



THE COUNCIL OF
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

2019 NetVUE Conference

Broadening the Scope of Vocational Exploration

Conference Program

Galt House Hotel • Louisville, Kentucky • March 21–23, 2019

www.cic.edu/2019NetVUEConference • #2019NetVUE

NETWORK FOR VOCATION IN UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION



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Broadening the Scope of Vocational Exploration

The Council of Independent Colleges gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) by Lilly Endowment Inc.

Conference Welcome

Welcome to the fifth national conference of the **Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education** (NetVUE). NetVUE is a nationwide network of colleges and universities to enrich the intellectual and theological exploration of vocation among undergraduate students. This initiative is administered by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) with generous support from Lilly Endowment Inc. and member dues.

NetVUE has five main purposes:

- Deepen the understanding of the intellectual and theological dimensions of vocational exploration;
- Examine the role of vocational exploration in a variety of institutional contexts;
- Share knowledge, best practices, and reflection on experiences across participating campuses;
- Facilitate the incorporation of additional colleges and universities into this enterprise; and
- Sustain an extended program in the intellectual and theological exploration of vocation.

Since CIC's launch of NetVUE in late 2009, membership has increased to more than 245 colleges and universities. These institutions, most of which are rooted in the liberal arts, represent a wide range of independent colleges and universities, including many with religious affiliations. All have a desire to broaden the intellectual and theological exploration of vocation in the classroom, in student life, and in service to the community and the wider world.

We welcome your participation in the 2019 NetVUE Conference. Through this event, NetVUE seeks to expand the capacity of member institutions to guide the growth of future leaders who have developed strong religious and theological literacy, whose opinions and behaviors are shaped by the exploration of their commitments, and who are eager to sustain a life of meaning and purpose guided by a sense of calling. As NetVUE has become more established, member institutions have assumed a significant share of the program's leadership and have provided a sustainable level of support for this ongoing network. Over the next few days, we look forward to learning from one another, sharing ideas for broadening the scope of vocational exploration, and supporting the ongoing development of NetVUE in the years to come.

Staying Connected



DOWNLOAD GUIDEBOOK, THE FREE CONFERENCE APP

For the latest conference information, participant list, session handouts, and more:

1. **Download Guidebook** from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or visit <https://guidebook.com/g/2019NetVUE>.
2. Open the app and tap the **Find Guides** magnifying button located in the lower right corner.
3. Tap the blue **Passphrase** button.
4. Type **2019NetVUE** and tap the **Continue** button. The guide may take a few minutes to load.



WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS

Complimentary Wi-Fi is available in all conference meeting rooms. If you need assistance, please inquire at the CIC Registration Desk.

Network Name: **GH-CONFERENCE**

User Name: **NetVUE**

Password: **2019netvue**



FOLLOW THE CONFERENCE ON TWITTER

Participants can follow the NetVUE Conference on Twitter:

@CICnotes • @VocationMatters • #2019NetVUE

Schedule-at-a-Glance

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

8:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
**Meeting of the Council
for Christian Colleges &
Universities**
Nunn

Noon–3:30 p.m.
**Meeting of the Network
of ELCA Colleges and
Universities**
McCreary

Noon–6:30 p.m.
Conference Registration
Grand Ballroom Foyer

2:30–3:45 p.m.
**Opportunities for
Vocational Reflection**
(See page 6 for listings.)

4:00–5:30 p.m.
**WELCOME AND BOBBY
FONG MEMORIAL KEYNOTE
ADDRESS: Rebecca S. Chopp**
“The Future as Vocation”
Grand Ballroom

5:45–6:45 p.m.
**Small-Group Discussions by
Campus Role**
**Carroll Ford and Combs
Chandler**

**Orientation Session for
Those New to NetVUE**
Grand Ballroom C

6:45–7:15 p.m.
Book Signing
Grand Ballroom Foyer

6:45–7:15 p.m.
WELCOMING RECEPTION
**Grand Ballroom Foyer and
Exhibit Hall**

7:15–8:30 p.m.
DINNER AND REMARKS:
Jessicah K. Duckworth
Grand Ballrooms A and B

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

7:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Conference Registration
Grand Ballroom Foyer

7:00–8:30 a.m.
Breakfast
Grand Ballroom A

**Breakfast Roundtable
Discussions**
(See page 10 for listings.)

7:30–8:30 a.m.
**Opportunities for
Vocational Reflection**
(See page 12 for listings.)

8:00–8:30 a.m.
**Morning Prayer in the
Christian Tradition**
Breathitt

8:45–10:30 a.m.
PLENARY SESSION PANEL:
Katherine (Trina) Janiec Jones,
Rachel S. Mikva, Anantanand
Rambachan, and Zeenat Rahman
“Vocation in Multi-Faith
Environments: Lifestance,
Diversity, Difference”
Grand Ballroom

10:30–11:00 a.m.
**Networking and Refreshment
Break**
**Grand Ballroom Foyer and
Exhibit Hall**

11:00 a.m.–Noon
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Citizenship and Social Justice
in Vocational Reflection**
Nunn

**Integrating Meaning,
Calling, and Career**
Segell

**Internships for Vocational
Discernment**
Breathitt

**The Role of Graduates in
Vocational Discernment**
Stopher

**Student Athletes at Risk?
Why Vocation Matters**
French

**Student Motivation and
Engagement in Vocational
Programming**
Carroll Ford

**Training the Trainers:
Equipping Faculty Mentors**
Combs Chandler

**Vocationally-Based First-Year
Experience Programs**
Coe

11:00 a.m.–Noon

Presidents Forum (*Open only to currently-serving college and university presidents*)

McCreary

12:15–1:15 p.m.

Lunch by Campus Role

Grand Ballrooms A and B

**Lunch Conversation:
How Student Vocation
Programs Cultivate Future
NetVUE Leaders** (*Optional*)

Jones

NetVUE Focus Group

(*By invitation only*)

Brown

1:30–3:00 p.m.

**WORKSHOPS ON
VOCATIONAL RESOURCES
TO ENRICH CAMPUS
INITIATIVES**

**Assessing Impact:
Demonstrating the Value
of Vocation Initiatives**

Combs Chandler

**Getting the Word Out:
Telling the Story of
Successful Programs**

Coe

**Interfaith Vocational
Reflection on Distinctively
Religious Campuses**

Carroll Ford

**Mentoring Students of
Color for Deep Purpose**

Stopher

**Virtue, Vice, Vocation:
Scholarship on Ethics
and Calling**

McCreary

**Vocation across the
Curriculum: Lessons from
the NetVUE Faculty Seminar**

French

**Vocation in the Health
Professions**

Segell

3:00–3:30 p.m.

**Networking and Refreshment
Break**

**Grand Ballroom Foyer and
Exhibit Hall**

3:30–4:30 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Cultivating Vocation
through Literary Studies**

Breathitt

**Developing a Vocational
Portfolio through Advising**

Stopher

**Innovative Strategies for
Faculty Development**

French

**Institutional Vocation:
Fostering Leadership,
Promoting Inclusion**

Combs Chandler

**Integrating Vocation
into the Curriculum**

Segell

**Interactive Vocational
Discernment**

Carroll Ford

**Visionary Mentors and
Reflective Advisors**

Coe

**Vocation from the Centers:
Insights from Calling and
Career Centers**

Nunn

4:45–5:30 p.m.

**BUSINESS MEETING OF
NetVUE MEMBERS**

Grand Ballroom

5:30–6:30 p.m.

NETWORKING RECEPTION

**Grand Ballroom Foyer and
Exhibit Hall**

6:30 p.m.

Dinner on Your Own

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

7:00 a.m.–Noon

Conference Registration

Grand Ballroom Foyer

7:00–8:15 a.m.

Breakfast and Hotel Checkout

Grand Ballroom A

**Breakfast Roundtable
Discussions**

(*See page 30 for listings.*)

7:15–8:15 a.m.

NetVUE Focus Group

(*By invitation only*)

Brown

7:30–8:00 a.m.

Roman Catholic Mass

Combs Chandler

7:30–8:15 a.m.

**Opportunities for
Vocational Reflection**

(*See page 32 for listings.*)

8:30–9:30 a.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Collaboration across Campus:
Getting Everyone Involved**

McCreary

**Creating Vocation Programs
for Sophomores**

Coe

**Infusing Institutional
Commitments through Print
and Online Resources**

French

**Institutional Heritage and
Vocational Discernment**

Combs Chandler

**Integrative Approaches
to Career Development**

Segell

**Student Leadership in
Vocational Programming**

Breathitt

**The Impact of Faculty
Vocational Journeys**

Carroll Ford

**Vocation as a Dialogue
between Self-Understanding
and the Common Good**

Stopher

9:45–10:30 a.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Beyond the Major: Undeclared
and Interdisciplinary
Students**

McCreary

**Diversity and Inclusion
in Vocation**

Carroll Ford

**Flourishing and Suffering:
A Durable Vision of Vocation**

Breathitt

**Thriving over Time:
Sustaining Vocational
Exploration Programs**

Segell

**Vocation and Gen Z: Meaning-
Making with Digital Natives**

Combs Chandler

**Vocation and the Under-
Resourced Student**

Stopher

**Vocational Discernment:
A Discourse of Privilege?**

Coe

**Vocational Discernment
as a Key to Retention**

French

10:30–10:45 a.m.

