

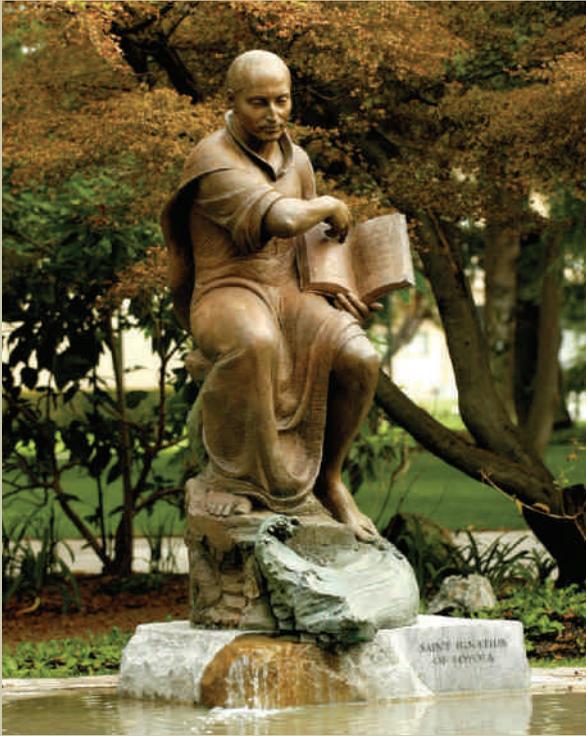
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SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

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2012  
IGNATIANT CENTER  
STRATEGIC PLAN



## VISION

The Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education will be recognized throughout Silicon Valley as providing leadership for the integration of faith, justice, and the intellectual life.

## MISSION

The Ignatian Center promotes and enhances the distinctively Jesuit, Catholic tradition of education at Santa Clara University, with a view to serving students, faculty, staff, and through them the larger community, both local and global.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND GOALS

- Communicating the Mission
- Engaging a Neighbor
- Modeling Religious Dialogue
- Forming Active Global Citizens
- Sharing the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*

*As an interdisciplinary Center of Distinction, the Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education serves the core vision and mission of Santa Clara University. This document, which sets out specific priorities and goals of the Center for the next five years, supports the Strategic Plan 2011 of the University as a whole. Each of the Ignatian Center's priorities and goals supports and advances those of the University.*

# COMMUNICATING THE MISSION

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Since its founding, Santa Clara University has been committed to spreading the liberating message of God's love for the world. This Word takes flesh in the words and actions of people who are inspired to live justly and with integrity. We expect our graduates to embody such virtue in many different places and ways. The Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education will communicate this mission of the University to a range of constituencies. It will do so through a variety of media, in a manner that is broad enough to allow people of diverse faiths and commitments to find life in it and deep enough to reflect the integrity of the Jesuit, Catholic tradition.

*"We expect our graduates to embody such virtue in many different places and ways."*

To communicate the mission, we will

- Foster a deeper understanding of the goals, purposes, and methods of Jesuit education among all members of the Santa Clara community and other key constituencies;
- Promote persuasive explanations of what is meant by faith, justice, and the intellectual life and why integration among them remains central to the University's mission as a Jesuit, Catholic institution;
- Develop clear messaging protocols for a variety of occasions, settings, and groups;
- Identify and engage key stakeholders who will be influential in carrying forward the mission of the University and the Ignatian Center in the next 10 years;
- Investigate and implement best practices for using an array of media for communicating the mission.

*The Ignatian Center's goal of communicating the mission reinforces the University's strategic priorities of Enhancing Excellence in Jesuit Education and Promoting Engagement with Silicon Valley.*



# ENGAGING A NEIGHBOR

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The promotion of justice often emerges within concrete and enduring relationships. Parties slowly come to understand each other and gradually make known to each other their needs and desires. In such a context they make commitments to help and serve each other.

The Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education will lead the Santa Clara community into an intentional relationship with a specific neighborhood of Silicon Valley. Such a partnership will foster mutually beneficial developments, transformative experiences, and systemic changes. It will also build up our association with the local church and other religious groups. Through deeper collaboration, the whole University and the partner community will strengthen their roles as neighbors working toward justice and solidarity.

*“The promotion of justice often emerges within concrete and enduring relationships.”*

To engage a neighbor, we will

- Identify, through a process of mutual dialogue, a community that is a natural partner for fostering collaborative relationships across generations;
- Ascertain, establish, and promote concrete projects that a partner community has identified as addressing specific tangible needs;
- Leverage existing and new relationships to foster collaboration for the maximum benefit for the community;
- Create opportunities for reciprocal participation and involvement that will build a greater sense of mutual investment and membership in both the University and community;
- Integrate a process of reflection (faith-based, interdisciplinary, and referring to Catholic Social Teaching) on the question posed by the Gospel: “Who is my neighbor?”

