brown to meet the needs of our local community and beyond. Since then, the program has flourished and graduated more than 280 students.

In 2017, the Center for Servant Leadership was established to grow the reach of servant leadership on campus.

In 2019, the Center received a gift from the Coca-Cola Foundation in honor of Mr. Turner allowing the center to be named The William B. Turner Center for Servant Leadership.

The following year, the Center was granted a new home on the second floor of the Schuster Student Success Center. This new space includes a conference room, classroom, office space, and a home for the CSU Food Pantry.



On March 22, after two years of pandemic-induced delays, we hosted a Grand Opening of this new space. During this event, we unveiled a portrait of Mr. Turner which will hang in the lobby of the Center to serve as a reminder of the impact Mr. Turner made in bringing the concept of Servant Leadership to our campus through the establishment of the undergraduate Servant Leadership Program. In addition to students, alumni, and our campus and community partners, we were joined by members of the Turner family including Ashley Turner Jones who shared a reflection on her time in the Servant Leadership Program and her grandfather's influence.



Through the years, Mr. Turner regularly hosted gatherings affectionately known as a "Coke with Mr. Turner" as an opportunity to impart wisdom and get to know students in the program. As a nod to those memorable conversations, attendees enjoyed ice-cold Coca-Colas in glass bottles and a bag of Georgia-grown peanuts. Through this event, we were honored to share our space, our impressive students, and information about the William B. Turner Center for Servant Leadership. We hope that everyone who was able to join us and the rest of our Servant Leadership family will visit us often in our new home.

SENIOR PROJECT

A hallmark and capstone experience of the undergraduate Servant Leadership Program is the Senior Project organized by our students in their last year of the Program. This project allows students to apply what they have learned about servant leadership to a real-world problem or need while enriching as many lives as possible in our local community. Students are encouraged to ask critical questions about the current state and needs of our community's various sectors and develop and execute a plan to help address those needs, allowing our students to develop a more profound sense of civic responsibility. During this project, students are expected to model the principles of servant leadership by helping those in need, equipping others, and changing our community for the better.

The Class of 2022 chose to continue the work that the Class of 2021 started with the Highland Community for their senior project. The Highland Community is the area of Columbus along the 2nd Avenue corridor. The Highland Community encompasses all areas of the Mill District, including Anderson Village, Bibb Village, City Village, and North Highland. The senior class chose to work in partnership with several agencies in the Highland Community area to maximize their impact, including Truth Spring Academy, The Food Mill, and MercyMed Columbus. These organizations collectively address issues surrounding education, nutrition, and literacy. Each member of the senior class actively supported this project and connected with the Highland Community. This support included engaging in service projects and fundraising to meet the community partners' physical needs through the Annual Uptown Tree Trail.



For some, involvement looked like pulling weeds and planting vegetables for MercyMed's urban farm, which provides affordable seasonal produce to the local community by accepting food stamps and providing double EBT value. Working with the Mercy Med Farm was a highlight for Josh Mellman. Josh said, "Helping individuals to acquire fresh produce through acts like weeding, planting, and harvesting may seem somewhat intensive compared to volunteering with most agencies, but it really meant a lot to see the 'fruits' of my labor."

Others found ways to serve the Highland Community with Truth Spring Academy. They were able to provide three themed trunks and activities for elementary-aged children at the Trunk-or-Treat event in the fall. In April, the seniors planned and hosted a "Spring Fling" family fun night for students and their families. In addition to a bounce house, food and dessert, and a movie on the lawn, the seniors purchased books of various reading levels that students could pick out and take home. The remaining books, movie screen, and projector were donated to Truth Spring Academy for students to continue to enjoy.



Additionally, students assisted with the prep for The Food Mill's medically tailored meal program. Participants in the program receive meals catered to their specific dietary needs. With funds from the Uptown Tree Trail, they purchased 1,800 reusable meal containers.

As part of their wellness clinic, MercyMed offers free 5 Weeks to Fitness courses for residents of the Highland Community. These classes meet weekly and focus on areas of healthy eating, sleeping, and exercising to maintain and improve wellness. Tyisha Landers spent time interacting with patients and helping physicians facilitate sessions. "Working with the patients at MercyMed has been a rewarding experience because not only do they make really good changes in regard to bettering their health, but I also got to work more closely with them and develop a nurturing relationship," Tyisha said. The senior class also contributed to the purchase of exercise equipment for MercyMed's Wellness Center as well as Kitchen Kits filled with essential cooking supplies for the participants in the program.

This year's class also presented their project in a poster presentation at CSU's Tower Day which recognizes undergraduate research. Their poster entitled "Servant Leadership in Action: Creating a Lasting Impact in the Highland Community" detailed the project planning process, challenges and successes, and outcomes of their project.

We are incredibly proud of the impact this year's senior class had within the Highland Community!

REFLECTIONS AND RETREATS

Providing environments for our students to regroup, reconnect, and share experiences is important. Through Reflections and Retreats, students have the opportunity to step away from daily chaos, socialize with friends, and encourage each other.

Over the past two years, Reflections have looked a little different. We resorted to Zoom for virtual dance classes or trivia nights. This year, we were happy to bring back Reflections in full force. We held the first-ever, program-wide convocation to kick off the school year. The convocation allowed the entire program to gather before the semester began to meet new students and engage in ice breaker activities. Some of the highlights throughout the year included a visit to Oxbow Meadows, where students learned about conservation and met animal ambassadors. We also took on the rapids of the Chattahoochee River and went Whitewater Rafting.

