



# CONNECT TO MISSION

**A Guide for Santa Clara University's  
Faculty, Staff & Administrators**

Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education  
Santa Clara University

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## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

We are happy you are here. It may be your first few weeks on SCU's staff, faculty or administration or you might have multiple decades of campus service. This guide is a tool which accompanies persons of all faith traditions and human ideals in encountering, exploring and engaging our Jesuit, Catholic mission.

Please find a brief introduction to the foundations of our Ignatian tradition: mission, characteristics of Jesuit higher education, and key Jesuit values. Each distinguishes SCU in higher education. Our Jesuit foundations are followed by an overview of Ignatian Formation for Mission - a career-long pathway of growth that will take you from knowing about mission to claiming your role in cultivating the mission of the University.

The final pages offer Ignatian Center programs and resources available to you to encounter, engage and explore mission. We also share programs offered by our SCU partners. We hope you fully participate in the programs along with self-directed activities and formational experiences outside of SCU.

VIEW THE  
ENTIRETY OF THIS  
PUBLICATION AND  
ADDITIONAL  
PROGRAM  
INFORMATION  
ONLINE:



# THIS IS MISSION

## VISION

Santa Clara University will educate citizens and leaders of competence, conscience, and compassion and cultivate knowledge and faith to build a more humane, just, and sustainable world.

## MISSION

The University pursues its vision by creating an academic community that educates the whole person within the Jesuit, Catholic tradition, making student learning our central focus, continuously improving our curriculum and co-curriculum, strengthening our scholarship and creative work, and serving the communities of which we are a part in Silicon Valley and around the world.

“*The real measure of our Jesuit universities lies in who our students become. Tomorrow’s ‘whole person’ cannot be whole without a well-educated solidarity. We must therefore raise our Jesuit educational standard to educate the whole person in solidarity for the real world.*”

**Peter-Hans Kolvenbach**  
Superior General of the Society of Jesus,  
speaking at SCU, October 2000

FULL TEXT HERE:



# CHARACTERISTICS OF JESUIT HIGHER EDUCATION

- Association for Jesuit Colleges & Universities (AJCU, 2021)

We bring mission alive by joining 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in building a distinctive Jesuit, Catholic character in higher education:

## **Characteristic 1: Leadership and Public Commitment to Mission**

The University's leadership effectively communicates and enlivens the Jesuit, Catholic mission of the institution.

## **Characteristic 2: The Academic Life**

The University's academic life represents the Jesuit and Catholic commitment to a liberal arts and Christian humanistic education for all students. Academic programs, distinctively informed by the University's Jesuit and Catholic character, contribute to the diversity of higher education through an education shaped by the service of faith and the promotion of justice.

## **Characteristic 3: The Pursuit of Faith, Justice and Reconciliation**

The Jesuit University actively responds to the most morally urgent issues of our times in ways that reflect the Jesuit, Catholic tradition; anchor healing in truth; and recognize the fulfillment of justice as the forging of right relationships. This includes: (a) a commitment to social justice and reconciliation; (b) a commitment to anti-racism within the University and wider culture; (c) a commitment to care for our common home, the Earth; and (d) a commitment to serving the global community.

## **Characteristic 4: Promoting an Ignatian Campus Culture**

The University works to foster within its students, administrators, staff, faculty, alumni/ae, and Board of Trustees a virtuous life and learning characterized by personal responsibility, compassion, forgiveness, respect, a habit of reflection, and integration of body, mind, and soul.

## **Characteristic 5: Service to the Church**

Through educational and formational programs, the University offers resources to build up the local Church, so that people of faith can wrestle with difficult questions facing the Church and the world.

## **Characteristic 6: Relationship to the Society of Jesus**

The University lives out its commitment to its Jesuit identity through collaboration and vibrant partnerships with the Society of Jesus, including individual Jesuits at the University, the campus Jesuit Community, and the Province, as well as national and international Jesuit networks and organizations.

## **Characteristic 7: Institutional Integrity**

The University demonstrates a commitment to Jesuit values through its administrative policies, practices, and community relationships.

