

STUDENT AFFAIRS

2024 - 25

THE YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS



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WELCOME FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

Dear friends and colleagues,

Once again, I am pleased to present the Student Affairs: The Year in Highlights for the 2024-25 academic year, which is designed to provide a year in review of the activities and collaborations within Student Affairs.

As new executive leadership transitioned into place at Webster, we've been charged to become an institution that is much more data-driven in order to inform decision-making throughout the year. To that end, Student Affairs partnered with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness to participate in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). This national survey collects information about first year and senior students' participation in programs and activities that institutions provide for their learning and personal development. In this report, you will find a section outlining goals that the departments in Student Affairs have set for the year based on the data and insights drawn from the NSSE study. If you'd like to see more about this data itself, you can link to it here: [2024 NSSE Results for Annual Report](#) (link will only work for Webster students, faculty, staff).

Finally, although it could be said about any year, this one has presented challenges unlike any other. Deeply divisive political tensions, active armed conflict, and direct challenges as to how higher education should be fundamentally reformed have caused many schools to make wholesale changes that dissolve core features of their institutional character and identity.

Not Webster.

We maintain and amplify the values that are integral and intrinsic to who we are as an institution. The echo from the Sisters of Loretto, who founded Webster as Loretto College in 1915, reminds us that their founding mission was rooted in education and working for justice. One hundred and ten years later,

Webster is a vibrant community that continues to deliver on their legacy as a place and space that embraces diversity, equity and inclusion.

We are honored and grateful to be part of a university community that knows who they are.

Sincerely,



John Buck, D.Mgt.

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students



STUDENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENTS

DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

- Dr. John Buck, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students
- Dr. Colette Cummings, Associate Dean of Students | Director of Multicultural Center and International Student Affairs
- Brendon Spencer, Coordinator, Dean of Students Operations



The Dean of Students Office, sometimes referred to as Student Affairs, supervises all Student Affairs units. Our office works with student government; promotes student advocacy; develops and maintains student policies; coordinates undergraduate tuition adjustments; coordinates the emergency loan program; coordinates the Money for Textbooks program; creates and distributes the Gorlok Gazette weekly newsletter for students; and provides ombudsman-type services to students and other university constituents.

CAREER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

- Kerry Lee, Interim Director, Career Planning and Development Center
- Cassie Pinaire, Assistant Director, Career Development, Career Planning and Development Center



The Career Planning & Development Center (CPDC) assists students with exploring and defining their personal career goals while developing the skills and confidence necessary to succeed. Handshake, the university's online career management and recruiting platform, allows students to apply for jobs on-and off-campus, register for CPDC and employer events, and schedule in-person or virtual career coaching appointments. Career coaching appointments cover topics such as discussing internship and job search strategies, practicing interviewing skills, learning how to enhance resume and cover letters, and exploring majors and careers. Guides and resources are available on common career topics on the CPDC Connections page. The CPDC plans career development programs and presentations throughout the year.

COUNSELING AND LIFE DEVELOPMENT AND STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

- Dr. Patrick Stack, Director, Counseling and Life Development
- Samantha Sasek, Assistant Director, Counseling and Life Development



Counseling and Life Development provides individual and group counseling services to all current Webster University students, faculty and staff. Individuals experiencing personal issues interfering with their success at Webster University or beyond can contact the department for support. All services are confidential, and treatment is free of charge.

The Student Health Services Department is a nurse-directed clinic staffed by a Registered Nurse. The Registered Nurse provides acute triage for minor illness and injuries and will assist with physician referral as needed. All services are confidential, and treatment is free of charge. This office also manages the Webster University Student Health Insurance Plan, required for international students on F-1 or J-1 visa status attending Webster University in the United States.

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

- Billy Ratz, Director, First-Year Experience and Family Programs



The mission of the Office of First-Year Experience & Family Programs is to provide resources, services, and programs for first-year students and family members of undergraduate students that promote student success. Programs include Orientation (fall, spring, online), Peer Mentors, Learning Communities, Cornerstone Cup, Family Orientation, family events, family volunteers, and the Webster Family Communication Portal.

GORLOKS AWARE

- Baylynd Porter, Program Director, Gorloks Aware



Gorloks Aware is a collaborative program focused on the prevention and response of dating and domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking on the Webster University main campus. The program is funded through a federal grant from the Department of Justice. Gorloks Aware has supported the institution in creating a Coordinated Community Response Team that is made up of on and off-campus partners from several departments who work together to organize prevention and support efforts for students, staff, and faculty. Gorloks Aware trains incoming students in bystander intervention and prevention, organizes collaborative programming to engage students in conversation regarding interpersonal violence, strengthens community partnerships, and promotes trauma-informed responses to situations of harm.

HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL LIFE

- Rachael Amick, Director, Housing and Residential Life
- Haley Mitacek, Community Director for Housing Operations, Housing and Residential Life
- Kayleigh Estep, Community Director for Apartments, Housing and Residential Life
- Eli Woods, Community Director for Residence Halls, Housing and Residential Life



The Housing and Residential Life (HRL) Office is dedicated to supporting the approximately 850 students who live in Webster owned and operated housing facilities. This includes West Hall, East Hall, Maria Hall, Schultz Hall at Eden, the Webster Village Apartments (WVA), and the Big Bend Apartments. HRL strives to create a community that provides a student-centered learning environment that supports our expectation of academic achievement and personal development, and balances student satisfaction and growth. HRL hosts over 300 events per year and responds to

student-specific crisis 24/7/365 that range from roommate concerns to floods to mental health issues. While they do not oversee off-campus housing, they do provide resources through the EDUrain off-campus search platform. Staffing includes a Director, three Community Directors that oversee specific areas, and 24 Resident Assistants (with each student having a direct connection to an RA). During the day there are Office Assistants who answer questions and run a mailroom, and in the evening Desk Assistants to help with safety and security at the entrance of residence halls.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LIFE

- Dr. Fawn Ponzar, Assistant Director, International Student Life



The Department of International Student Life (ISL) consists of an Assistant Director and the International Peer Mentors. The role of ISL is to coordinate and communicate arrival information to new international students; plan and orchestrate welcome events; add students to and monitor their completion of the online orientation course; help students find necessary resources when in the United States; help connect students to the appropriate department(s) to resolve issues and questions; and to help plan and notify students of campus events and programs of interest.

MULTICULTURAL CENTER AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AFFAIRS

- Dr. Colette Cummings, Associate Dean of Students | Director of Multicultural Center and International Student Affairs
- Onyeka Igboanuzue, Graduate Assistant, Multicultural Center and International Student Affairs



The Multicultural Center and International Student Affairs (MCISA) is committed to creating an academic environment that embraces social diversity, globalism, and cross-cultural interaction in the classrooms and within the campus community. The MCISA provides services and special programs that address the academic, social, and individual needs of all students, focusing primarily on cultural minorities and some specific services for international students. The department advises most of the cultural clubs and organizations on campus.





OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- Jennifer Stewart, Director, Office of Student Engagement



The Office of Student Engagement creates opportunities, encourages involvement and fosters community at Webster University. Through programs and leadership opportunities, students gain valuable experiences which complement their academic goals and support growth as global citizens.

There are three primary programming groups within the Office of Student Engagement:

- **Campus Activities:** engages Webster University students to foster a meaningful campus social life through large-scale events and activities. Campus Activities events include programs such as Welcome Week, the Involvement Fair, Headliner Speakers, Crafternoons, Casino Night and the Spirit Formal among others.
- **Student Government Association (SGA):** serves as the representative body for students at the Webster Groves campus. SGA advocates on behalf of students in university affairs, charters and funds student organizations, supports student organization leadership, and funds large-scale organization events and student trips.
- **WebsterVOTES:** provides the global campus population with voter registration, voter education and democratic engagement programs. WebsterVOTES also serves as a clearinghouse and centralized voice in promoting voter education efforts throughout the campus network. We aim particularly to collaborate with experts in academic departments to integrate with opportunities provided in the classroom setting.

UNIVERSITY CENTER

- Katherine Knetzer, Director, University Center
- Joshua Perreault, Assistant Director, University Center



Known as the “living room of the University,” the University Center (UC) is the place to meet with friends, eat, attend events, watch the Gorloks in action, study, hang out, exercise, and swim. We house an Information Center, which is staffed by Student Building Managers who are trained to help University Center patrons with anything and everything; in addition, the Student Building Managers maintain the meeting rooms of the UC and can assist with room setups and AV needs for scheduled events. We also manage the swimming pool, which includes a 6-lane lap pool and a sauna. The Wilkinson Fitness Center offers free-weights, weight machines, and various cardio equipment to enhance a student’s physical health. Current students, faculty, and staff can use the pool and fitness center for free during open hours by showing their current Webster ID card.

WEBSTERLEADS

- Jennifer Stewart, Director, WebsterLEADS



For over 25 years, WebsterLEADS has engaged students in an on-going application of scholarship and practical leadership experiences that develop a foundation from which they will change the world. LEADS is an acronym that stands for “Learn Evolve Apply Develop and Serve”. This is used to encompass everything a student will participate in and gain during the program. WebsterLEADS engages students at the Athens, Geneva, Leiden, Vienna and Webster Groves campuses.

HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL LIFE

847

total residents (585 domestic, 262 international) in the fall semester (104% full)

759

total residents (555 domestic, 204 international) in the spring semester (93% full)

40

tripled rooms, 16 additional apartment spaces rented from Garden Avenue

Fewer than

2%

of students requested a room change in fall or spring semester

306

events hosted by housing staff and student leaders

RAs logged

3,227

formal conversations with their residents

581

incident reports were submitted by housing staff

(each incident report represents an issue of some sort that staff had to respond to or needed to be aware of so it could be followed up on; this includes Health & Safety violations where staff removed any potential health and safety concerns from rooms, students of concern cases where staff met and discussed resources, policy violations where professional staff met with students to discuss the policy and community impact)

DINING SERVICES

574

fall meal plan holders (13% increase from Fall 2024)

486

spring meal plan holders

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

13,048

messages sent to mentees from peer mentors through Starfish in Fall 2024 (81% increase compared to Fall 2023)

559

messages sent to mentees from peer mentors through Starfish in Spring 2025 (33% increase compared to Spring 2024)

532

in attendance at Fall 2024 Orientation (26% increase compared to Fall 2023)

180

students completed Fall Online Orientation

99

events during inaugural year of Cornerstone Cup program to promote first-year student involvement and use of campus resources

332,000

emails went out to current families, with a 44% average open rate (17% increase from last year)

CAREER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

4,426

completed appointments (13.5% increase compared to last year; the majority of appointments were with master's students in the Walker School of Business & Technology)

3,351

Handshake resume reviews (9% increase compared to last year)

In post-appointment surveys, out of 33 respondents to the question "My career advisor provided helpful information and resources,"

