

Hector DeLeon

**Slow Drip, St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center, November 3,
2023**

Possible Sources to ask further questions:

Brenna Dillon: New Student Director at St. Lawrence and organizer of Slow Drip

bdillon@kucatholic.org

Sara Grosser: Student that helps organize Slow Drip

612-709-3908

Reagan Starnes: Student that helps organize Slow Drip

701-317-0407

Community Connection Over Coffee: Exploring ‘Slow Drip’ at the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center

Every Friday morning at the University of Kansas, the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus enjoys serving the campus population of students free coffee and snacks, with a side of good community. This Friday morning treat is an event known as Slow Drip, a time for students to slow down on their Friday mornings and enjoy conversing while their coffee drips. The event occurs from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Since 1958, the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center has nestled right next to the University of Kansas as a place for students to live in the art of relationship, dare to stand out, build a culture of home and form fullness in themselves. The center has served as a place for hospitality, and Slow Drip is a shining example of the center's devotion to creating a welcoming and friendly environment.

Slow Drip began a few years ago in 2019, when a group of students that regularly attend the center wanted to create something where more people would come and enjoy the community that they love so much. Now, Slow Drip enjoys welcoming all people, not just religious. Any student or staff member is welcome to enjoy the delights of good coffee and snacks, but more importantly, good human connection.

Brenna Dillon, a former student of the University of Kansas, organizes the event and is the New Student Director at the St. Lawrence Center. When asked about the best thing about Slow Drip, Brenna said that “it is a gift and a joy to see,” students coming in every Friday morning and spending time not just getting coffee, but spending time with the community that’s there.

When I was doing research about any data to collect about how many students come and how much things cost, Brenna was the best resource to go to. The event usually costs the center \$150 to \$170 each week to purchase food from Dillons and Walmart. The event usually happens every Friday during the school year but on average it happens about 27 times a school year. In total, the event costs about \$4,500 each year to put on every Friday during the academic year. However, St. Lawrence is a non-profit organization, so the funds come from benefactors and donors. The main sponsor of the event is the Country Club Bank.

In terms of student outreach, the center does advertisements all over campus, but some issues arise that can't be explained in a quick advertisement. Dillon has heard that students don't actually know where the center is and don't really take the time to look up where it is, as well as how to get there. The building isn't hard to access, but there have been notes of how to access the building. For those who do come, the event averages around 75-85 students per Friday. There are many regulars that attend the event and stay the entire time, while the newcomers come and grab coffee and then leave.

Outside of coffee and snacks, the center also has board games and plenty of areas where students can sit and chat or work on homework before the start of their classes. The coffee selection is vast, featuring creamers, syrups, the choice of ice coffee and more. The snack options include bread, assorted fruits, sweet pastries (cupcakes, brownies, cookies, etc.) and candy.

"I just love seeing all of the lovely faces we get each Friday!" said Olivia Kauffman, a student that helps set up and serve coffee at Slow Drip.

"I really enjoy just serving my peers, but also, having the chance to have a genuine conversation with people I've never met is exciting to me." said Reagan Starnes, another student that helps set up and serve at Slow Drip.

The community at St. Lawrence has been committed to community and student hospitality for decades. Since 2019, Slow Drip has offered to continue this hospitality, and has done an excellent job. So, every Friday morning, students should venture out to the home on the hill, known formally as the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center, and enjoy some good company and some nice coffee.