Break

**Grand Ballroom Foyer and
Exhibit Hall**

10:45 a.m.–Noon

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION:

Robert M. Franklin, Jr.

“The Vocation of Moral
Leadership”

Grand Ballroom

Noon–12:30 p.m.

Book Signing

Grand Ballroom Foyer

Noon

**Boxed Lunches and
Departures**

Grand Ballroom A

12:30–4:00 p.m.

**NetVUE Advisory
Council Meeting**

Willis

Thursday, March 21

8:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Nunn

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

“The Christian University and Vocation: Purposes and Strategies”

Convener: **Richard Ostrander**, Vice President for Research and Scholarship, CCCU

Please note: Separate registration is required for this meeting.

Noon–3:30 p.m.

McCreary

MEETING OF THE NETWORK OF ELCA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

“The Purposeful Calling of Lutheran Colleges: Vocation Strategies for Today’s ‘Generation Z’ Students”

Convener: **Lisa Sethre-Hofstad**, Vice President for Student Development and Campus Life, Concordia College (MN)

Please note: Separate registration is required for this meeting.

Noon–6:30 p.m.

Grand Ballroom Foyer

Conference Registration

2:30–3:45 p.m.

Clements

Willis

Opportunities for Vocational Reflection

Quiet Space for Contemplation and Meditation

Prayer Labyrinth

4:00–5:30 p.m.

Grand Ballroom

WELCOME AND CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Richard Ekman, President, CIC

David S. Cunningham, Director of NetVUE, CIC

BOBBY FONG MEMORIAL KEYNOTE ADDRESS

This keynote address is offered in memory of Bobby Fong (1950–2014), who served as president of Ursinus College and Butler University and played a key role in the founding of NetVUE.

“The Future as Vocation”

Current trends for work, society, and the individual's search for meaning are disrupting our traditional understanding of vocation. By some accounts, nearly 60 percent of today's jobs will be automated by 2030, and 85 percent of the jobs in 2030 haven't been invented yet. Seven out of ten workers face an uncertain future. Continuous vocational navigation through career, life, and society will be more important than ever, and this process will be shaped by a person's faith commitments, values, talents, and political and cultural perspectives. In this period of accelerating change, how can higher education leaders shape a 21st-century understanding of vocation that encourages students and graduates to develop lives of meaning, purpose, and commitment? Which educational practices effectively support the skills, habits, and capacities needed for life-long vocational design and agility?



Rebecca S. Chopp is chancellor of the University of Denver. She previously served as president of Swarthmore College from 2009 until 2014, and as president of Colgate University from 2002 until 2009. Her earlier academic appointments include tenures as dean of Yale Divinity School, provost of Emory University, and dean of the Candler School of Theology at Emory, where she began her academic career as professor of theology. A widely published author and editor, her most recent book is *Remaking College: Innovation and the Liberal Arts* (2013), which she co-edited with Dan Weiss. In her career as a theologian, she also wrote *The Praxis of Suffering: An Interpretation of Liberation and Political Theologies* (1986), *The Power to Speak: Feminism, Language, God* (1989), and *Saving Work: Feminist Practices of Theological Education* (1995). In addition, she has published more than 50 articles. She serves on the governing board of the Association of American Colleges & Universities and is a past president of the American Academy of Religion. Chopp earned a BA in religion and rhetoric/communication from Kansas Wesleyan University, an MDiv from Saint Paul School of Theology, and a PhD in systematic theology from the University of Chicago.

Chair: **Tracy Y. Espy**, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Pfeiffer University

5:45–6:45 p.m.

*Carroll Ford and
Combs Chandler*

Small-Group Discussions by Campus Role

Participants with prior NetVUE Conference experience will meet in small groups of campus leaders who serve in similar roles. The groups will discuss the effectiveness of different approaches to renewing programs for vocational exploration and discernment based on institutional missions and participant experiences. Each group also will consider ways to sustain vocational reflection efforts on participants' campuses.

Note: Conference participants are assigned to specific groups. Please consult conference materials for details.

Grand Ballroom C

Orientation Session for Those New to NetVUE

First-time participants in the NetVUE Conference are invited to gather for an orientation to NetVUE, its history, understandings of vocation, and programs and services. This session will provide guidance about how to benefit from the NetVUE Conference and will allow newcomers to get to know each other.

Conveners:

David S. Cunningham, Director of NetVUE, CIC

Richard Ekman, President, CIC

6:45–7:15 p.m.

Grand Ballroom Foyer

Book Signing

Author: **Rebecca S. Chopp**

6:45–7:15 p.m.

*Grand Ballroom Foyer
and Exhibit Hall*

WELCOMING RECEPTION

The reception provides an inviting setting to greet old friends and meet new ones.

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7:15–8:30 p.m.

**Grand Ballrooms
A and B**

DINNER AND REMARKS

Chair: **Richard Ekman**, President, CIC

Invocation: **Beverly W. Hogan**, President, Tougaloo College

Remarks: **Jessicah K. Duckworth** is program director in the religion division of Lilly Endowment Inc., where she supports projects focusing on the exploration of Christian vocation across the lifespan, among many other initiatives. She previously served as assistant professor of congregation and community care at Luther Seminary in Minnesota and assistant professor of Christian formation and teaching at Wesley Theological Seminary. She is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the author of *Wide Welcome: How the Unsettling Presence of Newcomers Can Save the Church* (2013). Duckworth earned a BA in American studies and classics from George Washington University, an MDiv from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and a PhD from Princeton Theological Seminary.

THURSDAY • 3/21

Friday, March 22

7:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m. **Conference Registration**

Grand Ballroom Foyer

7:00–8:30 a.m. **Breakfast**

Grand Ballroom A

Breakfast is provided for all registered Conference participants. Several tables are designated for participants who wish to join colleagues to discuss specific topics. Two additional discussions will be held in separate rooms to accommodate larger numbers of participants.

BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Bridging Undergraduate Research and Career Readiness through a Student Conference

How can we help students to see the connections between their academic studies and their “hands on” work in relation to current topics and problems? How might we facilitate greater interdisciplinary exchange among undergraduates? One possibility is through the development of a student conference, designed to promote the exchange of research and to make findings accessible to a broader audience. At this roundtable, a NetVUE leader with experience in organizing such events will describe general approaches and best practices and solicit the experiences of other participants who have undertaken similar projects (or hope to do so).

Thais P. Carter, Director, Institute for Leadership and Services, Valparaiso University

A Calling to Remember: Studying History as a Vocation

Can teachers of history help students to think of this field as a calling to be keepers of memory? History can focus on storytelling and remembering, thereby freeing teachers to pursue their own strengths and thus to bring their subject to life. This roundtable is designed for those who teach within the academic discipline of history, or who teach the history of their own discipline or applied field. The goal is to develop a conversation about how this work can both build critical thinking skills and include the formation of virtue.

Martin H. Dotterweich, Director of Faith and Learning and Chair, History and Political Science Department, King University (TN)

Social Media and Vocational Exploration

How can member institutions make the best use of social media to promote and encourage the work of vocational exploration at their institutions? What has worked well (and not so well) as NetVUE leaders step into the next generation of cross-campus communication? In this roundtable session, participants are invited to share knowledge, best practices, and potential future strategies for negotiating the ever-changing landscape of social media on college campuses.

(Note: This discussion will be offered on both Friday and Saturday mornings.)

C. Hannah Schell, NetVUE Online Community Coordinator, CIC

Vocation in Pluralistic Institutions

In pluralistic institutions, the work of helping students to address questions of meaning and purpose can present both opportunities and challenges. This work can sometimes seem to present a false choice between meaningfulness and inclusion—the community can opt for a homogeneity that provides a shared framework for questions of meaning and value, or it can choose inclusivity but assume that this requires setting aside the “big questions” of life. This roundtable is designed to facilitate a conversation among those who work at pluralistic institutions and who seek to facilitate vocational exploration across important and enduring lines of difference.

Matthew Croasmun, Associate Research Scholar, Center for Faith and Culture, and Lecturer in Divinity and Humanities, Yale University

McCreary

Best Practices for NetVUE Campus Contacts

This roundtable session provides gathering time for those currently serving as NetVUE Campus Contacts, as well as those who might be willing to take on that role in the future. NetVUE staff will offer advice on how to make the most of this important role as point of contact for member campuses. Participants will be encouraged to describe best practices and to offer feedback on how the NetVUE staff might improve communication with, and provide better support for, those who serve as Campus Contacts.

