Our Promise:
Gannon University has a rich history of service to Erie and the surrounding community. Gannon intensified its commitment to service with the launch of Erie-Gannon Alliances to Improve Neighborhood Sustainability (Erie-GAINS).

This long-term, mutually beneficial community initiative is designed to expand Gannon’s efforts to support the common good of surrounding neighborhoods. While Gannon continues to be of service throughout the Erie region, across the United States and in various countries, Erie-GAINS aids the university in focusing efforts to maximize impact in a well-defined, contiguous and manageable area.

Erie-GAINS pledges to work with organizations to build and shape a sustainable, dynamic community where residents, businesses and organizations can enjoy safety, economic and educational opportunities. Through vision, enterprise and a shared commitment to neighborhood uplift, we can create a community where everyone gains.

Our Vision:
Erie-GAINS is dedicated to community improvement that focuses on social and civic engagement efforts and community partnerships to support the neighborhood’s residents, schools, centers of worship, businesses and organizations.

A focus on community improvement implies the development and use of benchmarks and metrics. Such a system is in place for Erie-GAINS’ efforts aligned with Erie Vital Signs, a comprehensive, community-wide initiative that seeks to address many of the concerns regarding a civic society in Erie. Through the implementation of Erie-GAINS, Gannon University strives to achieve targeted outcomes derived from the goals set forth by Erie Vital Signs, including:

- Adopting holistic and interdisciplinary approaches to community development
- Acting as a primary partner in working to shape a sustainable community
- Growing and institutionalizing service and service-learning projects in the targeted neighborhood
- Educating graduates who will become leaders in the community as well as in national and international organizations where they will continue to develop and nurture civic and social engagements
- Being seen as a neighborhood partner and the “University of Choice” for commitment to community development
- Improving neighborhood characteristics (quality and affordable housing, safety and security, etc.) through efforts strategically designed to address specific needs

“If I had to reduce the Erie-GAINS concept to a single word, it would be collaboration. Conceptually, Erie-GAINS is a network whereby insight, ideas and improvement flow in multiple directions—it is a model where learning and growth happen in tandem.”

- Keith Taylor, Ph.D.
  President, Gannon University
OUR PURPOSE:
ERIE-GAINS COORDINATES STRATEGIC INITIATIVES BETWEEN GANNON UNIVERSITY, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES TO STIMULATE POSITIVE CHANGE AND improve the sustainability and viability of downtown Erie and surrounding neighborhoods.

THIS INITIATIVE, ESTABLISHED IN 2010, CONTINUES TO BRING GREATER FOCUS TO GANNON’S EXISTING EFFORTS AIMED AT REVITALIZING THE NEIGHBORHOOD THROUGH THE USE OF INTERNSHIPS AND CO-OPS, SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECTS, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, COMMUNITY SERVICE, RESEARCH AND PROGRAMMING.

ERIE-GAINS INITIATIVES STRATEGICALLY FOCUS ON FIVE PRIMARY URBAN DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:

1. EDUCATION
2. HEALTH AND WELLNESS
3. BUSINESS AND ECONOMY
4. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
5. QUALITY OF LIFE
Education is a cornerstone of economic, social and community well-being. An educational relationship between Gannon and the Erie community is essential for expansion and prosperity of our downtown neighborhoods.

**OUR SIGNATURE PROJECT:**

The Gaining Options for College Collaborative (GO College) program is a $2.2 million, five-year commitment that was initiated between Gannon University, Erie’s Public Schools and the General Electric Foundation. GO College enables high school students from all grade levels to take advantage of tutoring services, college application and financial aid workshops, college visits, educational field trips, service projects and individual counseling. Through Erie-GAINS, Gannon has brought this national program to two Erie high schools: Strong Vincent and East.

**IMPACT:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEASURE</th>
<th>STRONG VINCENT HIGH SCHOOL</th>
<th>EAST HIGH SCHOOL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student participants</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutoring sessions</td>
<td>716</td>
<td>851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants who applied to college</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicants who were accepted</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2014-15 Academic Year

Ten Little Free Libraries were designed and built by Gannon students and installed at community partner locations to promote literacy. Users can take a book, read it and return it at their convenience, free of charge.