FULL TEXT HERE:



# KEY JESUIT VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

We bring mission alive in a community animated by key Jesuit values:



## Discernment & Reflection

We aspire to be a community shaped by the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius in which we discern, reflect and consult. We pay attention to the movements of hearts and souls as we seek to proactively engage in a transformative education.



## Solidarity & Kinship

We aspire to be a community of mutuality, compassion and belonging as we walk alongside one another and the communities we serve in striving for a more just, humane and sustainable world for all.



## Cura Personalis

We aspire to be a community concerned with the formation of the whole person- mind, body and spirit. We do so to become "people with and for others." We recognize the dignity and worth of each person as we work for a campus and world in which all flourish.



## Finding God in All Things

We aspire to be a community rooted in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition of using reason to find meaning in all of creation. Ignatian Spirituality insists that there is no place in which God cannot be found. This allows us to draw on a view of the world that is both transcendent and grounded in reality.



## A Faith that Does Justice

We are a community that aspires to orient our lives to justice and the common good. We are called to look beyond ourselves and act on our responsibility to respond to injustice.

FULL TEXT HERE:



# WHAT IS IGNATIAN FORMATION FOR MISSION?



Through Ignatian Formation for Mission programs and resources, we invite staff, faculty and administrators into three levels of deepening experience to **encounter**, **explore**, and **engage** SCU's Jesuit, Catholic mission. Each experience leads to a period of reflection that leads to an action, drawing community members into a deeper level of interaction with mission.

As part of career-long involvement, programs aspire to accompany growth in:

- Communicating mission, including details about Jesuit values and foundations
- Participating in and incorporating Ignatian spiritual practices into work and life
- Understanding the relationship between Jesuit, Catholic mission & educational purpose
- Articulating why and how a Santa Clara, Jesuit, Catholic education and university are distinctive for our graduates and the campus community
- Integrating mission more fully into professional responsibilities

# PROGRAMS TO ENCOUNTER MISSION

Programs and resources to assist you in learning about mission by participating, listening, asking questions and encountering Jesuit, Catholic foundations. Programs are a one-time commitment.

## **New Staff Orientation**

This introduction to the SCU community is offered by Human Resources (HR) once per quarter. It includes a one-hour introduction into Ignatian Spirituality and SCU's Jesuit, Catholic mission. *By invitation.*

## **New Faculty Orientation**

Prior to the start of the academic year, this introduction to the SCU community is offered by the Provost's Office. It includes a one hour introduction to SCU's Jesuit, Catholic mission and Ignatian pedagogical practices. *By invitation.*

## **New Faculty and Staff Dinner**

The President, Vice President for Mission and Ministry, and Rector of the Jesuit Community host a dinner during Mission Week for all new faculty and staff to welcome each into the Bronco family and introduce key Jesuit values. *By invitation.*

## **Bannan Forum Lectures**

Focused on the intersection of faith, culture, and questions of justice and reconciliation, Bannan Forum programming makes accessible the humanism of the Jesuit intellectual heritage, bringing it to bear on contemporary global realities. Offered quarterly, the Forum brings the SCU community and the larger public in Silicon Valley into conversations emerging from SCU's distinctive character and mission.

## **Search for What Matters Lecture Series**

This quarterly luncheon speaker series provides a space for the discussion of core values and experiences among faculty, staff, and administrators. One faculty member, one staff member, and one Jesuit are invited each year to respond to the question: "What matters to me and why?"

## **Bannan Forum Faculty Lunches**

The lunches provide faculty an opportunity to engage with colleagues outside their disciplines and from across the university community. Conversation and community are a critical aspect of our Ignatian foundation. There is no set agenda or topic, just an opportunity to enjoy the company of fellow faculty members.

## **Do You Speak Ignatian?**

A guide to Jesuit education, this booklet defines terms used in conversations in Ignatian and Jesuit circles. A go-to guide for those new to Jesuit higher education.

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# PROGRAMS TO EXPLORE MISSION

Programs and resources which promote action following an experience. You will have the opportunity to reflect on mission; articulate mission; apply an aspect of mission to your work or professional life; and/or go deeper into Jesuit, Catholic foundations. Programs usually require an extended commitment.

