

David Thomas Lester

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Goal

To use my faith, skills, experience, and education to help people further their understanding of themselves as they continue to work to discover and follow God's call in their lives and live it out in the world.

Education

Master of Divinity, Jesuit School of Theology. Berkeley, CA 5/03

Bachelor of Arts, University of Oregon. Eugene, OR 6/98

- Majors: Psychology and Asian Studies.
- Minors: Business, Japanese, and Economics.

Professional Experience

Adjunct Professor in Theology, University of Portland, Portland, OR. 08/15-present

- Taught Theology 205: Bible: Past, Present, and Future. 08/15-present
 - Developed Theology 205 course to meet the theology department's vision and goals.
 - Assessed the work of collegiate freshmen through seniors.
 - Created thoughtful and engaging lectures that opened up scripture to my students.
- Led a discussion group in Theology 348: Suffering and Death as a mentor. 08/17-present
 - Collaborated with the team of instructors for the course
 - Assessed student written and oral understanding of the material.
- Taught Leadership 225: Introduction to leadership 08/17-05/18
 - Worked with the team of instructors to assess and develop the material for the course.

Pastoral Assistant for Social Concerns, Archdiocese of Seattle, 07/16- present

- Educate three Catholic communities on the rich tradition of Catholic Social Teachings.
- Engage the same three communities in social action both in acts of charity and justice.
- Coordinate with programs in the archdiocese of Seattle around issues of life, peace, and justice.
- Sit on the board of directors for the Vancouver Saint Vincent de Paul Society.
- Work with organizations and other faith communities around issues of justice.
- Lead groups to the Dominican Republic for service immersion experiences.
- Represent the parishes across the community in areas of charity and justice.

Hall Director, University of Portland. Portland, OR. 08/14-06/16

- Supervised a staff of eight student Resident Assistants and one graduate student Assistant Hall Director.
- Helped coordinate and plan hall retreat.
- Mentored student leaders in the hall.

- Pastorally administered the student conduct for the hall.
- Collaborated with other student affairs offices and other departments on campus.
- Oversaw and reconciled the budget for the hall.
- Developed a hall international service immersion: the first at the University of Portland.

Service Immersion Trip Coordinator, Education Across Borders, Seattle, WA 06/15-present

- Led groups of students on two week service immersion experiences.
- Travelled with groups of students to communities across the Dominican Republic.
- Managed the finances for the service immersion trips in country.
- Developed and led nightly theological reflections rooted in the experiences of the trip.
- Managed the social media posts for the organization.
- Co-facilitated and planned meetings and retreats for the participants.

Christian Service Director & Theology Instructor, Seattle Preparatory School, Seattle, WA 08/08-07/14

- Taught theology to Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors.
- Developed and adapted theology curriculum.
- Taught theology courses on the subjects of Scripture, Ethics, Social Justice and Advocacy, Christology, Christian Life, Foundations in Christianity, and Faith in Action.
- Coordinated the Christian Service Program, including supervising Christian Service staff person.
- Helped to plan and develop the long term goals for the Christian service program.
- Developed and oversaw the school's composting program.
- Planned and coordinated all school day of service as well as three blood drives per school year.
- Advised the school's service club and Global Justice Coalition.
- Oversaw the service department budget.
- Developed, planned, and led service immersion trips to the Dominican Republic, New Orleans, and Washington DC.

Religion Teacher/Campus Minister, Sacred Heart School. Bellevue, WA 09/03-08/08

- Taught Morality, scripture, and Church History to sixth through eighth grade students.
- Coordinated 7th and 8th grade service and advocacy program.
- Planned and developed school-wide liturgies with a staff and student committee.
- Developed curriculum for school religion and campus ministry programs.
- Coordinated student council and peer mediation programs.

Algebra Teacher/Tutor, Saint Martin de Porres. Oakland, CA 8/01-6/03

- Taught mathematics to sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students.
- Tutored small groups of students.

Volunteer Experience

Mission Program Volunteer, Sacred Heart Parish. Bellevue, WA 10/04-08/08

- Led groups of high school and college aged youth on a mission trip to Bellingham, Washington, Tijuana, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic.
- Educated youth about Catholic Social Teachings, global poverty, charity, and justice.
- Led regular reflections about the mission experience with the trekkers.

Board Member, Education Across Borders. Seattle, WA 1/07-06/09 & 01/15-present

- Planned and helped implement fundraising and programmatic efforts with other board members.
- Coordinated programming for the annual organization fundraising auction.
- Attended regular phone conference meetings.

Board Member, Saint Vincent de Paul, Vancouver, WA 10/16-present

- Attended monthly board meetings
- Helped oversee budget decisions for the organization.
- Supported the director with social media.

Board Member, Pilgrims' Partner Foundation. Corbett, OR 6/01-06/15

- Planned day-long conferences in Sacramento and the Yakima Valley for non-profits in the area.
- Attended quarterly regional board meetings.
- Served on program development team.

Jesuit Volunteer, Saint Vincent de Paul Society, San Jose, CA 08/98-08/99

- Worked as an emergency services caseworker
- Helped people on the verge of homeless attempt to stay housed.
- Assisted people dealing with homelessness through direct assistance.

Professional Certification

Dexheimer Leadership Fellow 01/16

- Completed the following Gallup's strength-based courses:
 - SBED100: Introduction to Strengths-Based Education
 - SBED303: Strengths-Based Mentoring and Advising in Higher Education