From 2012-2016, Gannon’s School of Education and St. Peter Cathedral School worked collaboratively on field experiences, student teaching, literacy outreach and more. Through these services, Gannon students brought the latest educational practices to St. Peter Cathedral students under the direction of professors and evaluators.

The Reading Club was formed in 2014 and quickly expanded to a yearlong program by request of the students at the Martin Luther King Center. There, a Gannon faculty member and 10 students host the program.

The Erie-GAINS endowed scholarship fund provides annual financial support to students from the Erie-GAINS neighborhood.

Gannon University's Erie Chamber Orchestra presented educational concerts in 22 of Erie’s public and diocesan schools. The programs, titled The ABCs of Symphonies© and Tall Tales and Long Tales, educated students on the various families of the orchestra, and on development of reading and English skills. The speech and word curriculum aligned with Pennsylvania Arts and Common Core Standards.

The Archbishop Gannon Scholars Program provides financial support to academically qualified high school students who reside in the City of Erie and attend Gannon directly out of high school. Families of these students with a zero Expected Family Contribution could receive a financial assistance package that covers tuition after Federal Pell and State PHEAA grants are applied.
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Healthy lifestyles lead to a greater overall quality of life. Gannon and its community partners implement health and wellness screening programs, health education fairs and risk prevention programs that benefit the community.

Our Signature Project:
Since its inception at East High School in 2012, the Club Fit program has expanded to Strong Vincent High School to provide a 10-week program specifically designed for teenage girls. Gannon faculty and graduate students in the physical therapy, nursing and occupational therapy programs lead the community-based wellness initiative, teaching the importance of an active lifestyle, exercise techniques and proper use of fitness equipment. A generous donation by Lincoln Recycling supported the renovation of East High School’s workout center, which included new equipment and a media center to support the program.

Impact:

- 250+ students have completed the program
- 75% of participants increased exercise time from one or fewer days-per-week to three or more days-per-week
- 85% of participants maintained or decreased body weight

2012-2015

Gannon University’s students, faculty and staff collaborated to create Erie County’s first comprehensive, online Human Service Directory, a resource to showcase services provided in Erie County. An updated listing of all human service agencies can be accessed electronically and free of charge at hsd.gannon.edu. Agencies can be searched by title, service category or location.

Impact:

- 28,188 page views
- 261 service hours
- 2,600+ clinical services provided

The Gannon Goodwill Garden is located downtown on Gannon’s urban campus. It is maintained by students, faculty and staff in an effort to grow and donate produce to local food pantries and organizations. The garden piloted its first bed-lending program with three local organizations and installed two vertical planters created by engineering students in 2015.

Impact:

- 550 lbs produce donated
- 49 volunteers
- 4 fruit trees
- 10 garden beds

2013-2015

Students in Gannon University’s nursing program volunteered during the 2014-2015 Academic Year to assist the residents and neighbors of the Housing Authority of the City of Erie’s John E. Horan Garden Apartments and MidCity Towers. Services provided included:

- 110 physicals
- 80 hemoglobin screenings
- 125 influenza vaccination injections
- 284 healthy heart lifestyle counseling sessions
BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

GANNON UNIVERSITY, THE ERIE TECHNOLOGY INCUBATOR AND THE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER HAVE BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE CITY OF ERIE’S REVITALIZATION AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES.

OUR SIGNATURE PROJECT:

Gannon University’s Center for Business Ingenuity (CBI) houses the Dahlkemper School of Business, the Erie Technology Incubator (ETI) and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The co-location of these entities provides vital resources and synergy for students, entrepreneurs and existing businesses.

The three CBI entities were awarded a $520,878 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development in June 2014 to implement the Integrated Business Transformation program. This program provides education and assistance to regional technology-enabled businesses and entrepreneurs to create, sustain and advance their businesses through its Technology Business Accelerator, the first program of its type in Northwest Pennsylvania.

IMPACT:

• 74 new jobs were created in 2015 by the SBDC in Warren, Mercer, Crawford and Erie counties
• 111 new jobs were created through the ETI since 2008
• 55 local companies and entrepreneurs have participated in the Technology Business Accelerator

The Erie Technology Incubator (ETI) has more than 50 active business mentors, has grown from 20 to 25 members, and assisted 25 start-up companies. Recent ETI graduate companies include M-Dot (2011), Green Lighting LED (2014) and ReCap Mason Jars Company (2015).

