

Dear Faith- Based Partners,

It is my hope and prayer this note finds you in excellent spiritual and emotional health. I pray that you along with your families, colleagues and communities are continuing to stay safe and well during this challenging period as we continue the battle against COVID-19.

For this week's Faith-Based Outreach Nugget, I would like to share the following items with you:

**1. Free SAT Prep Class & College Essay and Applications Assistance:**

- This Summer, the Office of the Provost will be offering a free SAT prep course and college application assistance to high school students in your respective communities. In its second year, this program is our commitment to assisting our youth in flourishing academically. Due to COVID-19 guidelines, the entire course will be offered online. By next week, sign-up applications will be ready.

**2. Seton Hall University HBCU Ph.D. Pipeline Project:**

- As you are aware over the past year the Provost, Dr. Karen E. Boroff, has been working diligently to create partnerships with numerous HBCU institutions to create a Ph.D. Pipeline project. The definitive objective is to have undergraduates from HBCUs who do not offer graduate degrees to enroll in one of the Ph.D. programs offered here at Seton Hall University. Sadly, due to the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project has for temporarily be placed on hold. As soon as the pandemic is under control and the New Jersey General Assembly and State Senate can reopen budget discussion, we are looking ahead to resuming our dialogue on how to finance this excellent social academic effort. This project is a way to focus on the absence of diversity in the faculty of New Jersey colleges and Universities.

**3. Entrepreneurship Education Program for Ex-inmates and Expungement:**

- We are in process of exploring the probability of a federal grant which would permit us to offer entrepreneurship courses to formerly incarcerated individuals. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the recidivism rate in the United States is disturbing, at about 68% of released prisoners got arrested for a new crime within 3 years. So, we are optimistic that our endeavors to obtain financial support from the U.S Department of Commerce will be positive. Also, we have been working with the New Jersey Reentry Corporation to identify ways Seton Hall University staff can be valuable in their terrific works in regard to expungement.

#### 4. **Census Digital Weekend (May 1 – 3, 2020)**

- I would like to share this information that I receive recently from colleagues at the U.S Census Bureau 2020. As you can imagine, we need to do everything within our capabilities to make certain everyone is counted, especially in instants like these, members of our inner-city communities need federal government resources. Please feel free to reach out to Ms. Regina Waynes Joseph.

Dear Census Partners:

The 2020 Census is launching a National Census Digital Weekend, May 1-3, 2020 and we hope that ALL of you will participate.

Purpose:

Create a groundswell of conversation (on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, eNewsletters, etc.!) promoting the 2020 Census and Self-Response (by Internet, Mail, and Phone).

When: Create a surge on the weekend of May 1-3, 2020, to create conversation and raise the prominence of the 2020 Census and the importance of self-response. To this end, please email me and advise that you will participate and on what platforms so the U.S. Census Bureau can follow and track your postings. Please include the names of the platforms you'll be using and your "handles" so we'll know where to look. Let's make sure that our partners are highlighted by Census headquarters and that our communities receive the positive attention you deserve in promoting the Census and encouraging your residents to self-respond. We NEED your participation! Please contact me as soon as possible and let me know you'll participate. We need to get all of our residents to self-respond so that your communities will accrue the benefits of a COMPLETE COUNT! I've attached the Census Social Media kit which includes suggestions which you can use if you like. And please watch this short video to get you started!

<https://youtu.be/IE8COwgnheM>

Thanks for your continued support and I look forward to hearing from all of you today. Stay safe and well!

Regina Waynes Joseph  
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census.gov | @uscensusbureau  
Shape your future. START HERE > [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov)

**5. Devotional Thoughts and Meditation:**

In these critical periods of crisis and high anxiety, we would truly appreciate it if you could find a moment to share a devotional thought that we can share with students, staff and faculty. During these challenging times, we must rely on our Faith and trust in God to carry us through and your words would help greatly.

In closing, I leave you with the words of our patroness saint, Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton, “We know certainly that our God calls us to a holy life. We know that he gives us every grace, every abundant grace; and though we are so weak of ourselves, this grace is able to carry us through every obstacle and difficulty.”

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- For addition information on Seton Hall University’s Faith-Based Outreach please click the following link: <https://www.shu.edu/provost/faith-based-outreach.cfm>