## **Faculty Seminar on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition**

This seminar explores the Catholic intellectual tradition and its relationship to scholarship, service, and teaching. The seminar will deepen faculty's knowledge and engagement with SCU's Jesuit, Catholic intellectual tradition as a reference point and resource for their work.

## **Ignatian 101**

This four-part luncheon series introduces staff and faculty who are new, new to Jesuit education, or are looking for a refresh, to the distinctive dimensions of our Jesuit, Catholic mission. Participants engage with a cohort as a means of building community while activating the Ignatian tradition. Ignatian 101 welcomes a new cohort once per quarter.

## **Ignatian 201**

This is a follow-up to Ignatian 101, or for staff familiar with Jesuit education and foundations who want to apply the Ignatian tradition to their work and professional lives. A new cohort is welcomed twice each academic year.

## **Leading with Mission**

The session - part of the HR Management Excellence series - focuses on why mission matters to leaders. Current managers gain an understanding of the Ignatian leadership perspective and engage with campus leaders who share their experiences leading with SCU's Jesuit, Catholic mission. All supervisors will be sent email registrations.

## **Lunchtime Examen**

The Examen was created by St. Ignatius of Loyola as a technique of mindful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect the presence and invitation of the Divine. A team of faculty, staff, and students take turns leading the weekly Examen during the academic year over Zoom.

## **Ignatian Tapas**

Ignatian Tapas is a quarterly lunch open to all faculty, staff, and administrators who are seeking deeper formation in Jesuit values and Ignatian Spirituality. People from any religious, secular, or spiritual identity are welcome!

## **Mission Week**

Mission Week is a celebration of the mission of Santa Clara University. This encompasses the many ways we express our Jesuit values, our grounding in the Catholic tradition, and our commitment to building a more just, humane, and sustainable world.

## **Faculty Staff Retreats**

The Ignatian Center annually hosts three all-expenses-paid, two-night retreats for SCU faculty and staff. The retreats are grounded in Ignatian Spirituality, but are adapted for a spiritually diverse faculty and staff. Participants must complete an application and priority is given to faculty and staff who are new to Ignatian Spirituality.

## **Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius**

This program provides staff and faculty an opportunity to experience the dynamics and graces of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola through individual prayer and reflection as well as communal spiritual conversation.

## **Ignatian Faculty Forum**

The Ignatian Faculty Forum (IFF) was established in 2002 to discover Ignatian Spirituality as it is lived by faculty. IFF integrates Ignatian insight with the day to day struggles of teaching, scholarship, and university service as actually experienced by faculty, specifically by providing a small community of trust in which faculty engage in reflective discernment. *By invitation.*

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# PROGRAMS TO ENGAGE MISSION

Programs and resources to deepen your contribution to mission by: inviting you to accompany others in mission formation; integrating an aspect of mission into your professional responsibilities; deepening your discernment; and/or inviting you take a leadership role in the manifestation of SCU's mission, vision and values. Programs require an extended commitment.

## **explore Journal**

This annual publication of the Bannan Forum, explores the integration of faith, justice, and the intellectual life, in Jesuit, Catholic higher education. Faculty and staff may contribute essays on topics related to Jesuit higher education and the Catholic intellectual tradition.

## **Bannan Forum Mission Integration Grants and Design & Dialog Grants**

The Bannan Forum awards grants for research, teaching, and university initiatives that engage issues of contemporary significance within the Catholic intellectual tradition and extend the Jesuit, Catholic vocation of SCU as a transformative social force.

## **Experiential Learning for Social Justice Course and Arrupe Engagement**

Each quarter, the Ignatian Center works with 20+ faculty members spanning various academic disciplines to execute SCU's Experiential Learning for Social Justice (ELSJ) core curriculum requirement. The goal is to intentionally pair an ELSJ class with a community partner so that course learning outcomes match the mission, vision and work of the community partner.

## **Immersion Companions**

Accompanying students on immersion is an opportunity to participate in high-impact community-based and experiential learning, central to the Jesuit educational vision, and to mentor and support students in their own growth. Participants and companions engage with the pillars of simplicity, social justice, spirituality, and community through shared experience and reflection.