To reduce the University’s carbon footprint, a $30,000 investment in lighting improvements was made.

To improve safety and livability in the Erie-GAINS neighborhood, energy-efficient LED light posts were installed in the Erie-GAINS neighborhood through a $1.1 million investment.

ETI member company, Acoustic Sheep, LLC won the Ben Franklin Technology Partners’ BIG IDEA Business Plan Contest for Northwest Pennsylvania and numerous national awards, including recognition at the national Consumer Electronics show in Las Vegas.

Gannon has impacted Erie employment by providing jobs to 1,525 employees and 150 construction and service workers during the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year.

Four undergraduates became the University’s inaugural Social Change Fellows. The summer initiative, funded by an Erie-GAINS mini-grant, is a 10-week commitment at local nonprofit organizations.

Assistance with finding jobs, housing, medical care, education and other services drew several hundred veterans and their families to Gannon’s Hammermill Center for the Veterans Resource Expo. The four-hour event was organized by State Senator Sean Wiley with the Erie County Vietnam Veterans Memorial organization to connect veterans with available services at one easily accessible, centrally located event.

In 2015, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) helped existing and start-up companies receive $14.2 million in capital formation in Warren, Mercer, Crawford and Erie counties. Additionally, 35 new companies opened with support from SBDC employees.
ERIE-GAINS HELPS CREATE A **healthier environment in the region** FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

**OUR SIGNATURE PROJECT:**

Initiated by Gannon University faculty and students, and assisted financially through an Erie Community Foundation grant, the GreenEriePA.org website was created in 2012. An informational gateway to all things green in Erie County, the website highlights successful green initiatives while serving as a portal to local green organizations and resources for the community.

In September 2013, GreenEriePa.org was adopted by the nonprofit Environment Erie. Gannon faculty and students continue to provide support for the website through classroom and volunteer connections.

Since its launch, the website has expanded to include more than 225 informative pages on topics such as where to find green recreation, how to save energy in the home, volunteer opportunities with green organizations and more. The website also provides short features on local businesses that offer green products and services.

**IMPACT:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FISCAL YEAR</th>
<th>PAGE VIEWS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>7,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>26,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>40,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>75,498</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Erie-GAINS collaborates with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the City of Erie, among others, in the TreeVitalize initiative. TreeVitalize is a partnership launched by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to restore tree cover by planting one million trees in Pennsylvania over the span of five years. It was implemented in Erie to promote community engagement, beautify neighborhoods and increase the number of trees in predominantly urban areas.

Through TreeVitalize, Erie-GAINS fosters one of its key initiatives: Develop a greater understanding of the importance of environmental stewardship and sustainability among children in the area.

Erie-GAINS participated in the Erie Downtown Partnership tree planting initiative in 2014, which produced a value of $24,000 benefiting the community.

Gannon’s Day of Caring is an initiative stemming from United Way’s Days of Caring. Faculty, staff, students and alumni volunteer to better their communities by assisting organizations and initiatives citywide, performing the majority of service in the Erie-GAINS neighborhood.

During Gannon’s Invitation to Volunteer Everywhere (GIVE) Day, faculty, students, staff and alumni participate in various acts of service, including landscaping and debris cleanup.

1. 375 TREES PLANTED | $70,500 VALUE
2. 80 TREES
3. 400+ VOLUNTEERS ANNUALLY
OUR SIGNATURE PROJECT:
As a signature project, Erie-GAINS partnered with Housing and Neighborhood Development Service (HANDS), the Martin Luther King (MLK) Center and residents to develop the Our West Bayfront (OWB) initiative. The mission harnesses the cohesiveness and willingness of community members to work together toward a common goal.

In February 2015, on behalf of OWB, Gannon University received a $25,000 Keystone Communities Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The National Fuel Gas Company generously matched the grant in support of the Erie-GAINS initiative.

For more information, visit OurWestBayfront.org.

OUR MISSION IS TO enhance the quality of life in Erie’s West Bayfront neighborhoods BY PROMOTING CIVIC INVOLVEMENT, THOUGHTFUL DEVELOPMENT, HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE.

QUALITY OF LIFE

OUR ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT:
Being part of the “fabric of the community” means being at the places where thread crosses thread. Any one thread is not strong enough to support much, but the places they meet give the fabric strength.