(Note: This session will be offered on both Friday and Saturday mornings.)

David S. Cunningham, Director of NetVUE, CIC

Lynne M. Spoelhof, NetVUE Program Coordinator, CIC

Brown

Developing an Application for a NetVUE Grant

This session will begin with a brief presentation on the array of NetVUE grants that will be offered in the coming year. Participants can check on their institution's eligibility for various programs (whether in this year or a future year). They also can ask questions about developing conversations on campus in preparation for applying for a grant, as well as application procedures and best practices for successful grant administration. This session also will include a brief preview of what programs will be introduced as the result of a new award to CIC from the Lilly Endowment.

(Note: This session will be offered on both Friday and Saturday mornings.)

Harold V. Hartley III, Senior Vice President, CIC

Lynn Hunnicutt, Assistant Director of NetVUE, CIC

7:30–8:30 a.m.

Clements

Willis

Opportunities for Vocational Reflection

Quiet Space for Contemplation and Meditation

Prayer Labyrinth

8:00–8:30 a.m.

Breathitt

Morning Prayer in the Christian Tradition

Worship Leaders:

Jonathan R. Huggins, Chaplain, Berry College

Anne D. McKee, Campus Minister, Maryville College

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8:45–10:30 a.m.

Grand Ballroom

WELCOMING REMARKS

Christopher L. Coble is vice president for religion at Lilly Endowment Inc. He previously served for 16 years as program director in the Endowment’s religion division. An ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), he has served congregations in Indiana, North Carolina, Iowa, and Massachusetts. Coble is a historian of American religion, and his research interests focus on issues of religious formation and the transmission of faith in Christian churches. He earned a BA from Wabash College, an MDiv from Duke Divinity School, and a ThD from Harvard University.

PLENARY SESSION PANEL

“Vocation in Multi-Faith Environments: Lifestance, Diversity, Difference”

The language of vocation has deep roots in the Christian theological tradition. Given the increasingly multi-faith context of undergraduate life, many have asked whether this terminology can truly serve as a new vocabulary for higher education. Yet all students—regardless of their academic field, religious background, or demographic identity—will encounter people of diverse lifestances and beliefs. Students need space to reflect on their experiences and understandings of differences, particularly as they explore and discern their own vocations. The three scholars on this panel have explored these issues in their contributions to the newest volume from the NetVUE Scholarly Resources Project, *Hearing Vocation Differently: Meaning, Purpose, and Identity in the Multi-Faith Academy* (Oxford University Press, 2019). They will engage in a conversation about how a broader understanding of vocational exploration and discernment can address the increasingly diverse context of undergraduate education today.

Panelists:



Katherine (Trina) Janiec Jones is associate professor of religion and associate provost for curriculum and co-curriculum at Wofford College. She specializes in Indian Buddhism and Hinduism. Since her teaching career began shortly after 9/11, she was soon asked to teach about Islam as well—creating courses, leading community conversations, and writing about that faith tradition. As a result, her teaching, research, and administrative work has focused on interfaith

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studies, religious pluralism, and broader questions of diversity and inclusion on college campuses. Since becoming associate provost, Jones has led a review and reform of general education at Wofford and is facilitating work in curricular innovation and experimentation. Her current project examines interfaith studies courses and curricula at several U.S. colleges and universities. She previously taught at Transylvania University. Jones earned a BA in religion from Davidson College and an MA in religious studies and PhD in philosophy of religion from the University of Chicago.



Rachel S. Mikva currently serves as the Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman Chair in Jewish Studies and senior faculty fellow of the InterReligious Institute at Chicago Theological Seminary. Her work addresses a range of Jewish and comparative religious studies, with a special interest in the intersections of sacred texts, culture, and ethics. She also has 13 years of experience as a congregational rabbi, bringing a pastoral lens to vocational discernment and the work of building community in diverse contexts. She is the editor of *Broken Tablets: Restoring the Ten Commandments and Ourselves* (2000) and author of *Midrash vaYosha: A Medieval Midrash on the Song at the Sea* (2012), as well as a variety of articles and academic papers on biblical interpretation and interreligious engagement. Her current book project is titled *Dangerous Religious Ideas: The Deep Roots of Self-Critical Faith in Judaism, Christianity and Islam*. She earned a BA in drama and communication from Stanford University, an MA in Hebrew letters and rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College, and a PhD in midrash, scriptural interpretation, and rabbinic literature from Jewish Theological Seminary.



Anantanand Rambachan is professor of religion, philosophy, and Asian studies at St. Olaf College. His scholarly interests include the Hindu tradition of Advaita Vedanta, Hindu ethics, and liberation theology. He has been involved for over 25 years in interreligious relations and dialogue as a Hindu participant and analyst, including work for the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical

Council for Interreligious Dialogue. He also held the post of visiting professor at the Academy for the Study of World Religions at the University of Hamburg in Germany from 2013 to 2017. His books include *Accomplishing the Accomplished: The Vedas as a Source of Valid Knowledge in Shankara* (1991), *The Limits of Scripture: Vivekananda's Reinterpretation of the Vedas* (1994), *The Advaita Worldview: God, World, and Humanity* (2006), and *A Hindu Theology of Liberation: Not-Two Is Not One* (2015). He completed his undergraduate studies in history and English at the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine, Trinidad, and earned an MA and PhD in theology and religious studies from the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom.

Moderator:



Zeenat Rahman is project director of the Inclusive America Project at the Aspen Institute. Launched in 2012, this nonpartisan project seeks to increase respect for diverse religious identities in the public sphere, to foster positive interfaith interactions, and to form partnerships among people of different beliefs to advance the common good. Rahman's experience spans national security, foreign policy,

and leadership development through work in government, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations. She served at the U.S. Department of State, working as special adviser on global youth issues to secretaries Clinton and Kerry. Earlier, she served as director of the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships at the United States Agency for International Development. A frequent speaker and commentator, she has appeared on CNN, MSNBC, and many international news outlets and has spoken at the United Nations, the Nobel Peace Prize Forum, and the White House. Rahman earned a BA in psychology from the University of Illinois and an MA in Middle Eastern studies from the University of Chicago.

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10:30–11:00 a.m.

Networking and Refreshment Break

**Grand Ballroom Foyer
and Exhibit Hall**

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Citizenship and Social Justice in Vocational Reflection

Many college and university mission statements affirm the goal of educating students to contribute to a democratic society and to help make the world a better place. How might vocational reflection and discernment programs help to achieve these goals? In this session, presenters will describe how they are connecting the language of citizenship and social justice to vocation in order to help students think comprehensively about the world in which they will live. Such an approach can appeal to students with specifically theological interests as well as to those not grounded in particular faith commitments.

Lord Edwin J. (Eddie) Carreon, Associate Director of Residence Life and Adjunct Professor, Arrupe Scholars Program, John Carroll University

Amy S. Peak, Director of Undergraduate Health Science Programs and Chair, Health Science Department, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Butler University

Rachel F. Pickett, Associate Professor of Psychology and Director of First-Year Experience Programs, Concordia University Wisconsin

Integrating Meaning, Calling, and Career

Many of today's undergraduate students want their college experience to offer not only a path to a fulfilling career but also guidance for finding meaning and purpose in their lives. Too often, these goals are framed as mutually exclusive, when thinking about calling and vocation can help students move beyond this apparent dichotomy. In this session, presenters will describe how the idea of vocation can function as an integrating concept that draws together career readiness, life skills, and deeper questions of meaning and purpose. Examples will be offered from both curricular and co-curricular contexts.

Steven G. Affeldt, Director of the McDevitt Center, Co-Director of the Manresa Program, and Associate Professor of Philosophy, Le Moyne College

Ryan Colvin, Director, Center for Career Education, Millsaps College

TaRita Johnson, Career Center Director, Calvin College

Ronald J. (RJ) Rapoza, Associate Director of Career Advising and Development and Co-Director of the Manresa Program, Le Moyne College

Internships for Vocational Discernment

Vocational reflection can become more relevant and immediate for students when they are able to “try out” what they have discerned. Internships provide students an important opportunity to discover whether their thoughts and assumptions about a particular form of work match what people in that profession actually do. But internship programs need a great deal of attention and oversight if they are to succeed as genuine forms of vocational exploration and discernment. In this session, presenters will describe features of internship programs that engage students in vocationally meaningful ways.

Samuel J. Dreeben, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Coordinator of the Psychology Internship Program, Schreiner University

Angela A. Upright, Program Coordinator for the Harold C. Smith Program in Christian Studies, Ursinus College

Sara C. Wrenn, Associate Professor of Psychology, Bennett College

The Role of Graduates in Vocational Discernment

All colleges and universities have a large pool of their own graduates who can engage with students in myriad ways to help them shape the trajectory of their educational experiences. Students also need help in articulating the value of their higher education experiences, in both the curricular and co-curricular environments. In this presentation, leaders will provide a brief overview of their alumni-related vocation initiatives. They will share strategies gleaned from practices of engaging alumni at varying levels of scale, from limited engagement to campus-wide initiatives, but always with an eye toward assessment and sustainability.