100%

strongly agreed

88

programs and presentations with a combined attendance of over 2600; significant increase over last year's 50+ events with 1200+ attendees

1,764

views of YouTube videos of recorded programs

408

students and alumni attended the 2024 Career Fair

MCISA

Over

1,000

students attended MCISA programs and excursions

BY THE NUMBERS

GORLOKS AWARE

Gorloks Aware increased the number of Green Dot bystander intervention training facilitators from **2 to 15**

Over **95** students stopped by Gorloks Asks tables that test students' knowledge of campus resources, power-based violence, stalking, and bystander intervention

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

6,423 total attendance at Campus Activities programs (58% increase over the previous year)

63 Campus Activities events (50% increase over the previous year)

450 attendees at Fall Involvement Fair; 400 attendees at Spring Involvement Fair

WEBSTERLEADS

20 students earned WebsterLEADS certificates at the Webster Groves campus; 6 were completed with International Distinction

SGA

Student Grant Fund distributed a total of **\$20,805.53** to 129 students attending 15 different educational programs (72% increase in overall financial support serving 10% more students than the previous year)

61 total student organizations in Fall 2024 (57 returning, 4 new)

52 total student organizations in Spring 2025 (49 returning, 3 new)

587 ballots cast in Fall 2024 SGA elections (487% increase in voters over Fall 2023)

703 ballots cast in Spring 2025 SGA elections (75% increase in voters over Spring 2024)

WEBSTERVOTES

189 voter registrations completed via branded Webster University All-In Campus Portal

815 total event attendance

27 total events

150 students and 75 faculty/staff direct engagement through classroom visits and departmental events

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

Over **3,500** international students enrolled in student health insurance

UNIVERSITY CENTER

1,294 bike share checkouts in the UC, up 69% from last year; there were 314 individual bike share users, up 50%

146 community memberships to the UC pool and fitness center, up 18% from last year

1,550 individual student fitness center users, up 23% from last year

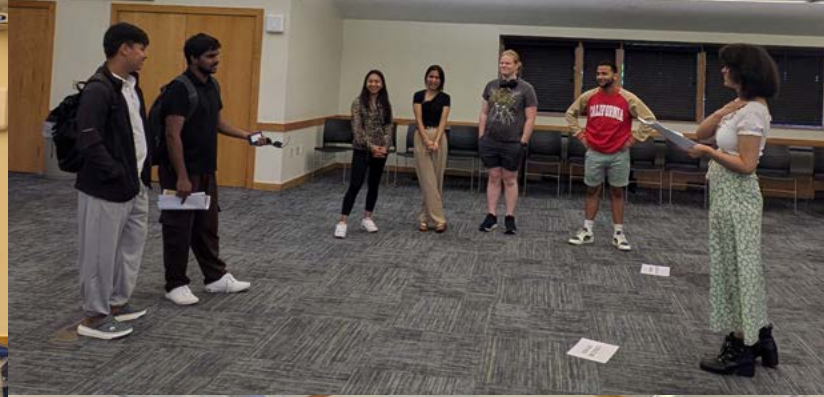
480 individual student pool users, up 4% from last year

DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

24 students received emergency loans for a total of \$12,000

20 students received emergency grants for a total of \$14,090

78 students participating in assessments and development sessions for Toolkit for Success program, earning average scores of proficient on all 16 student learning outcomes



GORLOKS AWARE

Gorloks Aware is a violence prevention program at Webster University. It is aimed at raising awareness and preventing domestic and dating abuse, sexual abuse, and stalking by creating a proactive culture in which we all do our part to create an anti-violence culture. Webster University received the initial grant for Gorloks Aware in October 2020 from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). The OVW Campus Prevention grant program was created by Congress in recognition of the unique issues and challenges that colleges and universities face in preventing and responding to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. The nearly \$300,000 grant was set to support a program that ran for three years, and Webster received a 16-month extension that kept the program in place through January 2025. Several goals were accomplished during this original grant period, including the implementation of the Start by Believing campaign that aims to shift the culture around interpersonal violence. This gives all faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to take the pledge to believe survivors and sign a poster that can be seen in offices, classrooms, and dorms around campus. Gorloks Aware also **collaborated with Brothers Empowered, an organization that focuses on the cultivation and growth of people of color, to create the Gentleman's Club.** This is a series program that discusses masculinity, relationships, respect, and removing the stigma in getting services for male survivors. The Gentleman's Club received Webster's Program of the Year in 2024.

Not only has Gorloks Aware created great programs that have given students more resources and education about interpersonal violence prevention, but **more staff and students have requested Green Dot bystander intervention training.** The number of staff who are now Green Dot Certified Facilitators on campus increased from 2 to 15 in the past year.

Due to the work done by Gorloks Aware, the **Department of Justice selected Webster University for a continuation grant of three more years and \$400,000.** With this grant, Gorloks Aware plans on creating better long term support services in collaboration with Counseling and Life Development, starting an Engaging Men Workshop Series on campus that will focus on the myths and misconceptions about the reporting process, and much more. Over the course of the next three years, Gorloks Aware will continue the popular programming and trainings that Webster has already been invested in since the first cycle of the grant, with the addition of new goals to strengthen the campus community and reduce interpersonal violence at Webster.

The Coordinated Community Response Team have worked hard to participate in trainings, collaborate on programming, and support the mission of Gorloks Aware. These efforts are led by Project Director, Baylynd Porter, and many Webster University staff members from Public Safety, the Office for Civil Rights Compliance, Multicultural Center and International Student Affairs, Housing and Residential Life, Counseling and Life Development, the University Center and the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. Off-campus partners include Safe Connections, ALIVE, Webster Groves Police Department, and DeafLEAD.

GLOBAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

In May 2025, a group of 23 undergraduate student leaders from across the Webster global network gathered at the Webster Geneva campus for the 2025 Global Student Leadership Summit (GSLS). This leadership development experience, presented in partnership with the Gleich Honors College, offered students the opportunity to build cross-cultural leadership skills, expand their global perspectives and collaborate with peers across continents.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Webster alumnus and Board of Trustees member Alan Elliott Merschen, the GSLS was fully funded for all selected participants.

The 2025 cohort included students from seven Webster campuses: Athens, Geneva, Leiden, Tashkent, Tbilisi, Vienna and Webster Groves. During the spring semester, participants completed a 16-week online course that introduced them to Kouzes and Posner's Leadership Practices Inventory (LPI) and allowed them to explore critical global issues such as mental health, financial instability, environmental sustainability, artificial intelligence use, and inequity in access to resources. Students engaged with business leaders and faculty experts to deepen their understanding and prepare for the in-person experience in Geneva.

While in Geneva, students:

- Focused each day on one of the five LPI leadership practices.
- Participated in experiential, team-based exercises that explored leadership through multiple cultural and ethical lenses.
- Collaborated in mixed-campus teams to address leadership case studies.
- Visited international organizations such as the Red Cross Museum and Espace Tourbillon, gaining insight into social impact work in action.
- Reflected on their growth and learning while building deep connections across campuses and cultures.

During the summit, students worked in campus-based teams to plan Global Ambassador initiatives they will implement at their home campuses to further Webster's global mission in partnership with the Fall 2025 International Education Week. Through this role, they'll share what they've learned and lead conversations and projects focused on the critical issues they explored during the summit.

The GSLS is a transformational experience designed to empower students to lead with purpose and create change both locally and globally. The coordination of the GSLS required the collaboration of several campus departments, both domestic and international.

From the Webster Groves campus, the following individuals participated in the planning committees:

- John Buck, D. Mgt., Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
- Katie Knetzer, Director, University Center
- Jennifer Stewart, Director, Office of Student Engagement
- Emily Thompson, Director of Gleich Honors College, Professor of French and Global Studies
- Holly Hubenschmidt, Director of Library Instruction & Research Services
- Kate Sprague, Instructional Design Support and Training Coordinator for Online Learning Services

In addition, the following Geneva faculty and staff provided significant logistical and curricular support:

- Dounia El Jaouhari, Student Services Manager
- Lucélia Malengue, Events Coordinator
- Selina Brú, Housing Coordinator
- Eric Click, PhD, Academic Director, Head of European Academic Operations
- Héloïse Sauty De Chalon, External Relations Director
- Ryan Guffey, PhD, Executive Vice President of Webster International
- Michel Pollak, Human Resources Director



STUDENT FEATURE

MUAZUDDIN MOHAMMED

The 2024–2025 academic year was one of tremendous growth, both personally and as a student leader. I stepped into roles and experiences that helped me see how much impact we can make when we show up, roll up our sleeves, and care.

WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE YOU INVOLVED IN AT WEBSTER OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM?

In Fall 2024, I was grateful to be part of a group of international students selected for a listening session with Mayor Tishaura Jones of St. Louis City. We discussed key issues like improving housing around campus, public transportation, internship access for CPT/OPT students, and building a safer community. That moment reinforced that even student voices can influence real change.

On campus, I served as Vice President of the Computer Science Club and President of the Muslim Student Association. Through the CSC, I competed in ICPC Mid-Central Regionals and PickHACKS at Missouri S&T, where my team won Best Voted Project. We hosted Webster's first Hackathon and Student Tech Expo, providing spaces for students to collaborate, learn, and just enjoy tech together.

With the MSA, we held Webster's first Jumu'ah prayer and our Annual Potluck Iftar during Ramadan. We raised awareness about Halal food, Hijab, Ramadan, and the Genocide in Palestine. Hosting halal lunches gave students a space to share meals and meaningful dialogue.

Outside of these roles, I continued designing marketing materials for Campus Activities events and, as a marketing intern for Enrollment Management, collaborated with the Global Marketing & Communications Department to produce social content that reflected student life at Webster.

At the end of the academic year, I was honored with the Making a Difference Award and selected to be part of the 2025 cohort for the Global Student Leadership Summit. I'm excited to keep building

on my leadership journey through the WebsterLEADS Certification Program.

CAN YOU SHARE ONE OR TWO MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES FROM THOSE ACTIVITIES THAT REALLY STOOD OUT TO YOU?

Just two days before our Student Tech Expo, a student confided that they weren't sure their project would be ready on time. I encouraged them to present anyway, emphasizing that the event was about the journey, the lessons learned, and their problem-solving efforts. They went on to present a working prototype that received plenty of praise. Watching that transformation unfold and knowing I played a small role in it was incredibly fulfilling. It reminded me that these activities are about resilience and growth, not perfection.

WHAT SKILLS HAVE YOU DEVELOPED THROUGH YOUR INVOLVEMENT ON CAMPUS THAT YOU THINK WILL HELP YOU IN YOUR FUTURE CAREER OR LIFE IN GENERAL?

All these moments developed my ability to lead, to collaborate, and to juggle multiple responsibilities. I've come to deeply appreciate good leadership, knowing how powerful a team can be when it works with intention and trust. These skills will surely help me in my future career and life in general.

