

Division of Student Life



**STRATEGIC
PLAN
2023-2028**



**VILLANOVA
UNIVERSITY**

OUR MISSION

The Division of Student Life strives to foster a diverse, inclusive and just environment where each student explores meaning and purpose, experiences belonging and support and embraces personal responsibility. We value each person and insist on providing a holistic experience where students can thrive and community can flourish in the spirit of St. Augustine and our Catholic heritage.

OUR VISION

A University where love and respect animate every aspect of Student Life and where every person has the opportunity to ***become what they are not yet.***

Each person who comes to Villanova comes with their own story, which unfolds throughout their unique Villanova experience. Grounded in our Augustinian foundation of ***Veritas, Unitas and Caritas***, the Division of Student Life is dedicated to these shared values that guide us as we continue to write our stories together.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



“Rooted. Restless.”

Those words, the foundation of Villanova University’s ambitious 10-year strategic plan, are infused into nearly everything we do as Villanovans. We are rooted in our values, our faith and our conviction to do what’s right, and we are restless for more. We desire a community that is welcoming, inclusive and just, offering opportunities for everyone to flourish, in every way possible, individually and as a community.

Drawing on these words, the Division of Student Life has created our own Strategic Plan, one that holds up the University’s bold vision for the next decade and encompasses the heart, spirit and talents of each member of our varied areas. We remain rooted to our Augustinian values, inspiring our students to pursue truth, joined together in community and love without measure. And we restlessly pursue all that we might become, putting care, inclusion and well-being at the forefront of everything we do.

Together, we will ignite change here on campus and in the lives of our students, building upon the strengths of each of us and moving fearlessly into the next iteration of our future selves.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen J. Byrnes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathleen J. Byrnes, JD
Vice President for Student Life

OUR VALUES



Holistic Student Development

Student Life holds in high regard opportunities to explore the many aspects of development, and we value collaboration across departments and divisions to create meaningful co-curricular experiences. We believe in both intentionally challenging and appropriately supporting our students, and we walk with them as they discover who they are as they grow into their authentic whole selves.

Inclusion and Belonging

Students thrive when they feel welcome and experience belongingness, and we strive to create an environment where people of all identities are welcome. Above all, Student Life values the creation of a University environment where all students are accepted and appreciated for their own unique identities and contributions to our community.

Equity and Justice

Student Life highly values the practices that dismantle discrimination against all identities as we strive to amplify the pursuit of social justice. By using intersectional approaches, we are dedicated to confronting systemic oppression and eliminating the injustices that negatively affect marginalized students, faculty and staff. The work of equity and justice is ongoing, and Student Life remains steadfast toward creating Villanova experiences accessible for all.

Well-Being

Taking care of ourselves and each other is a shared responsibility, and everyone needs support to thrive. We realize that our stories are intertwined within the larger culture and the systems in which we live and learn, and we value our obligation to foster a collective responsibility for personal and community well-being.

STRATEGIC GOAL I:

Student Transformation

To generate student transformation by maximizing opportunity for meaningful connections, the development of leadership potential and engagement in the journey of self-discovery, we will:

- Build relationships with academic partners to lower barriers and identify new opportunities for engagement.
- Reimagine recruitment, selection and training of student organizations with a focus on inclusivity and leadership development.
- Identify ways to gather data and assess the impact of a student's involvement within Student Life, including skill development, personal growth, and future career enhancement.





STRATEGIC GOAL II: **Inclusion & Belonging**

To facilitate environments and provide services in which students have an opportunity to experience a sense of inclusion and belonging that affirms their identities and recognizes and values students' varied experiences, we will:

- Incorporate the experiences of a full breadth of social identities into decision-making processes to provide students with support and access to clear pathways for involvement and belonging.
- Cultivate programs and physical spaces that are accessible and promote a sense of inclusion and belonging, opportunities for socialization and community development so that diverse student populations can thrive.
- Educate and train the Student Life staff on the unique needs of diverse student groups and incorporate practices that support diversity, inclusion and belonging in daily practice.





STRATEGIC GOAL III:

Just & Sustainable Practices

To emphasize just and sustainable practices that lead to equitable outcomes, ensuring every student and staff member of every identity has what they need to be successful in their personal and professional endeavors, we will:

- Engage in a systemic review of Student Life departmental policies, practices, service offerings, spaces and resources to ensure equity and justice. Revise through a lens that values the voices of marginalized students and staff, engage in training and development and remove barriers to deconstruct systematic oppression.
- Evolve Student Life activities, services, programs and experiences to empower students to be leaders in a diverse, globally minded society.
- Enhance engagement, outreach, communication and marketing strategies for both students and their families by utilizing cultural competencies in order to increase equitable access to and awareness of Student Life services, resources and opportunities.





STRATEGIC GOAL IV: **Well-Being**

To cultivate an environment in which well-being is seen as more than self-care and is fostered in individuals and communities through resilience, routine and lifelong learning and discovery, we will:

- Integrate student voices in programming, resources and services that centers resilience, routine and well-being in everyday decisions and actions.
- Evolve resources, services, and programs to anticipate and meet student and staff well-being needs.
- Facilitate resources, services, programs, and opportunities for students to build skills that will support their personal well-being; develop and utilize safe and effective bystander intervention skills related to alcohol and other drugs, sexual violence, and suicide prevention.





STRATEGIC GOAL V: **Stewardship & Resources**

To embrace continuous improvement by stewarding equitable fiscal, technological, physical, and human resources to improve our programs and services and generate additional resources for strategic initiatives, we will:

- Enhance and formalize processes to recruit, retain, and develop Student Life professionals who are equipped to develop and engage students.
- Develop an ongoing collaborative approach to fiscal and capital planning initiatives that promotes space optimization and equity across the division.
- Build comprehensive communication strategies that will share Division initiatives with our internal and external constituents.



OUR COMMITMENT TO THE STUDENT LIFE STAFF

The Division of Student Life recognizes the unique contributions that staff members make every day in order to serve students and to advance the mission, vision and values of the Division. Student Life is committed to fostering the professional and personal growth, well-being and support of every member of its staff, at all levels. The Division values the education and career progression of each employee, and believes professional development is essential to expand new thinking and ideas, and to promote knowledge-sharing and collaboration. Student Life encourages staff to be their most authentic selves, and to apply their strengths in ways that allow the Student Life staff, together, to overcome challenges and celebrate successes.

LEARN MORE about Villanova University's Division of Student Life and opportunities for collaboration on these strategic initiatives.

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