Joshua Ambrose, Associate Dean of Campus and Community Engagement, McDaniel College

Twyla Hough, Director of Career Services and Co-Director for the Center for Experiential Learning and Career Success, Trinity University (TX)

Julia Jasken, Provost and Executive Vice President, McDaniel College

Student Athletes at Risk? Why Vocation Matters

Colleges and universities are discovering that vocational discernment programs face unique challenges when working with student athletes, whose academic and career goals often run a distant second to their athletic identities. When this identity is challenged (for example, because of academic ineligibility, athletic performance, or major injury), institutions often struggle to retain these students, particularly if they are male. In this session, presenters will describe the steps that they have taken, through their advising services and at-risk remediation programs, to tailor vocational discernment programs to the needs of student athletes. Particular attention will be given to the need to intervene early and deliberately to help students nurture identities that transcend their athletic involvement.

John Kippes, Director of Student Life, Dakota Wesleyan University

William E. Mullins, University Chaplain and Assistant Professor of Religion and Christian Education, Muskingum University

Joseph M. Roidt, Provost, Dakota Wesleyan University

Mark A. Stambush, Associate Professor of Psychology and Chair, Psychology Department, Muskingum University

Student Motivation and Engagement in Vocational Programming

How can we best encourage and motivate students to become more deeply engaged in the work of vocational exploration in the classroom? In this session, a panel of three faculty members—all of whom participated in the 2018 NetVUE faculty seminar on Teaching Vocational Exploration—will discuss student engagement, expectations, and motivations in the vocational exploration courses that they have taught. Session participants will be invited to offer insights from their own classroom experiences through guided discussion questions, brainstorming, and sharing ideas, obstacles, and opportunities.

Melody M. Pannell, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Eastern Mennonite University

C. Nani Skaggs, Associate Professor of Psychology, Northwest Christian University

Lindsey M. Ward, Assistant Professor of Worldview Studies and Director of the First-Year Experience and Young Adult Ministry Scholars, University of Dubuque

Training the Trainers: Equipping Faculty Mentors

NetVUE campus leaders are often responsible for equipping faculty members to incorporate vocational discernment into their interactions with student advisees. In this session, presenters will describe their own institutions' approaches to this challenge, with a particular focus on how their efforts have sought to create a culture of vocational discernment on campus. The session will explore the implementation of strategic goals and plans that can sustain this work, as well as assessment methods that can be used to improve upon these efforts over time.

Jason W. Clayton, Dean of Career and Life Calling, Cornerstone University

Brian K. Foreman, Executive Director, Center for Church and Community, Campbell University

Amy J. Santas, Associate Professor of Biology and Chair, Biology Department, Muskingum University

Vocationally-Based First-Year Experience Programs

Many colleges and universities have recognized the value of integrating vocation into their first-year experience (FYE) programs. Of course, the content and structure of FYE-related vocation initiatives will vary greatly, depending on institutional context. In this session, two institutions will draw on the lessons they have learned in crafting, implementing, and assessing vocation-based first-year experience programs. Particular attention will be given to the ways that FYE programs can support and advance other key institutional learning goals and priorities.

Maria Ollier Burkett, Assistant Director, University Honors Program, University of Dayton

Amy Gray, Vice President for Student Success, Aurora University

Matthew Kneller, Director of General Education and Associate Professor of Communication, Aurora University

Stephen W. Wilhoit, Professor of English, Associate Director of the Ryan C. Harris Learning Teaching Center, and Director of Faculty Career Enhancement, University of Dayton

11:00 a.m.–Noon

McCreary

Presidents Forum

(Open only to currently-serving college and university presidents)

Presidents are invited to participate in a candid conversation regarding changing institutional contexts and approaches to broaden and sustain vocational exploration initiatives while attending to institutional mission and resources. Two NetVUE member presidents will facilitate the discussion.

J. Michael Pressimone, President, Fontbonne University

Susan Traverso, President, Thiel College

12:15–1:15 p.m.

Grand Ballrooms
A and B

Lunch by Campus Role

Conference participants are invited to sit at tables designated by campus role.

12:15–1:15 p.m.

Jones

Lunch Conversation: How Student Vocation Programs Cultivate Future NetVUE Leaders *(Optional)*

A number of younger NetVUE institutional leaders were introduced to vocation exploration when they were undergraduates, including those who studied at institutions that participated in the Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation previously supported by Lilly Endowment Inc. Many of these younger leaders credit their undergraduate experience as having played a key role in their decision to lead vocation programs today. In this special lunchtime session, three such leaders will reflect on the relationship between their undergraduate studies and their current roles. They will describe the opportunities that were significant in their own formation, how these experiences affected their continued vocational exploration, and how these programs shaped their approach to vocational exploration in their current contexts.

Daniel G. Meyers, Director, Center for Faith and Vocation, Butler University

Samantha L. Miller, Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity, Anderson University (IN)

Amir St. Clair, Executive Director, Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action, Aurora University

FRIDAY • 3/22

12:15–1:15 p.m.

NetVUE Focus Group *(By invitation only)*

Brown

Convener: **Daniel O. Aleshire**, NetVUE Program Evaluator, CIC, and former Executive Director, Association of Theological Schools

1:30–3:00 p.m.

WORKSHOPS ON VOCATIONAL RESOURCES TO ENRICH CAMPUS INITIATIVES

Combs Chandler

Assessing Impact: Demonstrating the Value of Vocation Initiatives

How can NetVUE leaders demonstrate the impact of vocation-related programming to make a compelling case for ongoing institutional support of their most successful initiatives? This session will outline a broad approach to program evaluation that goes beyond participant satisfaction ratings or other short-term indicators of success. The presentation will describe broad principles and provide practical tips that can be used to structure data collection and analysis. In order to be productive, this work should emphasize how well programs achieve their stated goals and how they serve an institution's strategic priorities.

Lisa Jasinski, Special Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Trinity University (TX)

Chair: **Christon G. Arthur**, Provost, Andrews University (MI)

Coe

Getting the Word Out: Telling the Story of Successful Programs

Many NetVUE institutions are operating highly successful vocational exploration programs from which their undergraduate students are benefitting enormously. But it can be difficult at times to make these successes known and recognized, even among the college's faculty and staff members—let alone to its wider constituencies (including alumni, current and prospective parents, and trustees). This panel of journalists and scholars with extensive experience in social media, blogging, and writing for a wider audience, will offer insights and suggestions for telling these important success stories more compellingly.

Kalpana Jain, Senior Religion and Ethics Editor, *The Conversation US*

Caryn D. Riswold, Mike and Marge McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission and Professor of Religion, Wartburg College

C. Hannah Schell, NetVUE Online Community Coordinator, CIC

Chair: **Brian D. Ammons**, Director of Spiritual Life and Chaplain, Warren Wilson College

FRIDAY • 3/22

Interfaith Vocational Reflection on Distinctively Religious Campuses

At many institutions with distinctive religious missions and constituencies, the student body is becoming increasingly diverse with respect to faith commitment or lifestance. What challenges do such institutions face when carrying out programs in vocational exploration and discernment? Do the Christian roots of the concept of vocation allow for, encourage, or even demand a religiously inclusive approach? What role can institutions' traditional constituencies play in adjusting to this new context? Presenters from three NetVUE institutions will speak to the challenges and opportunities for interfaith vocation programs at these institutions.

John D. Barton, Professor of Religion and Director, Center for Faith and Learning, Pepperdine University

Jeffrey Carlson, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Theology, Dominican University (IL)

Marion H. Larson, Department Co-Chair and Professor of English, Bethel University (MN)

Sara L. H. Shady, Professor of Philosophy, Bethel University (MN)

Chair: **Nicole L. Johnson**, Associate Professor of Religious and Interdisciplinary Studies and Coordinator, Peacebuilding and Social Justice Program, University of Mount Union

Stopher

Mentoring Students of Color for Deep Purpose

How do students of color experience vocational exploration programs? How are their questions of personal identity and spirituality shaped by the current national landscape of race and religion? Three presenters who have reflected deeply on these questions will offer their perspectives on vocation, spirituality, religion, and purpose in the lives of students of color. They also will describe effective practices deployed to address these topics and offer realistic next steps for evolving campus programs.

Younus Y. Mirza, Project Director, Barzinji Project for International Collaboration to Advance Higher Education, Shenandoah University

Monica M. Smith, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Augustana College (IL)

Gloria Urrabazo, Vice President for Mission and Ministry, Our Lady of the Lake University (TX)

Chair: **Caroline J. Simon**, Provost and Executive Vice President, Whitworth University

Virtue, Vice, Vocation: Scholarship on Ethics and Calling

The first volume in the NetVUE Scholarly Resources Project, *At This Time and In This Place: Vocation and Higher Education*, featured chapters that explored the relationships among virtue, vice, and vocation. In this session, one contributor to the volume and two other experts in this field will discuss the scholarly merit and practical application of the language of virtue and vice as an element of vocational reflection programs.

