



BELLARMINE
UNIVERSITY



STUDENT AFFAIRS IMPACT REPORT

2023 - 2024

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we reflect on the last year, I am thrilled to share how our Division of Student Affairs is making a significant impact on our students, community, campus and beyond. While recognition and rankings are not the only way to measure success, this year has been remarkable. Our students ranked Bellarmine in the Top 10% of all U.S. post-secondary institutions for providing a supportive campus environment. We truly strive to challenge and uplift our Knights.

We are also proud to announce that we received the 2024 Elective Carnegie Community Engagement Distinction. This honor highlights our dedication to meaningful community engagement and volunteerism, showcasing how we live our mission in Louisville and beyond.

Our talented professional staff participated in competitive conferences, sharing best practices and gaining insights to enhance student success and engagement. We leave no stone unturned in creating opportunities for our students to thrive.

This past year, we focused on fostering a strong sense of belonging, encouraging students to reflect on their goals, and supporting their academic journeys. We've emphasized holistic wellness and inclusive interactions among students. I am incredibly proud to be a Knight and excited about our future together.

Warm regards,



HELEN GRACE RYAN, PH.D., VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

Our Values

Bellarmino University finds its Catholic identity in the inclusive spirit of Thomas Merton. We believe in the search for the true self, the interconnectedness of life and the solidarity of the human spirit, which transcends ethnic, religious, and social divisions. We educate the whole person to realize his or her highest potential as part of an interconnected world. Our values are Academic Excellence, Intrinsic Dignity, Social Responsibility, Integrity, Hospitality, and Stewardship.

Academic Excellence: Promoting academic inquiry rooted in the liberal arts tradition—critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, and compassion—with an expectation of excellence

Intrinsic Dignity: Respecting the intrinsic value and dignity of every individual

Social Responsibility: Cultivating grounded citizens who contribute to and advocate for the public good, environmental sustainability, global understanding, and informed civic engagement

Integrity: Fostering strong ethical principles, honesty, fairness, transparency, and trustworthiness

Hospitality: Creating an inclusive community that welcomes all and models a spirit of goodwill

Stewardship: Exercising thoughtful stewardship of our university resources

Division of Student Affairs Mission

Guided by our commitment to Bellarmine's mission and Catholic values, the Division of Student Affairs provides transformative, holistic educational experiences. We empower students to lead authentic lives and serve the common good in a global community.

About the Division of Student Affairs

Our division supports students academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Alongside our dedicated faculty, we offer co-curricular opportunities that promote growth in every aspect of student life.

This report highlights four key initiatives from Bellarmine's Strategic Plan, focusing on **The Transformative Student Experience**, which aligns perfectly with our IMPACT initiative.

1. **Academic Engagement and Student Success**
2. **Involvement and Sense of Belonging**
3. **Wellness**
4. **Career, Calling, and Purpose**

This annual report showcases our student-centered programs that transform the lives of Bellarmine students.

Engagement & Student Success

We create meaningful connections through purposeful programs and services, ensuring student success and persistence.

23 students participated in the Access BU early-arrival program, which supports first-year students with learning differences, leading to a 10% higher retention rate.

67% of students who completed internships earned the Professional Excellence Award for exceptional performance in career competencies.

Together, we logged **23,353 hours** of community engagement.

95.9% of first-year students engaged in our Week of Welcome activities.

We launched the inaugural “Men in Leadership” initiative with **19 participants**.

957 students and families joined us for Family Weekend.

Two new programs aimed at socializing graduate students, welcomed **76 students**.

We utilized the Valor texting platform to send **192 important messages** to our students.

Spiritual Peer Mentors logged a total of **7,081 interactions** with **649 students**, a **22% increase** in interactions.

“I’m here today because of the support the Accessibility Resource Center provided. Y’all are the best.
~ May 2024 graduate”

Belonging

We foster an inclusive environment where students explore their identities and engage in social justice.

The Accessibility Resource Center hosted **8 Disability Awareness Month events**, including activities like Yoga for All Bodies.

364 students received accommodation services, marking a 10.98% increase from last year.

Housing and Residence Life hosted **236 programs**, reaching **4,161 students**, a **78% increase** in participation.

We supported **1,044 residential students**, the highest in a decade.

The Knights of Color Program engaged **75 students of color**.

Our Counseling Center produced the film “Voices of Resilience,” showcasing the experiences of students of color.

A new Student Government Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion was established.

We hosted **2,879 events** on campus to bring our community together, an increase in programming by **11%**.

Campus Ministry hosted the first Satsang Interfaith Dialogue, which shared views from 5 different worldview traditions. **92 students, faculty, and staff** joined the conversation.

“Bringing students together to do good work in communities in need has been so beneficial in our growth as young adults!”
~ Undergraduate Student

Wellness

We promote a culture of well-being that encourages lifelong healthy practices.

Bellarmino achieved **Exercise is Medicine GOLD status**, showcasing our commitment to student health.

Health Services conducted tabling events where **80%** of participants reported learning something valuable.

The Academic Resource Center saw a **20.97% increase** in BIPOC students utilizing its services.

Our Counseling Center supported a diverse clientele, with increases among first-generation, BIPOC, and LGBTQ+ students.

We educated **144 community members** about campus safety and offered **60 Hands-Only CPR certifications**.

278 unique students participated in intramural sports.

Campus Wellness hosted **163 programs**, a **13% increase**.

895 students completed online mental health screenings, reflecting a **113% increase**.

Our Knight's Pantry provided **4,100 meals** through **2,658 visits**.

The Dean of Students Office facilitated Care Team Training for approximately **60 Bellarmine faculty** and **students**.

Title IX training provided to 600+ FY students, all degree seeking international students, students studying abroad, and graduate students.

“Bellarmino Public Safety staff are very accommodating & understanding of sensitive topics. I appreciate their confidentiality and compassion. It truly is a breath of fresh air.

~ Graduate Student class of 2027

Purpose

We empower students to discover their passions and create meaningful career paths.

.....

88% of undergraduates completed over **90 hours** of experiential learning.

Our first destination outcomes show an impressive **99% success rate** for graduates with **97% in field**.

Career Development hosted **178 programs**, reaching a record **7,990 student engagements**.

512 experiential learning opportunities were completed, with significant increases in various categories.

1,268 career advising appointments marked a **9% increase**.

The usage of our Big Interview platform surged by **149%**, revolutionizing interview preparation for students.

“——
Career Development was absolutely amazing. They were beyond helpful in setting me in the right direction and their energy was contagious!
~ Current Junior

Thank you

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to create a vibrant, inclusive community at Bellarmine. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our students.

Warmly,

Helen Grace Ryan, Ph.D.

Vice President for Student Affairs