HOW HAS YOUR INVOLVEMENT SHAPED YOUR EXPERIENCE AT WEBSTER?

I wasn't involved at all during my first semester. I just studied, worked, and slept. Honestly, I felt disconnected. But once I broke out of that shell, everything shifted. Campus involvement gave me purpose, connection, and a sense of belonging. It became just as valuable as my academics. It gave depth to my university experience, made my days more meaningful, and empowered me to grow beyond the classroom. It didn't just fill my calendar; it filled my heart with purpose.



WELLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH

Counseling and Life Development (CLD) and Student Health Services (SHS) encourage students to embrace a wellness lifestyle. Wellness means creating a balance in six areas of a person's life: intellectual, emotional, social, occupational or vocational, physical, and spiritual. The CLD staff of licensed mental health professionals who are Missouri State Approved Supervisors along with their interns/externs meet the needs of students. An intern is an enrolled graduate student at the master's or doctoral-level clinician. An extern has graduated at the master's or doctoral level and has been approved by the Missouri State Licensing Board for post-graduate supervision required for licensure. Each intern/extern receives weekly supervision, participates in weekly staffing and provides a case presentation each semester.

This past year:

- 223 students were served in individual counseling, representing 3.5% of the 7668 enrolled students at the Webster Groves campus
- The DBT group served 16 students. This group covers four primary sets of modules (mindfulness, distress tolerance, emotional regulation and interpersonal effectiveness). The DBT group is a 12-week closed group, offered each semester.
- The Trans Support group is an open group, meeting each week of the school year; 23 students have attended one or more of the group meetings. In addition, there is an active and engaging Trans Discord online.
- The Homesickness group was not well attended this year with only two students participating. Beginning in the fall, the Homesickness group will take place in the residential halls.
- Mental health presentations and trainings were provided to 16 student organizations, 10 sections of Webster 101, and 26 sections of Cornerstone classes.



Togetherall and Protocol are two new programs that have made a significant positive impact.

Togetherall is a peer-to-peer mental health support community which is available online, 24/7, and is completely anonymous so students can express themselves freely and openly. Licensed and registered mental health practitioners, called Wall Guides, monitor the community to ensure the safety and anonymity of all members. From June 2024 to May 2025:

- A total of 469 students have registered for Togetherall worldwide.
- 90% of those students report not engaging with mental health support on campus.
- 72% are not engaged with any formal mental health support.
- 19% report having no support at all.
- 33% were graduate students.
- The total number of activities completed by students to date is 7,032. They were engaged using Togetherall's numerous services, such as posting or commenting on a thread, completing self-assessments, or taking a self-directed course rooted in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy on a topic of interest related to mental health. This indicates that students are not only creating accounts, but also engaging with the platform. 56% of these activities took place after normal business hours.
- Top 5 themes reported by Togetherall on Webster students: anxiety, depression, loneliness, stress, student experience.

Togetherall Survey Outcomes:

- 81% of Webster students report finding the community helpful.
- 63% of Webster students report that their mental health is poor or very poor.
- According to surveys from Togetherall, 20% of students report that the platform helps them stay enrolled.

Protocol is a crisis response service that provides a 24/7 connection to a licensed mental health professional.

- 63 students used the service.
- 45 students spoke with a licensed mental health clinician.
- 17 students abandoned the call before 30 seconds.
- 1 student abandoned the call after 30 seconds.

STUDENT SUCCESS PORTAL

The Student Success portal, also known as Starfish, allows faculty/staff to post a concern about a student's emotional or mental health.

- There were 174 referrals to the portal. All referrals are contacted by either the CLD director or assistant director.
- 34 were domestic students, of which 18 responded to our outreach.
- 140 were international students, of which 22 responded to our outreach.
- Student Health Services served 110 students.

COUNSELING AND LIFE DEVELOPMENT APPOINTMENTS DATA

NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS PER CLIENT BY RANGE	NO. OF CLIENTS	% OF CLIENTS
1-5 appointments	119	53.3
6-10 appointments	44	19.7
11-15 appointments	28	12.6
16-20 appointments	12	5.4
21+ appointments	20	9.0

MENTAL HEALTH PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

- Nurse Anesthesia Program
- NCAA Athletics
- RA Training
- Webster 101 (10 sections)
- Cornerstone (26 sections)
- University Center student employees
- College of Science and Health (CSH) faculty plenary meeting
- TAP program
- Student Peer Mentors
- Family Orientation
- Toolkit for Success
- MCISA Movie Night
- Academic Advisors (undg and grad)
- Division of Student Success
- Admitted Student Day



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

3,000

international students for the 2024-2025 academic year

500

new international students in the Spring 2025 semester (380 graduate and 120 undergraduate)

836

new international students in the Fall 2024 semester (558 graduate and 278 undergraduate)

51

new international graduate students in the Summer 2025 semester

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT

With such a large influx of new international students in the 2024-2025 academic year, a need for a more robust support system was identified. International Peer Mentor staff increased from three students at the end of the 2023-2024 year to ten students for the new year. Seven graduate students and three undergraduate students were brought on board to serve in this capacity. The roles of the International Peer Mentors are important for a successful transition to life at Webster University and in the United States. Mentors are randomly assigned to new students based on their level of study. From the first week, the mentors send communications to the new students, introducing themselves and how they can help. The International Peer Mentors also met the newly arriving students at Lambert St. Louis International Airport and helped to coordinate travel to campus. Mentors are essential to the welcome events on campus: staffing a table to greet guests and providing SIM cards, directions, guidance, and informational documents regarding important campus offices and grocery store and food

locations. The International Peer Mentors are easily identifiable at the airport and on campus, as they were issued official Webster University staff shirts and name tags. The department also introduced a new method of transportation from the airport to campus for new international students using scheduled rides through Uber, providing expedient and individualized service.