Douglas V. Henry, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Baylor University

David Matzko McCarthy, Associate Provost and Fr. James M. Forker Professor of Catholic Social Teaching, Mount St. Mary's University (MD)

Elizabeth Newman, Eula Mae and John Baugh Professor of Theology and Ethics and Director, Master of Theological Studies Program, Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond

Chair: **René E. Johnson**, Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy and Director of Servant Leadership, Finlandia University

Vocation across the Curriculum: Lessons from the NetVUE Faculty Seminar

What does it mean to “teach” vocation in the college context? What do we know about effective practices for implementing vocational reflection in the classroom? This session, convened by the co-leaders of the NetVUE faculty seminar, Teaching Vocational Exploration, features four presenters from a variety of academic disciplines, who will speak to their experiences of implementing vocational exploration in a curricular setting.

Geoffrey W. Bateman, Associate Professor of Peace and Justice Studies and Associate Dean of Student Support and Experiential Learning, Regis University (CO)

Lindsey Bosko-Dunbar, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Faculty Director of Pathways to Purpose, Spring Hill College

Esteban Loustaunau, Associate Professor of Spanish and Director of the SOPHIA Program, Assumption College

Robin Shura, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Kent State University at Stark
Conveners:

Darby K. Ray, Donald W. and Ann M. Harward Professor of Civic Engagement and Professor of Religious Studies, and Director, Harward Center for Community Partnerships, Bates College

Paul J. Wadell, Professor of Religious Studies, St. Norbert College

Vocation in the Health Professions

By some estimates, nearly half of entering undergraduates plan to pursue careers in the health professions. Of these, a large majority imagine that they will be physicians. Many of these students will discover—sometimes with considerable pain—that medicine is not, in fact, their calling. Other students may avoid considering health careers because of misperceptions about the skills and capacities that these diverse fields require. Three presenters with wide experience addressing these issues, both in theory and practice, will lead a conversation on vocational exploration programs for students considering careers in health professions.

Tina S. Holland, President, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University

Margaret E. Mohrmann, Professor Emerita of Pediatrics, Medical Education, and Religious Studies, University of Virginia

Kurt A. Schackmuth, Vice President for Mission and Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Lewis University

Chair: **Paul J. Maurer**, President, Montreat College

3:00–3:30 p.m.

*Grand Ballroom Foyer
and Exhibit Hall*

Networking and Refreshment Break

3:30–4:30 p.m.

Breathitt

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Cultivating Vocation through Literary Studies

Vocational reflection and discernment are often shaped by life stories, ethical choices, and diverse worldviews—all of which can be better understood through the study of literature, writing, and literary theory. How can pedagogical commitments and innovations of these disciplines encourage students to respond to their own desires and strengths as well as to the needs of the world? In this session, English department faculty members, all of whom participated in the 2017 NetVUE seminar on Teaching Vocation Exploration, will explore the relationship between the craft of interpretation and the cultivation of vocational reflection. They also will offer pedagogical case studies.

Sheila Bauer-Gatsos, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Core Curriculum, Dominican University (IL)

Deirdre E. Egan-Ryan, Associate Professor of English and Director of Academic Service Learning, St. Norbert College

Stephanie L. Johnson, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Honors Program, The College of St. Scholastica

Giffen Mare Maupin, Assistant Professor of English, Hendrix College

Erin A. VanLaningham, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Honors Program, Loras College

Stopher

Developing a Vocational Portfolio through Advising

As the range of vocation-related activities expands on a given campus, it can become difficult for students to keep track of how their experiences relate to and interact with one another. In this session, presenters will describe how they use the advising process as an opportunity for students to gather their vocational questions, reflections, and efforts toward discernment and to curate these in an accessible format. What are the best ways for students to continually reflect on and document their vocational journeys? How can institutions support advisors and mentors so that they can better guide students in this work?

Colin A. Anderson, Director of Hiram Connect, George and Arlene Foote Chair in Ethics and Values, and Associate Professor of Philosophy, Hiram College

Patrick Hayden-Roy, Associate Provost for Integrative and Experiential Learning and Professor of History, Nebraska Wesleyan University

French

Innovative Strategies for Faculty Development

The lasting effects of a student's college experience depend heavily on the relationship between students and faculty members—whether in the classroom, the laboratory, or in less formal venues. In this session, presenters will describe their efforts to bring more faculty members into the conversation about vocation and calling. Successful initiatives include reading groups, learning communities, and theological conversations, all of which can help develop a common language and framework for faculty to engage in conversations about vocation with students.

Jennifer Brink, Director of Academic Advising and First-Year Experience, Gordon College

Davina C. Lopez, Professor of Religious Studies, Eckerd College

Michael McKinney, Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students, Thiel College

Eugene T. Torigoe, Assistant Professor of Physics, Thiel College

Institutional Vocation: Fostering Leadership, Promoting Inclusion

Recent discussions of vocation have raised questions as to whether the language can be usefully applied to institutions as well as to individuals. In short, can colleges have callings? This session begins with a broad discussion of institutional vocation in areas such as leadership development, strategic planning, and the role of trustees. Presenters will provide detailed examples from their own institutions as to the difference that this approach can make. Especially in church-related higher education, attention to institutional vocation can help leaders think about the institution's religious heritage and promote greater inclusion and interfaith dialogue.

Florence D. Amamoto, Professor Emerita of English, Japanese Studies, and Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies, Gustavus Adolphus College

Jason A. Mahn, Director of the Presidential Center for Faith and Learning and Associate Professor of Religion, Augustana College (IL)

Julianne E. Wallace, Assistant to the President for Mission and Director of Campus Ministry, Alvernia University

Integrating Vocation into the Curriculum

It can be difficult to integrate vocational reflection and discernment programming into the curriculum, especially given the sharply disciplinary structure of contemporary academic institutions. In this session, presenters will describe the progress that their institutions have made toward curricular integration, whether in the general education program or in particular academic disciplines. What kinds of conversations are needed in order to make such curricular changes possible? Which understandings of vocation are most valuable in helping faculty members to see the benefits of integrating the concept into their courses? How can the vocational components of particular courses be evaluated?

Daniel E. Fox, Associate Professor of Economics and Finance and Department Chair, Ashland University

Kelly Lettieri, Assistant Director of Internships, King's College (PA)

James M. Wallace, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences and Professor of English, King's College (PA)

Interactive Vocational Discernment

What kinds of activities and exercises are most useful for engaging students in vocational reflection and discernment? What do educators need to have in their “vocational toolkits” in order to make such opportunities as successful as possible? In this session, presenters will demonstrate classroom activities that incorporate interactive experiences, thereby helping students come to a better understanding of particular dimensions of vocation. Time for discussion will follow the demonstrations, and related resources will be available.

Eric R. Anderson, Director of Career Development, Capital University

Dain J. Gotto, Director of Vocation Programming, Aurora University

Stephanie Hart, Administrative Director, Pathways to Purpose Program, Spring Hill College

Visionary Mentors and Reflective Advisors

Advising and mentoring programs can make a great deal of difference in students' experience of vocational reflection and discernment. In this session, presenters will examine two emerging concepts in this field and will describe their own institutions' experiences in implementing reflective advising and visionary mentoring. The goal is to help advisors feel better equipped for, and confident about, making an impact through their advising and mentoring conversations with students. Session participants will be invited to engage in discussion about their own campus programming in these areas.

Scott M. Davidson, Assistant Professor of Theology and Director of the First-Year Program, Alvernia University

Elyse Nelson Winger, University Chaplain, Illinois Wesleyan University

Vocation from the Centers: Insights from Calling and Career Centers

Calling and career “centers” have become increasingly popular as hubs of campus vocational exploration activity. Such centers need to develop strong partnerships with students, faculty members, staff, and other stakeholders—across campus and beyond. In this session, panelists will discuss efforts on their campuses to foster vocational exploration partnerships and programming through the work of a center. Representing a variety of institutional contexts, approaches, and models, presenters will describe the mission and structure of each center, its primary audiences, and its most effective practices and programs, as well as lessons learned thus far.

Shonn Colbrunn, Executive Director, Boerigter Center for Calling and Career, Hope College

Krista E. Hughes, Director, Muller Center and Associate Professor of Religion, Newberry College (SC)

Katie M. Mitchell, Director, Center for Career and Calling, Anderson University (IN)

Paul C. Pribbenow, President, Augsburg University

Ryan J. White, Associate Dean of Advising and Applied Learning and Director of First-Year Seminars, Hope College

4:45–5:30 p.m.

