



Gary Dillard
Distinguished Lasallian Staff Member
2016-2017

Gary Dillard has been a member of our Manhattan College family since 1995. I have had the privilege of knowing Gary for over 20 years and I can honestly say, Gary is most deserving to receive the Distinguished LaSallian Staff Award. Gary is the right person for many reasons and I will share a few. I remember when I first started working at Manhattan College as the Assistant Director and Gary was one of the first officers who stood out and impressed me. Gary never shied away from doing his job. Gary volunteered to work the main entrance post because he enjoyed being busy and interacting with the college community and visitors coming to campus. I quickly noticed how he treated others with the utmost respect and dignity whether it was on the phone talking to a parent or interacting with a student on campus. He clearly understood his job was to serve our students by making sure the campus remained a safe environment. Gary never complains no matter what assignment he takes on, he's just happy to be working at Manhattan.

Gary used to tell me during the many discussions we've had, always focus on the positive things in your life and pray to the Lord to help guide you over the difficult obstacles one faces in life.

Gary has always been a loyal member of the Public Safety Department and the College. If you ask Gary for help, he will be there for you. One of the things that I continue to hear repeatedly from different people is what a big heart Gary has. Officers remembered Gary coming by their post and asking if they needed a restroom break or a cup of coffee. Gary was always there to offer a ride home to any officer who needed it. I'm told he's just as considerate when he's off-duty and outside the College. Gary was often observed helping an elderly neighbor if they needed something from the store. Gary has helped strangers who were hungry and needed food.

Years Ago, Gary and his father used to go upstate and enjoyed the day catching fish in one of the Putnam County lakes. Knowing how much Luis Ubiera loves to go fishing, Gary convinces Luis to take him on a fishing trip to the same area. Luis agreed and they both ventured off on the hour plus long journey. As they settled in off the main road and near a small body of water with their fishing gear, a lady drove up with Florida license plates and told them it was against the law to fish in the lake. Luis tells the lady, "Ma'am you have Florida license plates, how would you know whether or not we are able to fish here." The lady laughs and said, "I guess you rather hear it from the state police." Luis tells Gary, gather your fishing gear, get in the car and let's get out of here.

George Elliot tells me how he and Gary used to trade rhyming rap lyrics in the guardroom as a form of entertainment and enjoyment for the other officers. After a while, even some of the

physical plant employees would join the audience. George and Gary got to be known as Eminem and Kanye West. George tells me how much fun and laughter they have had. George will trade rap lyrics with Gary anytime.

Gary is always upbeat and helpful to all who come in contact with him. He is admired by his co-workers in Public Safety as well as the rest of our Manhattan community. His integrity, faith and commitment to social justice knows no bounds. Gary, there is no doubt you do have a big heart.

And, congratulations on receiving the Distinguished LaSallian Staff Award.