

Seattle University Mission Day

April 7, 2022

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“Looking Forward in Hope”

Vision Statement

We will be one of the most innovative and progressive Jesuit and Catholic universities in the world, educating with excellence at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels.

Topic: From your perspective at the university, what is your hope for how SU can live into our vision to be a progressive and innovative Jesuit Catholic University? What could that look like as we move forward?”

I first want to thank the committee and the administration for coordinating this event and for inviting me onto this panel.

We have been tasked to speak on the theme of “**looking forward in hope**” and to explore the Seattle University Mission and Vision Statement. I have to admit that I was a bit stumped, but in the spirit of Jesuit Learning, I went back to basics – and **Reflected**.

I was trying to look for inspiration to really think about what I should share. Then it occurred to me, why not share about why I decided to apply to Seattle University.

I pursued my undergraduate degree in the University of Nevada, Las Vegas – a totally different school and environment. As I graduated, I was thinking of what my career should be, what my vocation is. I applied to several programs throughout the country, but I happen stumbled upon the Seattle University website and for some reason, I became intrigued with the school. I’ve never been to Seattle before. I do not have family

here, nor do I know anything about the city. I also applied to the university during the onset of COVID-19 pandemic. You could imagine that there were several factors that would prompt me not to apply here, but I oddly became fascinated with what the university is grounded on.

The vision statement of Seattle University proclaims three distinct features: innovative, Jesuit-Catholic, and progressive

1. Innovative:

We are in a unique position as a university. We have spent the past two years in a global pandemic that has affected the lives everyone – it has displaced families, it has caused the loss of loved ones and it has increased the diseases of despair.

Despite these hardships and trials, we have the ability, a calling, to transform our despair into hope, from desolations into consolations.

The university has invested in technological advances and the virtual learning platform to ensure that all students are accommodated in the new era of education. We as a university invested in innovative projects within our local Seattle community to assist families in need of resources and supplies (such as vaccine partnerships and food pantry assistance). We as a university answered the call of the growing demand for post-pandemic assistance by advocating for expansion of mental, physical and emotional health services (through the collaboration of Timely and campus ministry). Our university continues to find innovative modalities to address the needs of our community.

Second, Jesuit-Catholic

Seattle University is rooted and founded on the principles of Jesuit pedagogy and the Catholic Faith. I myself am a devoted Catholic and frequent the sacraments often on campus. The foundations and values I build my life on were influenced greatly by catholic spirituality and reflection. This has always given me a sense of grounding.

A core virtue that this portion of the vision statement addresses is the virtue of humility and self-reflection. This “Jesuit-Catholic” insertion resembles the acknowledgement of our limitations as humans and to build community with each other, regardless of creed, belief and status and to build community. Holding on to our mission and values, we remain vigilant and hopeful for the future that we are creating as a university. Through reflection, dialogue and self-improvement, we can continue the work we have been doing to build the just and humane society we are all committed and bounded to.

Lastly, Progressive:

Rooted in our foundation and our values, our progressive stance focuses on working to institute diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice. This is an opportunity for all of us to build a just and humane society to work for the change of the world, change of the unjust institutions and social structures that exploit the poor and the oppressed and to lead by example. It is an opportunity for us to empower one another to become leaders that are truly working for healing and the uplifting our communities. This is the virtue of hope.

I am inspired by the university’s long-standing innovative, progressive and Jesuit-Catholic tradition and the dedication for social justice and progress. This tradition is emphasized within the curriculum and empowers students to become effective advocates for creating a just and humane world. Our mission now is to identify areas where we can improve and implement this vision into **action**