Grand Ballroom

BUSINESS MEETING OF NetVUE MEMBERS

The biennial meeting of NetVUE members will include a review of NetVUE goals; membership; programs, services, and activities; and finances. Members also will consider future plans and directions and have an opportunity to ask questions and offer suggestions regarding NetVUE’s continuing development. Each member institution should be represented by at least one senior member of the campus team.

Presiding: **Richard Ekman**, President, CIC

Reports:

David S. Cunningham, Director of NetVUE, CIC

Lynn Hunnicutt, Assistant Director of NetVUE, CIC

Harold V. Hartley III, Senior Vice President, CIC

5:30–6:30 p.m.

NETWORKING RECEPTION

*Grand Ballroom Foyer
and Exhibit Hall*

The reception provides an opportunity for all NetVUE Conference participants to connect informally with colleagues.

6:30 p.m.

Dinner on Your Own

This evening provides an opportunity for conference participants to join colleagues old and new for dinner. Participants make their own arrangements. Please consult the Guidebook app for restaurant recommendations or inquire at the CIC registration desk.

FRIDAY • 3/22

Saturday, March 23

7:00 a.m.–Noon

Conference Registration

Grand Ballroom Foyer

7:00–8:15 a.m.

Breakfast and Hotel Checkout

Grand Ballroom A

Breakfast is provided for all registered Conference participants. Several tables are designated for participants who wish to join colleagues to discuss specific topics. Two additional discussions will be held in separate rooms to accommodate larger numbers of participants.

BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

A Dialogue on the First-Year Experience

How have NetVUE institutions integrated vocation into the first-year experience? What are the advantages and challenges of different approaches (for example, a content-based first-year experience vs. an extended orientation to college)? At this roundtable, a NetVUE leader who was deeply involved in the development of a vocationally-based first-year experience will describe that process and briefly outline the course's pedagogical approach. Participants will be invited to compare their own institutions' first-year programs (in whatever state of development), goals for future efforts, current experiences, or outcomes of programs already implemented.

Julie E. Yonker, Associate Professor of Psychology, Calvin College

Organizing a Conference on Vocation and Students of Color

Participants are invited to discuss organizing a conference focused on improving programs, methods, and strategies for vocational exploration among undergraduate students of color. Such a conference would be designed to produce an edited volume, tentatively titled *Deep Beckoning: Unique Opportunities and Challenges of Vocational Exploration with Undergraduate Students of Color*, which could serve as a rich resource for those who wish to explore best practices in this work.

Loye Sekihata Ashton, Director, Center for International Studies and Global Change, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, and Chair, Liberal Studies Department, Tougaloo College

Melody M. Pannell, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Eastern Mennonite University

Social Media and Vocational Exploration

How can member institutions make the best use of social media to promote and encourage the work of vocational exploration at their institutions? What has worked well (and not so well) as NetVUE leaders step into the next generation of cross-campus communication? In this roundtable session, participants are invited to share knowledge, best practices, and potential future strategies for negotiating the ever-changing landscape of social media on college campuses.

C. Hannah Schell, NetVUE Online Community Coordinator, CIC

Zigzag Vocational Trajectories

How might we prepare students to think about their vocational journeys across their lifespans? How can we help them understand that challenges and pitfalls need not deter them from being persistent in reaching their goals? This roundtable discussion will consider projects that help students see that career journeys are not typically linear, but are more typically “zigzag” paths that are required to work around barriers along the way. The session will include a description of “visual career paths,” originally developed for online content through a campus working group, designed to help students think about their callings.

Natalie Luna, Career Counselor and Employer Services Coordinator, California Lutheran University

McCreary

Best Practices for NetVUE Campus Contacts

This roundtable session provides gathering time for those who currently serve as NetVUE Campus Contacts, as well as those who might be willing to take on that role in the future. NetVUE staff will offer advice on how to make the most of this important role as point of contact for member campuses. Participants will be encouraged to describe best practices and to offer feedback on how the NetVUE staff might improve communication with, and provide better support for, those who serve as Campus Contacts.

David S. Cunningham, Director of NetVUE, CIC

Lynne M. Spoelhof, NetVUE Program Coordinator, CIC

Nunn

Developing an Application for a NetVUE Grant

This session will begin with a brief presentation on the array of NetVUE grants that will be offered in the coming year. Participants can check on their institution's eligibility for various programs (whether in this year or a future year). They also can ask questions about developing conversations on campus in preparation for applying for a grant, as well as application procedures and best practices for successful grant administration. This session also will include a brief preview of what programs will be introduced as the result of a new award to CIC from Lilly Endowment Inc.

Harold V. Hartley III, Senior Vice President, CIC

Lynn Hunnicutt, Assistant Director of NetVUE, CIC

7:15–8:15 a.m.

Brown

NetVUE Focus Group *(By invitation only)*

Convener: **Daniel O. Aleshire**, NetVUE Program Evaluator, CIC, and former Executive Director, Association of Theological Schools

7:30–8:00 a.m.

Combs Chandler

Roman Catholic Mass

Celebrant: **Paul H. Colloton, OSFS**, Director of Campus Ministry and University Chaplain, Ohio Dominican University

7:30–8:15 a.m.

Clements

Opportunities for Vocational Reflection

Quiet Space for Contemplation and Meditation

Willis

Prayer Labyrinth

8:30–9:30 a.m.

McCreary

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Collaboration across Campus: Getting Everyone Involved

By their very nature, academic departments and campus offices tend to function independently of one another. While these “silos” can be useful in providing independence and autonomy, they can make it difficult for students to find a common structure on which they can rely. Such structures can be achieved through a campus-wide focus on holistic student development, with an emphasis on pathways for vocational exploration and a shared common language for faculty members and staff. In this session, presenters will discuss strategies for cross-campus collaboration and integration of curricular and co-curricular programmatic efforts related to vocation.

Marie E. Leichliter-Krause, Assistant Provost, Waynesburg University

Genna L. Steele, Academic Projects and Grants Coordinator, Waynesburg University

Zandra L. Wagoner, University Chaplain, University of La Verne

Kathleen F. Weaver, Associate Provost for Research and Professional Development, Loyola Marymount University

Coe

Creating Vocation Programs for Sophomores

Research suggests that the sophomore year is a critical time for undergraduates. Lacking both the novelty of the first year and the sense of accomplishment of the junior and senior years, sophomores often find themselves at loose ends and are at greatest risk for dropping out of college altogether. Presenters will describe how they have sought to counter these difficulties by engaging sophomores in vocational exploration and discernment. The presentation will describe specific strategies and initiatives for engaging faculty and staff in this work, for integrating it into existing programs and activities, and for developing new programs that can help frame the work of vocational exploration among sophomore students.

Andrew Bailey, Assistant Controller, Luther College

Rachel F. Brummel, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Political Science, Luther College

Cynthia M. Gettys, Director, Center for Teaching Excellence and Biblical Foundations of Faith and Learning, Southern Adventist University

Rick Norskov, Professor of Biology, Southern Adventist University

SATURDAY • 5/23

Infusing Institutional Commitments through Print and Online Resources

Many resources are available for guiding students in faith-based vocational discernment, but these resources may not match the specific character of an institution or the developmental level of its students. In this session, presenters will frame their respective projects in relation to the institutional strategic plan, then describe the contents of each (*Called: A PLNU Vocational Reader* and *CALLED! An Online Field Guide*). They will describe how the materials are being used by faculty members, students, and staff, as well as how they helped to evaluate the contributions of calling-infused activities to relevant vocational outcomes.

Lynette H. Bikos, Director of Research, Professor of Clinical Psychology, and Associate Dean, School of Psychology, Family, and Community, Seattle Pacific University

Kerry D. Fulcher, Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Point Loma Nazarene University

Jacqui Smith-Bates, Dean of Career Learning and Support, Seattle Pacific University

Maria R. Zack, Special Assistant to the President for Planning and Chair, Mathematical, Information and Computer Sciences, and Physics and Engineering Departments, Point Loma Nazarene University

Institutional Heritage and Vocational Discernment

Church-related colleges and universities often face a dilemma with regard to their own institutional heritage. By emphasizing their religious commitments, they may potentially limit the institution's ability to recruit a sufficiently diverse body of students (and faculty members). On the other hand, a college's religious heritage often allows it to distinguish itself more clearly from its peer institutions and to provide its students with the tools to focus on issues that they might not otherwise encounter. In this session, three experienced leaders of church-related colleges and universities will reflect on how their institution's religious heritage and its commitment to vocational reflection mutually reinforce one another.

Brian T. Johnson, Assistant Vice President for Mission and Ministry,
Valparaiso University

Celestino J. Limas, Vice President for Student Life, Elizabethtown College

Tracy Wenger Sadd, Chaplain and Executive Director, Purposeful Life
Work and Ethical Leadership, Elizabethtown College

Segell

Integrative Approaches to Career Development

The role of the career center has evolved considerably over the past few decades, away from a narrow focus on job placement toward more holistic models. Still, in many contexts, some staff and faculty members continue to think of their areas (career center, co-curricular activities, and academic programs) as existing in three separate realms. In this session, career development professionals will consider how campus conversations about vocation and calling can help educators in all three realms—faculty members, student life leaders, and career center personnel—provide students with a more integrated undergraduate experience.

