

## NPP 2023 Facilitator Biographies



**Brian J. Bruess**, *President, College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University*. Brian Bruess began his tenure as the first president of both institutions on July 1, 2022, after leading St. Norbert College, his alma mater, since 2017. Prior to that, he served St. Catherine University for 22 years in various roles, including as executive vice president and chief operating officer; interim vice president for finance and business operations; vice president for enrollment management, information technology, and student affairs; and dean of student affairs and enrollment management. Earlier in his career, he was assistant to the vice president for student affairs and dean of students at Ohio University. Bruess earned a BA from St. Norbert College and MA and PhD degrees in college student personnel and research and evaluation, respectively, from Ohio University.



**Mary-Beth A. Cooper**, *President, Springfield College*. Mary-Beth Cooper became the 13th president of Springfield College in Massachusetts in 2013. Previously, she served as senior vice president for student affairs at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT); dean of students at the University of Rochester; and vice president for student affairs at St. John Fisher College (now University). Cooper chaired the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Greater Rochester and is a past recipient of the RIT Four Presidents Distinguished Public Service Award. She currently serves as a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Board of Governors; President's Council; and Subcommittee on Congressional Engagement and Action. She is a member of the CIC Board of Directors and of the CIC New Presidents Program Advisory Committee. Cooper earned a BA from the University of Delaware, MAs in business administration from the University of Rochester and education from the University of Georgia, and PhDs in management from the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western University and philosophy in education from Michigan State University.



**Debbie Cottrell**, *President, Texas Lutheran University*. Debbie Cottrell became the 16th president of Texas Lutheran University in 2019. Prior to assuming the presidency, she served as vice president for academic affairs for seven years. Previously, Cottrell served as provost of William Peace University, where she led academic affairs, enrollment, and student life. She was also associate dean of faculty and director of graduate programs at Smith College. Cottrell began her career in higher education at Cottey College, where she taught history and government and served as assistant dean of faculty. Prior to attending graduate school, Cottrell taught middle school and worked as an editor at the Texas Historical Commission. She is the author of a biography of Annie Webb Blanton, an educator who became the first woman in Texas elected to statewide office, which received the Liz Carpenter Award from the Texas State Historical Association. Cottrell was the recipient of CIC's Chief Academic Officer Award in 2017 and is a facilitator in the CIC Presidential Vocation and Institutional

Mission program. A first-generation college student, Cottrell graduated from Baylor University and earned MA and PhD degrees in history from the University of Texas at Austin.



**Chris Everett Domes, *President, Neumann University.*** Chris Domes is the sixth president of Neumann University, appointed on July 17, 2017. A strong proponent of Catholic Franciscan education, Domes has led initiatives in strategic planning, fundraising, academic program expansion, enrollment management, community relations, technology access, and campus growth. He previously served as president of Silver Lake College in Wisconsin. Prior to that, he held leadership positions in various enrollment management and student development capacities for 17 years at Marymount University in Virginia and for a decade at St. Bonaventure University in New York. Domes earned a EdD in higher education administration from the George Washington University, and a MEd in counseling psychology and a BA in history and secondary education from St. Bonaventure University.



**Tracy Y. Espy, *President, Mitchell College.*** Tracy Espy became the eighth president and first African American woman to lead Mitchell College in Connecticut in 2020. Previously, Espy was provost and vice president for academic affairs at Pfeiffer University and vice president for servant leadership at the university's Francis Center for Servant Leadership. She serves on the Governor's Workforce Council, a FEMA COVID-19 Long-Term Recovery Task Force; the Connecticut Higher Education Resilience Working Group on Workforce Development; and as a Trustee for the Lyman Allyn Art Museum. She is also a member of CIC's Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) Advisory Council. Her interests include diverse learning styles, ethnic identity and self-esteem, servant leadership, and student engagement. Espy graduated with a BA from Berea College and earned a MS in family studies from Miami University, Ohio, and a PhD in child/family-marriage and family therapy from Syracuse University.



**Julee Gard, *Vice President for Administration and Finance, University of St. Francis (IL).*** Julee Gard has served as vice president for administration and finance at the University of St. Francis in Illinois since 2016. She is a certified public accountant and certified management accountant, who most recently served as vice president for finance and human resources at Spectrum Technologies; vice president and corporate controller at Accretive Solutions; chief financial officer at Little Friends, Inc.; and vice president for finance at SIRVA, Inc. Her specialties are generally accepted accounting principles; technical accounting research; financial reporting and analysis; and mergers and acquisitions. Gard earned BA and MBA degrees from the University of St. Thomas (MN). She is currently pursuing an EdD in higher education management at the University of Pennsylvania.