Candace Battles is deeply woven into the fabric of the West Bayfront neighborhood she has called home for decades. She is the thread that ties together many people and entities that are building a stable, livable, safe and prosperous community, and she was present at the creation of Our West Bayfront.

Battles is a retired social worker, who for many years worked for the Erie County Office of Children & Youth. Battles and her family were deeply involved with the Martin Luther King Center. Battles is also an alumna of and serves on the Board of Trustees of Gannon University.

The thread of her life and work intersects with many others.

In recounting her path, Battles asked rhetorically if it was believable that a poor little black girl who grew up on Erie’s East Side could grow up to be a licensed social worker. “Well, that little girl was me,” Battles said.

“I don’t know if my profession gave me the ability to help people, or if it was the passion for the people that motivated me.”

“It was something I wanted to do. I had such good role models that God always put into my life.”

And now, Candace Battles is a role model herself.

5 QUALITY OF LIFE

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IMPACT:
• $1.1 million investment in advanced-technology pedestrian lighting
• $50,000 grant used to create a five-year strategic plan and a one-year implementation plan for neighborhood revitalization and preservation

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OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION:

Gannon University was among the 240 U.S. colleges and universities selected by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching to receive its 2015 Community Engagement Classification.

This honor recognizes Gannon’s deep historical commitment to service and care for humanity and the Erie community. The touchstone for this engagement is Erie-GAINS, which serves as the catalyst of community engagement for Gannon.

“Gannon University is honored to be recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for commitment to the community that we serve and from which we draw strength,” said Gannon University President Keith Taylor, Ph.D.

“Engaging in the community is a strategic goal that is articulated by our Erie-GAINS initiatives, which we feel is essential to the continued growth and prosperity of both the campus and the community.”

The classification not only represents Gannon University’s commitment to community through Erie-GAINS, but also the collaboration between local organizations and their willingness to come together in an effort to improve the community.

GANNON UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN MEASURE:

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive response to impact survey on community need</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2014, the University initiated an annual survey distributed to community partners inquiring about Gannon’s support for their organizations’ goals. The survey was created as a means to measure the University’s impact on the community and show support of its second strategic goal, Engage in the Community. As reported by the partners, the intentional alignment of faculty, staff and student service-learning and co-curricular service on signature projects deepened the positive impact.

OUR STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Cameron Kobielski, a senior criminal justice major and cybersecurity minor at Gannon, began learning geographic information systems (GIS) through traditional classroom training and opportunities in the community. He currently holds an internship as a GIS analyst in the planning department at Erie’s Housing and Neighborhood Development Service (HANDS).

“At HANDS I am working on several projects involving GIS for the community’s benefit,” Kobielski said. “The first is a parcel-by-parcel map for target locations to identify areas for affordable and accessible housing options. The second is creating recommendations for a comprehensive surveillance system for existing properties, as well as identifying poorly placed, non-functional or outdated cameras.”

“These projects fulfill my interest in city planning and my aspiration to create a surveillance technology consulting company upon graduation.”

OUR EXPERT FACULTY:

Christopher Magno, Ph.D., assistant professor of criminal justice at Gannon received the three-year Cooney-Jackman Endowed Professorship in 2013. Magno’s signature project includes the organization of four mapping projects as research activities for his students. Magno has connected his work with the community in an effort to identify what type of mapping can aid and support community discussions, planning and decision-making.

Magno has conducted several mapping projects in collaboration with partners such as UPMC Hamot, Erie Insurance, Erie Police Department, International Institute of Erie, Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program and the Multicultural Community Resource Center.

As Erie-GAINS partnerships continue to grow, Magno’s dedication to service will increasingly become an integral resource for community development initiatives.
The Erie-GAINS neighborhood (outlined above in blue) covers nearly 200 city blocks bordered by Presque Isle Bay to the north, Parade Street to the east, 11th St. to the south and the Bayfront Parkway to the west.
GET INVOLVED

Your voice matters and your actions drive results. Find out more about Erie-GAINS initiatives and how you can get involved.

CALL | 1-814-871-5584

EMAIL | ramalho001@gannon.edu

VISIT | gannon.edu/eriegains

All data was recorded as of January 2016.