Dee Pierce, Director, Center for Vocation and Career, Wheaton College (IL)

Caroline Sawyer, Director of Internships and Career Development,
Pfeiffer University

Breathitt

Student Leadership in Vocational Programming

Undergraduate students who have been introduced to the concept of vocation can become student leaders within programs at their own institutions. But such students may still need considerable guidance and oversight from faculty members and staff. In this presentation, a group of NetVUE leaders will describe how students function in vocational leadership roles at their institutions. Using examples from a variety of programs involving students—peer mentoring, institutional publications, and counselor interns—this session will explore the delicate balance of allowing students freedom in their leadership roles and keeping faculty and staff advisors sufficiently involved to ensure success.

Beth A. Clark-Thomas, Dean for Retention and Student Success and
Professor of Education, Malone University

Tracy S. Parkinson, Vice President for Strategic Partnerships and Special
Assistant to the President, Coker College

Lisa E. Sharpe, Assistant Professor of Digital Media, Greenville University

The Impact of Faculty Vocational Journeys

Undergraduates often imagine that their professors and mentors have followed nearly linear routes into their areas of expertise, while most faculty members tend to describe their vocational journeys as a much more winding path. When students discover this, they often feel less anxiety about their own questions and uncertainties about their callings in life. In this session, presenters will describe how they have curated and made public the stories of staff and faculty members at their institutions. Through a variety of media, and using a number of different resources, these stories can empower students to explore how their lives and their gifts can help them tell the story of their own vocational journeys.

Matthew T. Buns, Associate Professor of Kinesiology and Health Science, Concordia University, St. Paul

Jason B. Meyler, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Chair, Department of World Languages, Mount Mary University

Sarah Olejniczak, Dean for Student Affairs, Mount Mary University

Marilyn Reineck, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Concordia University, St. Paul

Vocation as a Dialogue between Self-Understanding and the Common Good

How can vocational discernment programs foster dialogue between a healthy attention to the self and a well-grounded understanding of the common good? In this session, presenters will describe how these conversations are taking place at their respective institutions, which share a Roman Catholic identity but have very different student populations and curricular emphases. Both institutions use instruments for personality discernment and draw on institutional mission to ground understandings of the common good. They also emphasize vocational discernment as a dialogue between self and world, using approaches such as mindfulness, well-being, and virtue. Attention will be given to employing concrete practices in such contexts as advising, first-year courses, online instruction, and co-curricular programming.

Anita M. Houck, Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Joyce McMahon Hank Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology, Saint Mary's College (IN)

Bradford T. Stull, Professor of English, Coordinator of General Education, and Coordinator of Global Scholars Program, Rivier University

9:45–10:30 a.m.

McCreary

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Beyond the Major: Undeclared and Interdisciplinary Students

Many students come to college without a clear sense of direction for their lives; others follow a path that sometimes lies outside the traditional majors. In response, Azusa Pacific launched an interdisciplinary studies program with vocation as its foundation, as well as its Exploring program, which offers a specialized first-year seminar and a speaker series. Faculty and staff program leaders were trained in a graduate-level theology course (A Lived Theology of Work) and they in turn trained the university's student life staff to provide co-curricular support to students in these programs. This presentation will highlight the development of these programs, key partnerships required to make them possible, challenges that were encountered (and that continue to be addressed), and initial efforts at assessment.

Courtney W. Davis, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, Azusa Pacific University

Karen M. Rouggly, Director for Mobilization, Center for Student Action, Azusa Pacific University

Carroll Ford

Diversity and Inclusion in Vocation

Colleges and universities across the country are being compelled to take seriously their roles in the nation's history of racism and white supremacy as they seek to envision and live into more just, equitable futures. Wesleyan College has recently begun engaging this effort in a more intentional way, focusing on vocational discernment as a complement to the college's wider work of racial healing and transformation. This presentation will discuss outcomes of this effort, especially the value of creating space for educators to consider how to better prepare students to engage a diverse world. Presenters will invite discussion as to how vocational reflection can help conceptualize diversity and inclusion in ways that go beyond policies and practices.

Sarah Schanck, Director of Career Development, Wesleyan College (GA)

Tyler M. Schwaller, Chaplain and Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Wesleyan College (GA)

SATURDAY • 5/23

Flourishing and Suffering: A Durable Vision of Vocation

Vocational exploration and discernment programs often try to work collaboratively toward a vision of calling that is rooted in human flourishing. But as staff and faculty members explore vocational issues more deeply, often questions emerge about the place of suffering in a vision of vocation that is rooted in flourishing and joy. What resources can we draw upon in order to develop such a vision? Presenters will facilitate a conversation in which participants ponder the intersection of vocation, suffering, and joy.

Aaron J. Kuecker, Provost, Trinity Christian College

Rebekah L. Starkenburg, Vice President for Student Life, Trinity Christian College

Jeff J. Timmer, Director of Vocation and Career Development, Trinity Christian College

Thriving over Time: Sustaining Vocational Exploration Programs

How can educational leaders ensure that vocational exploration initiatives thrive over time? How might these programs be evaluated in ways that help various stakeholders recognize the importance of sustaining them? How are these matters affected by the particular circumstances of an institution, including its curriculum design, budgetary constraints, and institutional mission? In this session, presenters will share insights gleaned from their experiences in sustaining programs in vocational exploration and discernment. Particular attention will be given to fiscally modest strategies that address issues of sustainability, as well as program assessment and faculty development initiatives.

Daniel Kirkpatrick, Assistant Professor and Program Chair of Christian Studies and Director, Calling and Servant Leadership Education Center, University of the Southwest

Cynthia A. Wells, Associate Professor of Higher Education, Director, Ernest L. Boyer Center, and Associate Director of Faculty Development for Teaching and Learning, Messiah College

Vocation and Gen Z: Meaning-Making with Digital Natives

Current undergraduates are no longer “Millennials”; their cohort, often called iGen or Gen Z, is marked by a very different range of concerns and commitments. These students may have little background in the faith traditions in which they were raised or no significant faith commitments

at all. Their experiences are heavily shaped by the overwhelming presence of social media along with its tendency to heighten personal anxiety and to increase fear of commitment. These matters need attention from educators seeking to foster vocational conversations in the classroom and in co-curricular activities. This presentation builds on insights from the October 2017 NetVUE regional gathering “Vocation and Gen Z: Meaning-Making with Digital Natives,” held at Benedictine University.

Carrie M. Ankeny, Director of Campus Ministry, Benedictine University (IL)

Christine M. Fletcher, Associate Professor of Theology and Director of General Education, Benedictine University (IL)

Stopher

Vocation and the Under-Resourced Student

For students who face challenges such as socio-economic factors, family demands, lack of parental support, or a family culture that is unfamiliar with attending college, daily demands can easily develop into crises that can derail their education. Because these students may have had little opportunity to consider the concept of vocation, guiding them toward vocational reflection and discernment can be an uphill battle. This presentation will consider how minority, first-generation, and otherwise “under-resourced” students can be affected by vocational exploration programs and will examine programmatic efforts to make the conversation more inclusive of all students.

Phillip D. Farmer, Assistant Professor of Social Work and Department Chair, Behavioral and Social Sciences, Jarvis Christian College

Coe

Vocational Discernment: A Discourse of Privilege?

Much of the scholarly and popular discourse on vocation describes a fulfilling journey that brings personal satisfaction and serves a needy world. But this is not the way that many people experience the world of work, which often requires dealing with disappointments: expecting a job and finding none, or lacking a sense of fit for the work that one does find. This presentation recommends three shifts in the discussion of vocation that can minimize perceptions of it as “privileged” discourse and more adequately address the lived realities of work. These shifts include developing a communal perspective rather than an individual one; focusing on social context as well as personal agency; and thinking of social transformation in a mutual and reflexive way, rather than as a mandate to “change the world.”

Christine Jeske, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Wheaton College (IL)

SATURDAY • 5/23

Vocational Discernment as a Key to Retention

While student retention is a key goal for every college and university, institutions are not always aware of the role that vocational discernment can play as a powerful contributor to student success. By assessing the impact of vocation programs on retention, practitioners can support recruitment efforts, advocate for additional resources, and encourage broader student participation. In this session, participants will be introduced to tools to analyze retention and student success measures, inventory their vocational discernment activities, and develop action plans for vocational programming. Participants will leave the session with the language, metrics, and ideas that they can use to advocate for expansion and deepening of vocational discernment as a key to retention.

Nancy C. Biggio, Associate Provost for Administration, Samford University

10:30–10:45 a.m.

