



## **Communitas: Ignatian Companions in Student Affairs**

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### **Project Overview:**

The purpose of this project is to orient and educate new staff members in the Division of Student Affairs about the history, traditions and principles that guide our work at a Jesuit institution. There has been much discussion at Loyola Marymount University about what makes Student Affairs at LMU any different than our counterparts at local Los Angeles universities. Through a year long program, consisting of independent study and monthly small group meetings facilitated by Ignatian Colleague Program graduates or other senior level administrators, participants will move through a series of three questions. Who are we (LMU) as a Jesuit university? What do we (Student Affairs) do? What is my role? This program is designed to not only educate the participants, but also immerse, engage and inspire their work at LMU. Existing programming and signature events from the Student Affairs Mission and Identity committee will also be integrated into the experience for the participants. Through participation in the program, staff will increase their body of knowledge regarding Jesuit higher education, build relationships with colleagues in the Division of Student Affairs, and through praxis, will make meaning of their specific work.

### **Project Rationale:**

New staff members come to LMU each year, many with no experience working at a Jesuit university, and there is currently no ongoing new staff development program within the Division of Student Affairs that allows new staff members the opportunity to learn and apply the core elements of the Ignatian tradition in Jesuit higher education to their work.

### **Project Details:**

- Spring 2014 – Create curriculum in partnership with the Student Affairs Mission and Identity Committee and others on campus, recruit small group facilitators
- Fall 2014 – Launch a pilot program as a new opportunity through the Student Affairs Mission and Identity committee
- Summer 2015 – Evaluate program effectiveness to determine continuation

### **Indications of Success:**

Program is launched Fall 2014 for all new staff members in Student Affairs, new staff members develop an understanding and appreciation of the Ignatian tradition and principles and integrate the knowledge into their specific work, and new staff members develop relationships with peers and senior level administrators

### **Challenges:**

Attendance of both small group facilitators and participants, retention of staff members in the program throughout the entire first year of employment, and creation of a culture of support within the supervisors