ACCLIMATING TO CAMPUS

In addition to increasing the International Peer Mentor staff, the welcome events on campus were reimagined in 2024-2025, with hopes to make the experience more engaging and enjoyable. We enroll new international students in an online orientation course through Canvas once they have been enrolled in classes. The purpose of this orientation is to provide basic information about the university, paying their student fees, understanding their degree requirements, remaining in visa compliance, etc. This essential information can be revisited at any time.





WELCOME PARTY

In addition to the online orientation, students are invited to welcome events on campus. In August, to kick off a new school year, we held a New International Student Welcome Party. This event brought many campus departments and off-campus resources together on the University Center Quad. Students were able to open a U.S. bank account, pick up a free SIM card, inquire about their student fees, and mingle with other newly arriving students. International Student Life also catered the event with international foods, like samosas and eggrolls, and offered vegetarian and halal options. A DJ was set up outside playing popular Indian and Pakistani music. Yard games, photo opportunities, and the Kona Ice truck were onsite as well. In October, January, March, and May, students were invited to a Resource Fair that once again brought together several campus departments and off-campus resources in one location for student convenience.

COLLABORATIONS

The Office of International Student Life also worked closely with International Admissions and Recruitment to create a detailed and timely communication plan for students' pre-arrival plans. Besides the email requesting students to send their passport-style photo for advanced printing of their student ID, students are also sent information on how to get their U.S. phone number before they travel; required vaccination, medical records, and health insurance enrollment; setting up a U.S. bank account; campus organizations; and more.

NEW DINING VENDOR



Throughout 2024-2025, Student Affairs coordinated the process of selecting a new dining vendor to start July 1, 2025. In Fall 2024, Webster University selected JGL Consulting (a food service and retail consulting firm) to run a dining vendor bid process. A team of campus representatives was also selected to review all bids, including members from Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management, Athletics, Finance, and SGA.

PROCESS

JGL Consultants completed a comprehensive review of the current dining options on campus, including reviewing feedback forms, financial operating statements, an in-depth campus visit and two days of focus groups with different student populations and staff representatives. JGL Consultants then wrote a Request for Proposal (RFP), contacted vendors and hosted an on-site bid meeting and campus tour with six vendors, followed by individual vendor meetings.

Four vendors submitted bids. These vendors were reviewed by the dining vendor selection committee, reference checked by JGL, and invited on campus for finalist presentations. The committee unanimously selected two top vendors, and after a final review to confirm high standards and outcomes for both experience and financial alignment/viability, a top vendor was identified.

AMERICAN DINING CREATIONS SELECTED

American Dining Creations (ADC) was selected as Webster's new dining provider. ADC is best known for fresh, chef-driven culinary programs and exceptional service. With a strong commitment to quality, sustainability and innovation, ADC will bring personalized experiences that can cater to Webster's diverse campus population and dietary needs and be a true partner in building Webster's strong sense of community and belonging. Over Summer 2025, ADC has started their transition with many expected improvements: more technology solutions to improve efficiency, increased quality and focus on customer service and staff training, and a revisioning of the dining menus and options on campus. Students and staff can expect to see a fully halal station, plant forward and allergen friendly focus, globally inspired menus, and a variety of comfort foods for everyone for Fall 2025. 2025-2026 will be a year of assessing, with potential for larger changes (such as meal plan restructures or larger-scale improvements) in 2026-2027 after more in-depth benchmarking and feedback can be collected.

VIBRANT CAMPUS LIFE

Throughout the year, Campus Activities, MCISA, student organizations, and the Student Government Association collaborated to offer a vibrant array of social, cultural, and educational programs that fostered connection, involvement, and campus spirit.

A newly introduced program, **Cultural Trivia** combined knowledge of a wide range of global traditions and encouraged students to engage with diverse cultural facts in a fun and interactive format. The event successfully promoted cross-cultural learning and peer collaboration.

The annual **Women's Breakfast Social** provided a welcoming space for women across campus to connect, share experiences, and build networks of support. The event featured Webster Alumni from three different generations and facilitated conversations around leadership, gender roles in the workplace, and empowerment.

A multi-part **Immigration Workshop Series** brought together students, faculty, and community members to explore the complexities of immigration through personal narratives, and immigration experts. The forums created a platform for students to gather, acquire updated information, and learn best practices.

Casino Night continued to be a highly anticipated and successful program with 580 attendees this year.

Campus Activities shifted to a much more traditional "**Welcome Week**" set of programs for the Spring 2025 semester. The increased attendance at the **Spring Involvement Fair** and the success of events like **Speed Friending** garnered a lot of positive feedback from students, parents and staff.

Cultural organizations were a standout part of campus life in 2024-2025. Groups such as **Sangam** (Indian and Desi student organization), **Sinolink** (Chinese student organization), **MSA** (Muslim Student Association), and **LAHSO** (Latin American and Hispanic Student Organization) enriched the community through cultural celebrations, food demonstrations, academic partnerships, and events that celebrated the diversity of our student body.

This year, **SGA Senators** focused on strengthening collaboration with their academic deans. Through monthly meetings with the deans of each school and college, senators built meaningful connections to better support their peers—improving communication, streamlining processes, and ensuring more consistent reporting.





STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

LEARNING HAPPENS EVERYWHERE

Office of Institutional Effectiveness
Staff
Mary Baken
Holly Hubenschmidt
Anne Geraghty-Rathert

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Emma Terris
Husna Fatima
Pratima Khatri
Doniyor Kadirov
Tee Coffman
Divyam Arora
Muazuddin Mohammed
Julia Meade
Stacey Vilsaint
Oriana Foster
Aaron Kayser
Hailey Ruiz-Nuve
Aiden Clayburn
Grant Williamson
Danny Nusinovic

STUDENT EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

Evelyn Weaver
Katie Droney-Northcott

SGA OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

Freshman: Will Kinsella
Sophomore: Maddy Griffin
Junior: Ashley Caravello

STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISOR OF THE YEAR

Jennifer Stewart

OUTSTANDING NEW STUDENT ORGANIZATION

SinoLink

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO CAMPUS SOCIAL LIFE

Sangam

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO CULTURAL AWARENESS

Delta Phi Epsilon

PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

WebsterVOTES

STUDENT ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

LAHSO – Latin American and Hispanic Student Organization

OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP OF A STUDENT ORGANIZATION

Ariana Lapentti

MARK GOVONI EMERGING LEADER AWARD

Pranistha Upadhyaya

JACQUELINE GRENNAN WEXLER AWARD FOR HUMANITARIANISM AND SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Marianthe Meyer

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SGA

Eliana Madalena

“I’M THE FIRST” TED HOEF AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Tori Meyers

CAMPUS LIFE AWARD

Brian Rubin

CAMPUS VOICE AWARD

Matthew Langston

GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARD

Inmaculada Cepeda De La Cruz

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT

Goutham Adulapuri

CAPSTONE LEADERSHIP AWARD

Abigail Banholzer

GEORGE HERBERT WALKER III AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP

Milan Henline

STUDENT FEATURE

EVIE WEAVER

WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE YOU INVOLVED IN AT WEBSTER OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM?

For On-Campus work, I am a student assistant at the Career Planning and Development Center, an Orientation Leader, and I am also a Senior TAP Leader for the TAP program with the REEG. I was also a part of the Webster LEADS program, where I received my leadership certificate. I am also a costume design major in the Conservatory.

CAN YOU SHARE ONE OR TWO MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES FROM THOSE ACTIVITIES THAT REALLY STOOD OUT TO YOU?

In my role as a TAP leader, I was able to help students transition from high school to college. I enjoyed creating activities for the students alongside my other TAP leaders. We were able to do hide and seek in the Sverdrup building, karaoke, movie nights, and game nights. Being able to set up all these activities and watching the students get more comfortable with each other and Webster was super rewarding. As a Senior, it's even more important to me now to make sure that students entering Webster have the same amazing experience I was able to have.

Another memorable experience was working at the Career Center. One of the first flyers I ever made in my sophomore year was advertising an internship at a gaming company that wanted Webster students to apply. I made the flyer and hung it around campus with not too much thought. This year, I was doing LinkedIn research. This is where I research recent graduates to see where they are working. And I found the student who got the internship and they are now employed full-time at the company. It made me really happy that hopefully my flyer was a small part of a fellow student's career journey!

WHAT SKILLS HAVE YOU DEVELOPED THROUGH YOUR INVOLVEMENT ON CAMPUS THAT YOU THINK WILL HELP YOU IN YOUR FUTURE CAREER OR LIFE IN GENERAL?

I am about to enter my third year working with the CPDC. I feel so thankful to have really found my place on campus and a job that lets me help students and also allows for growth in my responsibilities. Thanks to Kerry Lee, my supervisor, I have been able to take on more responsibility in my role. I started mainly doing resume reviews and answering emails, but now in my 3rd year, I am managing the social media, making flyers for programming, and representing our department at events! My job at the CPDC has shown me all I can do and has helped me develop immensely as a young professional. I've grown not only in what I can do, but in my confidence that I can do it as well!

HOW HAS YOUR INVOLVEMENT SHAPED YOUR EXPERIENCE AT WEBSTER?

I feel that since I am in conservatory and our class schedule can be rigorous and a little isolating from campus, I really owe my traditional college experience to involvement. Especially my student employment opportunities that have let me meet students I otherwise would have never interacted with. Webster makes it really easy to be involved, so it hasn't been too hard to get out there. I am still so glad I have been able to work here and build a connection not only with my peers, but with the amazing staff that also works here! I feel Webster student affairs is a family within itself, and I'm so thankful to have met so many amazing people!



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

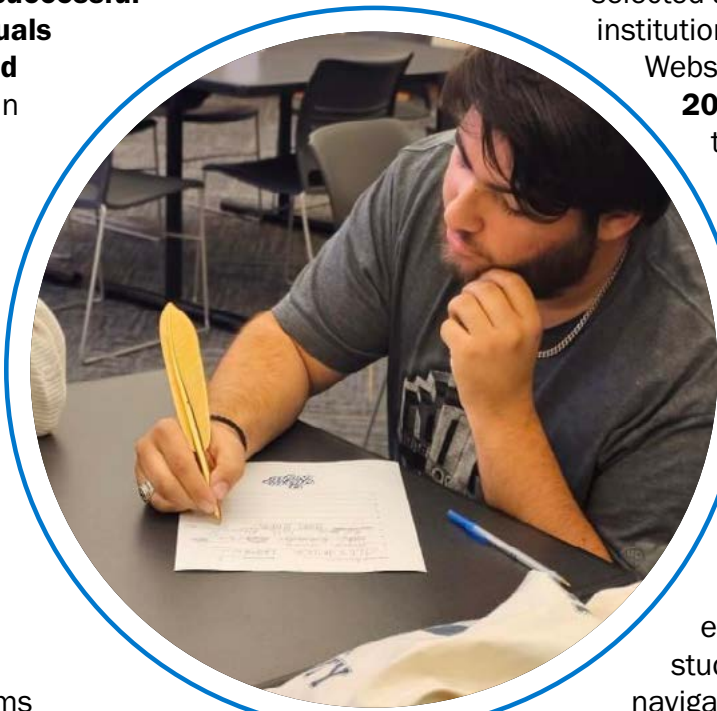
In 2024-2025, WebsterVOTES achieved major milestones in promoting voter engagement and civic participation across campus. Through a combination of strategic programming, strong campus partnerships, and grassroots outreach, the initiative demonstrated Webster University's ongoing commitment to empowering students as informed, active participants in the democratic process.