**Kathy W. Humphrey, President, Carlow University.** Kathy Humphrey began her service as president of Carlow University in 2021. Prior to assuming the presidency, she served at the University of Pittsburgh for nearly 17 years as the vice provost, dean of students, and senior vice chancellor for engagement, as well as vice president for student development at Saint Louis University. Active in the Macedonia Church of Pittsburgh, Humphrey serves on diverse boards, such as the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra; United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania; Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Pittsburgh branch; Gwen's Girls; the Riverlife Board of Pittsburgh; and The Forbes Funds

Foundation. She also serves on the executive committee of the International Women's Forum of Pittsburgh, and she has served on the Advisory Council for the United States Merchant Marine Academy. She earned a BA from the University of Central Missouri, a MA in higher education administration from the University of Missouri, and a PhD in educational leadership from Saint Louis University.



**Arvid C. Johnson, President, University of St. Francis (IL).** Arvid Johnson has been president of the University of St. Francis in Illinois since 2013. Earlier, he served as professor of management and dean at the Brennan School of Business at Dominican University (IL). Before embarking on his higher education career, Johnson worked for over 15 years in engineering, manufacturing, and senior management in the defense, aerospace, and marketing research industries and holds 14 United States patents. He is a former member of the CIC Board of Directors, as well as the past chair of the

National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics' Council of Presidents. He currently serves on the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities Board of Directors (as secretary and treasurer) and as chair of CIC New Presidents Program Advisory Committee. Johnson earned a BS in physics from Lewis University, a MS in electrical engineering from Northeastern University (Boston, MA), a MBA from Kenan Flagler Business School at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a PhD in management science from the Stuart School of Business at the Illinois Institute of Technology.



**Daniel G. Lugo, President, Queens University of Charlotte.** Daniel Lugo began his service as president of Queens University of Charlotte, North Carolina in 2019. Previously, he was vice president for college advancement at Colby College; vice president and dean of admission and financial aid at Franklin & Marshall College; and associate dean of admissions at Carleton College. He serves on the boards of the New American Colleges and Universities; North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities; North Carolina Campus Compact; National Association of College Admission Counselors; and College

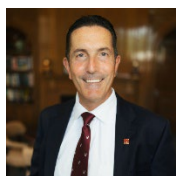
Possible. Prior to his career in higher education, Lugo was an intellectual property and entertainment attorney, representing national music artists. A first-generation college graduate, Lugo earned his BA in political science from Carleton College and his juris doctorate from the University of Minnesota School of Law, where he was an editor of *The Journal of Law & Inequality*.



**Amy C. Novak**, *President, St. Ambrose University*. Amy Novak became the 14th president of St. Ambrose University in August 2021. Novak previously served as president of Dakota Wesleyan University (DWU) in her native Mitchell, South Dakota, from 2013 to 2021. Prior to her appointment as president, she served DWU as provost from 2007 to 2013, vice president for enrollment management from 2004 to 2007, and initially as a grant administrator in the TRIO Student Services Program. Novak speaks frequently on women in leadership, innovation in higher education and bridging the gap between higher education, business and industry. She serves as the incoming president of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. Novak earned a BA in history from the University of Notre Dame, a MS in social and applied economics from Wright State University, and a EdD in interdisciplinary leadership from Creighton University.



**Paul Pribbenow**, *President, Augsburg University*. Paul Pribbenow has served as the 10th president of Augsburg University since 2006. He is recognized as one of the country's most engaging commentators and teachers on ethics, philanthropy, and American public life. He publishes a bimonthly email newsletter titled, "Notes for the Reflective Practitioner." He is a leader among the 26 colleges and universities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and helps articulate the gifts that shape and support Lutheran higher education in the 21st century. Previously he served as president of Rockford University; dean for College Advancement and secretary of the Board of Trustees at Wabash College; vice president of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; and associate dean of the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. He serves on the national boards of the Coalition for Urban and Metropolitan Universities and CIC. He was named "Professional Fundraiser of the Year" by the Association of Fundraising Professionals in 2019. He received the William Burke Award for Presidential Leadership in Experiential Education from the National Society for Experiential Education in 2012. Pribbenow earned a BA from Luther College and a MA and PhD in social ethics from the University of Chicago.