## **Faculty Staff Immersions**

The Ignatian Center offers an annual immersion for faculty & staff to the US-Mexico border. The experience is intended to humanize the reality of migration and to recognize its complexity, while emphasizing accompaniment of migrants on their journey. There are spaces for reflection and time to plan follow-up activities and action.

## **Ignatian Communal Discernment**

This training teaches the basics and best practices of Ignatian Communal Discernment, giving faculty and staff the experience needed to be able to incorporate this decision-making process into their own teams.

## **AJCU Leadership Institute**

The Jesuit Leadership Institute is a professional development program for staff, faculty and administrators who are either new to Jesuit higher education or have recently assumed new leadership responsibilities. Rooted in Ignatian leadership, pedagogy and spirituality, participants build a network of peers in leadership positions across the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities. *By invitation.*

## **Ignatian Colleagues Program (ICP)**

The ICP is a national program designed to educate and form administrators and faculty more deeply in the Jesuit & Catholic tradition of higher education so that they can articulate, adapt, and advance the Jesuit and Catholic mission of their campuses. *By invitation.*

## **Mission Leadership for Trustees**

A multi-part series for trustees, *Stewarding Our Jesuit and Catholic Mission*, engages board members in presentations, reflections and discussions.

## **AJCU Conferences and Meetings**

AJCU sponsors more than 30 conferences and affinity groups that span the national Jesuit higher education network. The conferences provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, information and best practices; support the professional development of their members; and foster cross-institutional collaboration.

ADDITIONAL  
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# DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY

## **Dine & Design an Ignatian Formation for Mission Plan**

Pause, break bread, and be in community. Quarterly lunches for staff and faculty interested in learning more about programs and resources. Develop your plan or go deeper in your engagement with the Ignatian Center.

## **Offerings for Departments, Colleges/Schools or Divisions**

The Director of Mission Integration will work with your unit to customize an offering for your department, college, school or division. Past offerings have included: presentations on Jesuit, Catholic mission; retreats on the Ignatian perspective on strategic planning; using Key Jesuit values to guide professional practices; and reflections on the Characteristics of Jesuit Higher Education. Contact Margaret M.Higgins at mhiggins@scu.edu.

## **Funding for New Mission Integration Initiatives**

The Director of Mission Integration will be happy to meet with you to investigate funding resources for initiatives that integrate and advance SCU's mission. Contact Margaret M. Higgins at mhiggins@scu.edu.

## **Mission Awards**

The Division of Mission and Ministry offers annual awards to faculty, staff, and students who exemplify the Jesuit values that inspire our mission at SCU. Nominated by their peers and selected by a committee, recipients will be celebrated for their commitment and contribution to Santa Clara University and the wider community beyond campus.

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## **Institutional Reflection: Mission Priority Examen**

Every five years, SCU and the 28 other Jesuit colleges and universities participate in a Mission Priority Examen (MPE). Explore the results of SCU's 2019 MPE, reflect on the seven characteristics of Jesuit higher education, and prepare for SCU's next MPE in 2025.

## **Engage in the Global Jesuit Network**

Establish your network of Jesuit and Catholic educators. Share your work at SCU and learn about mission related initiatives at other institutions:

- The Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
- The International Association of Jesuit Universities
- The Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities

## **Universal Apostolic Preferences**

The Society of Jesus (the Jesuits), in response to the needs of the Church and to seek the universal good and the greater glory of God, have put forth Universal Apostolic Preferences to direct the Society's work in the current decade:

- **To show the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment**
- **To walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice**
- **To accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future**
- **To collaborate in the care of our common home**

## PARTNERS IN MISSION PROGRAMS

You will find opportunities to encounter, explore and engage our Jesuit, Catholic mission throughout campus. Below please find a selection of partners and programs.

- Faculty Development
- Markkula Center for Applied Ethics
- Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship
- HR Management Excellence Series
- Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- Inclusive Excellence
- SCU Jesuit Community
- Engineering with a Mission
- Campus Ministry
- Silicon Valley Executive Center's "Heroic Leadership for All"
- Sustainable SCU: Leading Through Laudato Si'

## A CALL FOR COLLABORATION & PARTICIPATION

We invite you to collaborate with the Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education and participate in programs.

### **For additional information, contact:**

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