Throughout the 2024 election season, WebsterVOTES facilitated impactful voter registration and education efforts. **A key achievement was the successful registration of 169 individuals through our newly launched voter registration portal**—an impressive figure given that access to the portal began just four weeks before the voter registration deadline. Many more students registered through in-person events and external resources, underscoring the reach of our efforts.

WebsterVOTES also hosted **27 campus events during the Fall 2024 semester, drawing over 800 student participants.** These programs included voter education workshops, themed tabling events, debate watch parties, and civic engagement fairs. Additionally, early voting was made more accessible for students residing in both St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis through targeted partnerships with local election officials and community organizations.

Beyond events, WebsterVOTES staff **engaged 150 students through classroom visits and connected with 75 faculty and staff through departmental meetings and collaborative sessions.** These interactions helped integrate voter engagement into

academic life and fostered deeper campus-wide support. Informal polling on social media and in-person events provided real-time feedback, which was used to improve programming and expand partnerships throughout the election cycle.



Webster's commitment to civic responsibility was further recognized through several national honors. The university was **redesignated as a Voter Friendly Campus for 2025–2026**, and our All-In Campus Democracy Challenge reports were selected as Model Reports for peer institutions nationwide. Additionally, WebsterVOTES **received a 2025–2026 Ask Every Student grant** to support voter engagement programming in the upcoming election cycle.

At the heart of these efforts is a strong campus coalition—including faculty, staff, and student organizations—that works year-round to promote access to civic resources. This coalition also ensures outreach to students studying abroad, commuting, or navigating nontraditional schedules.

In alignment with Webster University's mission, WebsterVOTES embraces and supports the diversity of our student body—including a large international population—by fostering inclusive, culturally aware programming.

By prioritizing civic education and student empowerment, **WebsterVOTES reinforces Webster University's foundational**

values of respect, inclusion, and leadership. Our efforts not only help students register and vote—they create space for our community to engage meaningfully in the democratic process and prepare the next generation of civic leaders.





LOOKING FORWARD

In the 2023-2024 academic year, Student Affairs partnered with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OIE) to conduct the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) with Webster students. The NSSE is a survey conducted annually at hundreds of colleges across the United States. The survey asks first-year and senior students questions related to various aspects of their university experience. Reports and data provided allow institutions to compare 1) their first-year and senior experiences and how they compare with 2) peer institutions, and 3) previous classes surveyed. These

comparisons are available for 10 “engagement indicators” grouped into four themes (academic challenge, learning with peers, experiences with faculty, and campus environment), as well as information on participation in high-impact practices (HIPS). The goals listed in this section are the result of assessing engagement indicators in the data that identified clear opportunities for Student Affairs to have an impact on the student experience. The NSSE data results can be viewed by Webster students, faculty, staff: [2024 NSSE Results for Annual Report](#).

CAREER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Create and implement a workshop this academic year focused on increasing student knowledge of NACE career competencies and ability to articulate their transferable skills.

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

Using the bi-weekly First-Year Newsletter, highlight resources for students that speak to non-academic responsibilities such as work, family, etc. and improve the newsletter open rate to a steady 40% by the end of the first semester.

HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Create an advertising plan to increase students' knowledge of the 300+ events for housing students. Aim for 40% of residential students following the housing social media and 70% of residential students joining their community and housing GroupMe chats.

Update the RA Committee Structure to include a group focused on campus partner collaborations (Reeg ARC, Gorloks Aware, Counseling & Life Development) and self-care resources.

OUR GOALS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LIFE

Create a Gorlok Passport that newly arriving international students will be given at welcome events. The passport will include various actions that they should complete upon arrival, such as immigration check-in, getting their student ID, setting up a U.S. bank account, etc. This will result in fewer emails to follow-up regarding immigration check-in, lessen the need for other students to direct new students to campus departments, and increase confidence in students' transitions.

MULTICULTURAL CENTER AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AFFAIRS | OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Develop and implement a four-year intercultural engagement initiative to sustain and increase students' openness to engaging in discussions with individuals from diverse racial, economic, religious, and political backgrounds.

UNIVERSITY CENTER

Develop a semester-long marketing campaign to encourage current undergraduate students to use the Fitness Center and Pool.

Prepare a strategic plan for an intramurals program and/or group exercise program, partnering with the Office of Student Engagement.

This Year in Highlights report provides a snapshot of our key activities and impact. For those interested in a deeper dive—including comprehensive data on the number of individuals served—additional materials are available here: [Addendum for 2025 Annual Report](#) (link will only work for Webster students, faculty, staff).