**Martin S. Roth**, *President, University of Charleston*. Martin ("Marty") Roth became president of the University of Charleston in July 2018. Previously he served as dean and professor of management and marketing at the Barney School of Business, University of Hartford. He was chair of the Sonoco International Business Department, executive director of the International MBA Program, and the chief innovation and assessment officer at the University of South Carolina Darla Moore School of Business. His teaching and research specialize in global strategy, management, and marketing. He has won numerous teaching awards including the Alfred G. Smith, Jr. Award as the Moore School of Business outstanding teacher. He taught at the Carroll School of Management at Boston College and Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh as well as at universities in Austria, France, Hong Kong, Mexico, Portugal, Thailand, and Tunisia. His research has been published in the leading marketing and management journals, including the *Harvard Business Review* and *Journal of Marketing Research*. Roth earned BA, MBA, and PhD degrees from the University of Pittsburgh.





**Mary Pat Seurkamp**, *President Emerita, Notre Dame of Maryland University.*

Mary Pat Seurkamp is senior advisor and the director of CIC's New Presidents Program. She is president emerita of Notre Dame of Maryland University, where she served 15 years as the institution's first permanent lay president. Seurkamp then established MPK&D Higher Education Strategy and Leadership Consulting as one of the founding partners. She previously served as vice president for institutional planning and research; vice president for academic services and planning; acting vice president for academic affairs; and associate vice president for student affairs at St. John Fisher College; and held student affairs positions at Gannon University. She is past chair of the CIC Board of Directors and of the Maryland Independent College and University Association. Seurkamp earned a BA in psychology from Webster University, a MA in counseling from Washington University, and a PhD in higher education from the State University of New York at Buffalo.



**Timothy E. Trainor**, *President, Mount St. Mary's University.* Timothy Trainor became the 26th president of Mount St. Mary's University in summer 2017.

Trainor formerly served as dean and chief academic officer at the United States Military Academy before retiring with the rank of Brigadier General after a 33-year career with the Army. As an engineer officer in the United States Army, Trainor served in operational assignments around the world including Germany; Honduras; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Riley, Kansas; and Sarajevo, Bosnia. He deployed to Basrah, Iraq in the summer of 2007 and worked with the United Kingdom-led Provincial Reconstruction Team in helping the provincial Iraqi leaders improve their infrastructure revitalization plans. He is a fellow of the American Society of Engineering Management and was named the Engineering Manager of the Year for 2011 by the society. He is a past president of Epsilon Mu Eta, the national Engineering Management Honor Society. He taught courses in engineering management, systems engineering, and decision analysis. Trainor earned a BS from the United States Military Academy, a MBA from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke, and a PhD in industrial engineering from North Carolina State University.



**Sherry Turner**, *Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, Rhodes College.*

Sherry Turner joined her alma mater as vice president of strategic initiatives in 2019. Prior to that, she served as the director of institutional success and support for United Negro College Fund's Institute for Capacity Building, executive director and chief executive officer of the Atlanta University Center Consortium, and vice president for student affairs at Spelman College. Turner earned a BA degree in psychology-anthropology and sociology from Rhodes College, MAs in theological studies from Emory University's Candler School of Theology and in applied developmental and educational psychology from North Carolina State University, and a PhD in educational psychology from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



**Lori E. Varlotta**, *President, California Lutheran University*. Lori Varlotta became the 8th president and first female president of CLU in September 2020. Varlotta formerly served as the first female president at Hiram College; as senior vice president of planning, enrollment management, and National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I athletics at California State University; and held leadership positions at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and the University of San Francisco. She currently serves on the National Survey of Student Engagement Advisory Board, the New American Colleges and Universities Board of Directors, and was recently on the American Council on Education National Taskforce for Reimagining Transfer for Student Success. A first-generation student, Varlotta earned a BA in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame, a MS in cultural foundations of education from Syracuse University, and a PhD in educational leadership with a focus on philosophy and feminist studies from Miami University.



**Carmen J. Walters**, *President, Tougaloo College*. Carmen Walters became the 14th president of Tougaloo College in July 2019. Walters previously served as executive vice president of enrollment management and student success and vice president of the Jackson County Campus at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Prior to that, she served as assistant vice chancellor of human resources, ombudsman to the chancellor, and executive to the provost of academic and student affairs at Delgado Community College. She serves on the boards of the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation and the Tougaloo College Research and Development Foundation. She is an Institutional Director for the United Negro College Fund and serves on the Pre-Alumni, Accreditation, and Budget Committees. She is actively involved in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Theta Zeta Omega Chapter, and the Jackson Mississippi Chapter of the Links. She is the recipient of numerous awards, commendations, and recognitions for her leadership and accomplishments. Walters earned a BS in accounting and business administration from Southern University at New Orleans, a MA in postsecondary counseling from Xavier University of Louisiana, and a PhD in higher education leadership from Mississippi State University.