Finishing my First Semester with InterVarsity

1 message

Katie Gillaspie <Katherine.gillaspie@intervarsity.org>  Wed, Jun 2, 2021 at 11:09 AM

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Praising the Lord for the spring in Valpo

May Flowers

Ministry update from Katie Gillaspie

Wrapping up my first semester of ministry

An Announcement

My internship was originally slated to run through December of 2021, as I started on campus in January. However, the idea of leaving my students halfway through the semester was not sitting well with me. As such, I have extended my time on staff until the end of May 2022 to finish out the year with my kiddos.
End of the Semester

This update is coming in a little late, as the end of the semester was a bit chaotic. The students finished up classes three weeks ago and have all headed home.

The university is requiring students to be vaccinated before returning to school next year. The hope is that with this new requirement in place, there will be more freedom, and the campus may return a bit more to normal.

Also on a more administrative side, our status as a student organization has changed from tier 3 to tier 2, which means a lot for us next year, including on campus storage space (which is great since I live in a small apartment) and more funding from the school to buy things, such as a new sound system for large group!

Small group having a game night towards the end of the semester

Jubilee Worship

With COVID restrictions lightening up towards the end of the year we were able to host two of our large group worship services, known as Jubilee Worship. For the first, the Chaplains Office allowed us to host in the beautiful campus chapel.

The second Jubilee was on a chilly night right outside the student union. We grabbed some hand warmers and some hot chocolate and were able to
singing outside! Being in a well-traveled area on campus and having free coco, we brought in several new faces including some who didn't consider themselves religious. Though we were all cold, we all enjoyed that one best.

The extra fun thing was that the students stuck around afterwards. I try to be the last person at functions, but I had to leave to sleep as they were hanging out at 11:30, a solid hour-and-a-half after we finished. Even at that time they were still going strong as they have missed the opportunities to connect as a community.

Leadership Selection

A big part of the end of the semester was student leadership selection for this upcoming year. The chapter here is newer, and so the student leadership team in the past has been less developed. We added several new roles for the next year and are increasing a focus on chapter unity.

The picture below is only a small portion of our team, but seeing their passion and watching how the Lord has been working in their lives over the last few months has been an absolute joy. I am ecstatic to be working with them!
Formations Pt 2

My second intern class was this month and we were able to attend IN PERSON! I carpooled down to Lafayette with another intern on my area team who is at Purdue Northwest. The three days of class were not only helpful and informative but also rejuvenating to the soul. It was a joy to be with others facing similar challenges and struggles as new staff members.

Summer Transition
So you may be wondering what summer looks like for a campus ministry. Well, there are two main things on the docket.

**June is support-raising.** As a region, all staff throughout Illinois and Indiana are jumping back into ministry partnership development. I will hopefully be reaching out to you all individually soon to reconnect. I am fairly well-funded, so I will also be doing some support-raising for the staff-to-staff fund, which helps underfunded staff from lower income communities.

**The summer is also for planning.** This is a time for thinking and planning everything from discipleship curriculum and new outreach events for the beginning of the semester to conferences and trainings throughout the year.

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**Prayer Requests**

- **Incoming students** - Pray for the LORD to work in the heart of freshman and transfer students as they prepare to come to Valpo.
- **Transfers** - One of our student leaders is transferring after her program was cut. Pray for her transition as well as for us. We will miss her sorely.
- **Preparing** - We are starting to prepare even now for next semester which includes a leadership retreat before the semester begins. Pray the LORD would lead us in this planning.
- **Support-Raising** - I’m going back into support-raising mode. It's something I love! Pray that I will be able to advocate well for my fellow staff who have a harder time raising support.

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