Christelle Mutombo is a student leader with Boilers in Action (BIA) and the ACE Campus Food Pantry, where the strategies of grit help her organize and persevere.

BIA is composed of six to eight student codirectors who coordinate other students to work on service projects, such as Hunger Action Day, Make a Difference Day and MLK Day of Service, in the Greater Lafayette community.

(continued on back)

**ThrivingCampus Available**

CAPS is glad to announce that Purdue students now have access to ThrivingCampus, a service that provides a way to search for mental health providers in many areas, both locally and across the country. Students can access providers’ profiles in an online directory. This tools makes it easier for students to search for and connect with ongoing, longer term off campus mental health providers.

Learn more at [https://purdue.thrivingcampus.com/](https://purdue.thrivingcampus.com/)

**Compassion Resilience Toolkit**

During a time when so much in our lives has changed, it is important to change our expectations for ourselves and our families. This toolkit offers ways to help us stay resilient during COVID-19 and includes focus areas such as gratitude, stress awareness, locus of control, and mindfulness.


**UPCOMING EVENTS WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW?**

Be sure to stay up-to-date with virtual programming throughout the summer by checking out our Virtual Student Life page on the Purdue Steps to Leaps website. Every two weeks, new events are being added on our Next Two Weeks on Virtual Campus pages.
“Everything that I do requires some form of grit, especially working alongside other students,” Christelle said. “The BIA events that we host are all basically “from scratch” and can involve anywhere from 100 to 400 students. We do everything ourselves with the help of our advisors.”

From Louisville, Kentucky, Christelle is a fifth-year senior in interdisciplinary sciences with a concentration in chemistry and a minor in sociology. She works as a student assistant in the office of Civic Engagement and Leadership Development.

Coordinating a day of service is many-layered and takes fortitude. “We safely transport the students to and from campus and provide food,” Christelle said. “We provide learning and leadership activities they can take beyond the day of service.”

BIA directors develop training for site leaders to accompany the students, who are often new to participating in a service project. “It does require a lot of grit because, for the average person, it can be overwhelming to watch 100 to 400 students who typically don’t engage in service and get them excited and in the right mindset to serve others in a proactive way,” said Christelle.

As a shift lead for the ACE Campus Food Pantry located in the Baptist Student Foundation, 200 N. Russell Street, Christelle helps provide groceries to those in the Purdue community experiencing food insecurity. “I work to ensure that our clients who come in—who have doubled in number since the coronavirus has happened—are well served and are well,” said Christelle.

During the pandemic, ACE has implemented a drive-through service, and Christelle has experienced the resiliency it takes to meet the unprecedented challenges of the increased need for food, sanitation and safety. “There’s no physical contact with the people serving inside the Pantry and the customers,” said Christelle. “Our clients drive up by appointment, (heavily suggested so volunteers are not overwhelmed) or they just stop in. No one gets turned away at the Pantry.” Each order is sanitized and handed to the client or placed in their car trunk. “We have gloves and masks,” Christelle said. “We’re sanitizing the whiteboards after every transaction. Our clients come first. We’re willing to go the extra mile during these times to get them what they need.”

In order to help others, Christelle has tapped into her well of inner fortitude, her grit—something all people have to varying degrees, but perhaps do not recognize within themselves. We simply do what needs to be done. Like Christelle.

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**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT**

A meta-analysis of the five-factor model of personality and academic performance

This article reports a meta-analysis of personality-academic performance relationships, based on the 5-factor model, in which cumulative sample sizes ranged to over 70,000. Most analyzed studies came from the tertiary level of education, but there were similar aggregate samples from secondary and tertiary education. There was a comparatively smaller sample derived from studies at the primary level.

Academic performance was found to correlate significantly with Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, and Openness. Where tested, correlations between Conscientiousness and academic performance were largely independent of intelligence. When secondary academic performance was controlled for, Conscientiousness added as much to the prediction of tertiary academic performance as did intelligence. Strong evidence was found for moderators of correlations. Academic level (primary, secondary, or tertiary), average age of participant, and the interaction between academic level and age significantly moderated correlations with academic performance. Possible explanations for these moderator effects are discussed, and recommendations for future research are provided.