Additionally, students in the program planned Reflections for their classmates. JJ Harrison choreographed and taught an upbeat jazz routine during "Jazzy with JJ." Kaylee Day tested her classmate's knowledge with Harry Potter and Disney Trivia nights. During midterm exam week, Vinh Huynh and Lydia Rice led "Midterm Meditation," which included a yoga flow and guided meditation where students could unwind and destress.



We welcomed 18 first-year students with an in-person LEO Retreat in August. Led by our nine Senior Mentors, the first-year students spent time at Camp Frank G. Lumpkin getting to know one another and becoming acquainted with the Servant Leadership Program. Activities included a low ropes course, scavenger hunt, and various team-building activities. We concluded the Retreat by touring organizations where students could volunteer. We stopped by Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, and Columbus Botanical Gardens and learned more about how students could get involved.

After more than two years, we were happy to bring back the overnight Callaway Retreat at Callaway Gardens. Students were split into teams where they prepared delicious meals for the Cottage Cookoff. Everyone prepared phenomenal dishes that left the judges in awe! The next morning, we explored Callaway Gardens and their butterfly house.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Curtis Walker was selected as the recipient of the Ed Helton Servant Leadership Scholarship.

Tyisha Landers received the Community Outreach Award at the 2022 Diversity Forum Legacy Celebration.



Lizzie Hedrick and **Nico Moyer** were both selected as the Charles R. Eason Leadership Award recipients.



SCHOLASTIC HONORS CONVOCATION AWARD WINNERS

Nameera Kahn - Honors College Scholarly Activities in Science Award

Laura McKenna - Communication Award

Kyla Mims - Student of Excellence (Health Science) and nominee for the Faculty Cup

Tamera Wilkerson - Student of Excellence (Communication)



Nameera Kahn



Laura McKenna



Kyla Mims



Tamera Wilkerson

STAFF PROFILES



Cortney Wilson

Director, William B. Turner Center for Servant Leadership

Cortney coordinates and teaches several of the eight LEAD courses that serve as the academic foundation of the undergraduate Servant Leadership Program at Columbus State University. She also works collaboratively with other departments at Columbus State to ensure that servant leadership is present in all of its student leadership initiatives and oversees the operations of the Food Pantry at CSU. Cortney is very active in the community, serving on the board of directors for the Columbus State University Alumni Association, the Young Professionals of the Greater Columbus GA Chamber of Commerce, Women United of the Chattahoochee Valley United Way, and is a member of the Junior League of Columbus.

Laura Pate

Assistant Director, Servant Leadership Program

Laura teaches several courses in the undergraduate Servant Leadership Program, coordinates engaging program activities and handles the weekly operations of the Food Pantry. 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 at Columbus State. Laura also has a background in Enrollment Management having worked as an admissions counselor.

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.



Laura McKenna

Student Assistant, Servant Leadership Program Alumna

Laura has just completed her fourth year in the undergraduate Servant Leadership Program and graduated this spring with her degree in 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 is the president of Catholic Campus Ministry at CSU and has volunteered regularly with St. Anne Outreach while in the Servant Leadership Program. In her free time, she enjoys rock climbing.

STAFF PROFILES



Nico Moyer
Graduate Assistant

Nico joined the Center for Servant Leadership Staff in August of 2021 as a Graduate Assistant while completing a master's degree in organizational leadership, specializing in leadership development. Nico has seven years of experience in the Special Operations Community with the 75th Ranger Regiment. He holds a bachelor's degree in Interpersonal & Relational Communication from Southern CT State University and a post-baccalaureate degree in Entrepreneurship and Finance from Columbus State University. Nico spends his free time volunteering on various committees at First Baptist Church of Columbus or working with young adult & college students at Second Story.

Wendi Jenkins
LEAD 1705 Instructor

The William B. Turner Center for Servant Leadership was pleased to have our former director, Dr. Wendi Jenkins, continue to teach a section of LEAD 1705 this year. Wendi currently serves as the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Leadership and Institutional Development for the University System of Georgia. Wendi holds a Doctor of Education Degree from Columbus State University, an Educational Specialist Degree in Instructional Technology from the University of West Georgia, a Master's Degree in Secondary Education, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education/English from Columbus State University.



Cedricia Thomas
LEAD 1705 Instructor

An alumna of the Servant Leadership Program, Cedricia Thomas has taught online sections of LEAD 1705 since Fall 2020. Cedricia serves as a Facilitator with the Leadership Institute at Columbus State University. She facilitates leadership development for faculty and staff at Columbus State University and outside clients in this role. She also has experience in Student Affairs, advising student leaders and organizations, and spearheading leadership programs for the student body. Cedricia holds a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance from Columbus State University.

THE WILLIAM B. TURNER CENTER FOR SERVANT LEADERSHIP

MISSION

Through a widely-recognized community and university collaboration, the Columbus State University Servant Leadership Program 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.

VISION

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

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, communication, networking, and self-confidence).
- A network of peers, a 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."



WHAT IS SERVANT LEADERSHIP AT COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY?

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.

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 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

CSU'S DEFINITION OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Ethical, effective leadership through empowerment and service.



Riley Higgins speaking during the Class of 2022's Senior Project presentation at the Annual Celebration Breakfast.



Jada Washington and her LEAD 2706 classmates helped spruce up the outside areas of Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home.

Zachary Griffith and Sam Stephens learned more about their thinking preferences and behaviors during their Emergenetics feedback session.

Rachel Bello, Kaitlyn Shepherd, and Mariah Lewis enjoyed the Birds of Prey show at Callaway Gardens on the second day of the Callaway Retreat.



COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY'S 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.

William B. Turner Center for Servant Leadership

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