*The Ignatian Center’s goal of communicating the mission reinforces the University’s strategic priorities of Enhancing Excellence in Jesuit Education and Promoting Engagement with Silicon Valley.*



# MODELING RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

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Because of its Jesuit, Catholic character, Santa Clara University promotes a level of religious, philosophical, and theological discourse that is unusual among academic institutions. Dialogue on core questions remains difficult, even though these issues are profoundly important to individuals and communities.

In keeping with its mission to integrate faith, justice, and the intellectual life, the Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education will promote and model such dialogue by addressing to the wider University community major themes, topics, and questions of importance to multiple audiences.



To model religious dialogue, we will

- Plan, develop, and execute regular, year-long institutes on themes that engage the entire University;

*“Because of its Jesuit, Catholic character, Santa Clara University promotes a level of religious, philosophical, and theological discourse that is unusual among academic institutions.”*

- Offer lectures, workshops, seminars, events, and publications that engage contemporary cultural issues specifically from the Catholic intellectual tradition and other theological frameworks;
- Provide for a spectrum of academic, public, and pastoral engagements that incorporate diverse religious and philosophical commitments and create opportunities for exchange across disciplines at the University;
- Support faculty scholarship and course design, as well as staff and student initiatives that configure with stated themes and goals;
- Foster an ethic of dialogue that intentionally reflects on how communities best discuss and disagree on difficult issues with respect and honesty.

*The Ignatian Center’s goal of modeling religious dialogue supports the University’s strategic priorities of Enhancing Excellence in Jesuit Education and Strengthening the Academic Community.*



# FORMING ACTIVE GLOBAL CITIZENS

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To build a more humane, just, and sustainable world, all students, faculty, and staff at Santa Clara University are called to deepen their understanding and experience of the larger community. As an institution, such a commitment to the whole world stems from our catholicity. Because different people have distinct backgrounds, beliefs, and interests, we honor multiple ways of living out active global citizenship. Through transformative educational opportunities, members of the SCU community will be guided to find their own way of responsible engagement.

The Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education will expand and deepen its community-based learning programs, locally and globally, in order to reach out to a more diverse group of students and provide a more systematic approach to reflection on their experiences, in the manner most helpful to distinct groups of students.



To form active global citizens, we will

- Ascertain, establish, and promote methods (including the increase of faculty support) for improving the integration between community-based learning experiences and relevant academic courses;
- Design and implement strategies for increasing participation among disciplines and groups on campus that have been underrepresented among community-based learning experiences in the last five years;
- Directly solicit faculty support for the design, promotion, and participation in community-based learning programs that match the academic and professional interests of diverse groups;
- Systematize a process of reflection (faith-based, interdisciplinary, and referring to Catholic Social Teaching) that effectively enables students, faculty, and staff to recognize a commitment to justice and active global citizenship as essential dimensions of their vocations and/or careers.

*“We honor multiple  
ways of living  
out active  
global citizenship.”*

*The Ignatian Center’s goal of forming active global citizens directly promotes the University’s strategic priorities of Fostering Global Understanding and Engagement and Advancing Justice and Sustainability.*

# SHARING

## THE *SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF ST. IGNATIUS*

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The chief influence that gives rise to Jesuit education is the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*, a how-to handbook intended to help guide people toward the direct experience of God and companionship with Jesus. For many people, a deeper encounter with the *Spiritual Exercises* enriches their understanding of the educational mission of Santa Clara University.

The Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education will therefore make the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius* more available to faculty and staff of the University. For most people a more intentional experience of spirituality will be personally enriching and help ground their work at Santa Clara University more deeply within the sources of the tradition.



To share the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*, we will

- Provide to all members of the Santa Clara community, through a variety of media, basic and accessible information about the *Spiritual Exercises* and the larger Christian tradition;
- Create offerings in which Ignatian Spirituality is specifically engaged with other religious, spiritual, and philosophical traditions and commitments;
- Develop and promote an Ignatian retreat in daily life for all interested constituents, especially University leaders;
- Establish opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to develop personally and professionally through adapted engagement with the *Spiritual Exercises*;
- Strategically incorporate the *Spiritual Exercises* into the broader community through orientations and other programmatic offerings.

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The Ignatian Center’s goal of sharing the **Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius** champions the University’s strategic priority of Enhancing Excellence in Jesuit Education.





The Jesuit University in Silicon Valley