Break

Grand Ballroom Foyer
and Exhibit Hall

10:45 a.m.–Noon

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

Grand Ballroom

“The Vocation of Moral Leadership”

Moral leadership across societies has become an urgent concern. Ethical reform and social change take place when ideas, individuals, and institutions align for the common good. Colleges and universities often have led and modeled change to advance our society. This address will suggest that educational leaders are called to demonstrate moral leadership with confidence and humility at a time of declining intellectual clarity and social and moral cohesion. By embracing this work as a vocation, leaders can embody and act with courage, integrity, and imagination as they strive to serve the common good and invite others to join them. This vocation can be carried out by gifted individuals, dedicated groups, and enduring institutions.



Robert M. Franklin, Jr. is James T. and Berta R. Laney Professor of Moral Leadership at Emory University, where he previously served as Presidential Distinguished Professor of Social Ethics at Candler School of Theology and as a senior fellow at the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University School of Law. He is president emeritus of Morehouse College, where he served

from 2007 through 2012. Previously he was president of the Interdenominational Theological Center and held appointments on the faculties of the University of Chicago, Harvard Divinity School, and Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. He also served as program officer in human rights and social justice at the Ford Foundation. Franklin is the author of three books: *Crisis in the Village: Restoring Hope in African American Communities* (2007); *Another Day's Journey: Black Churches Confronting the American Crisis* (1997); and *Liberating Visions: Human Fulfillment and Social Justice in African-American Thought* (1990). He coauthored *From Culture Wars to Common Ground: Religion and the American Family Debate* (2001). Franklin earned a BA in political science and religion from Morehouse College, an MDiv from Harvard Divinity School, and a PhD in ethics and society from the University of Chicago Divinity School.

Chair: **Kent L. Henning**, President, Grand View University

Noon–12:30 p.m.

Book Signing

Grand Ballroom Foyer

Author: **Robert M. Franklin, Jr.**

Noon

Boxed Lunches and Departures

Grand Ballroom A

12:30–4:00 p.m.

NetVUE Advisory Council Meeting

Willis

SATURDAY • 3/23

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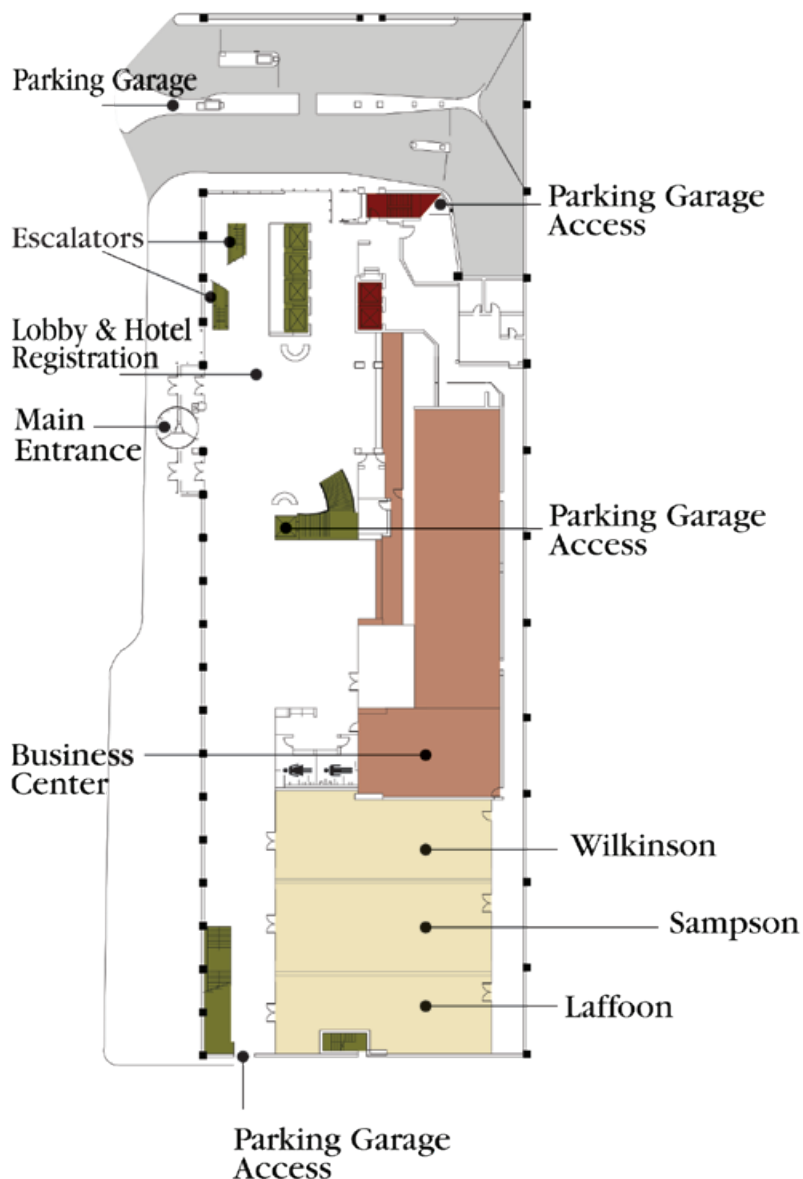
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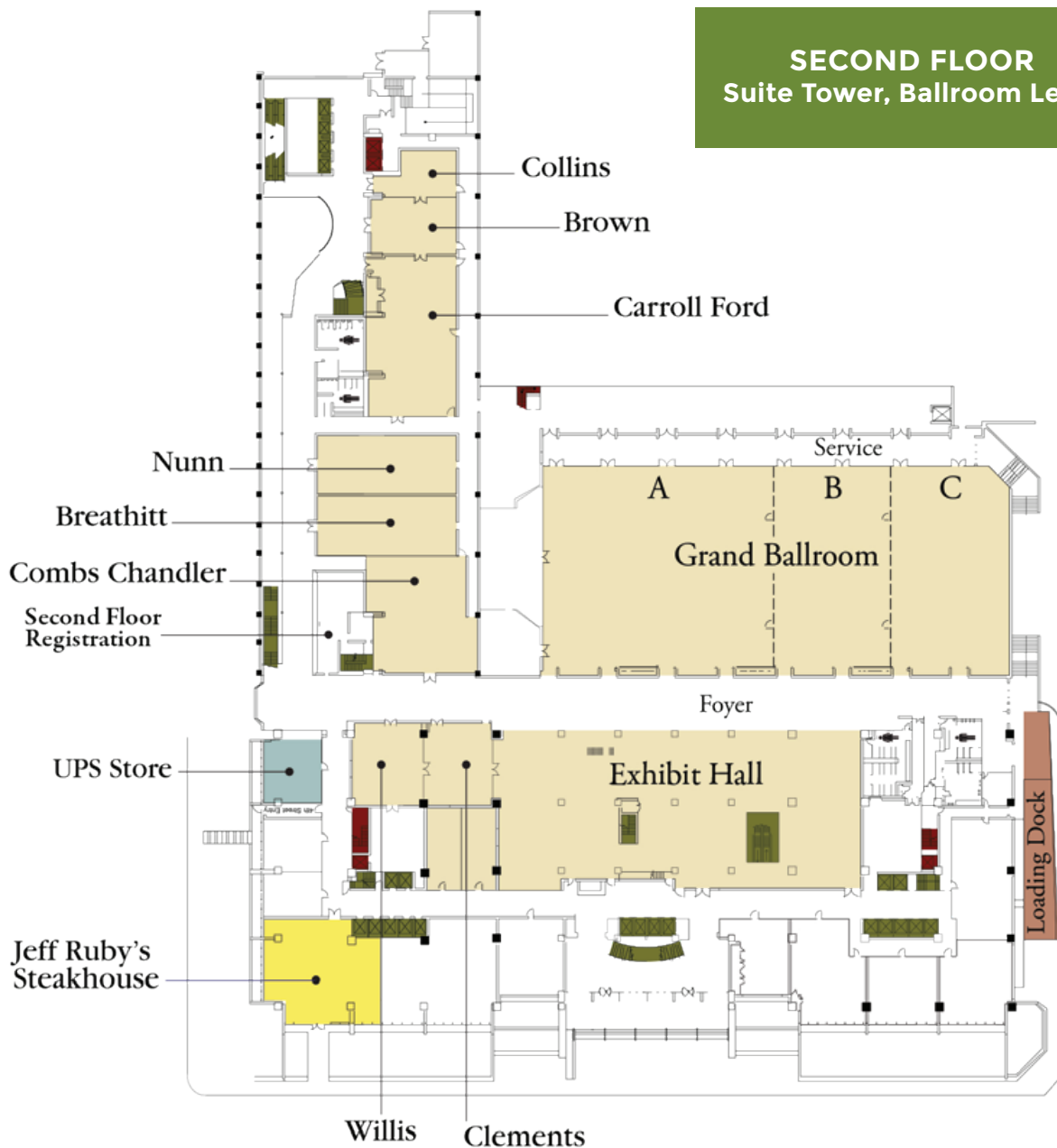
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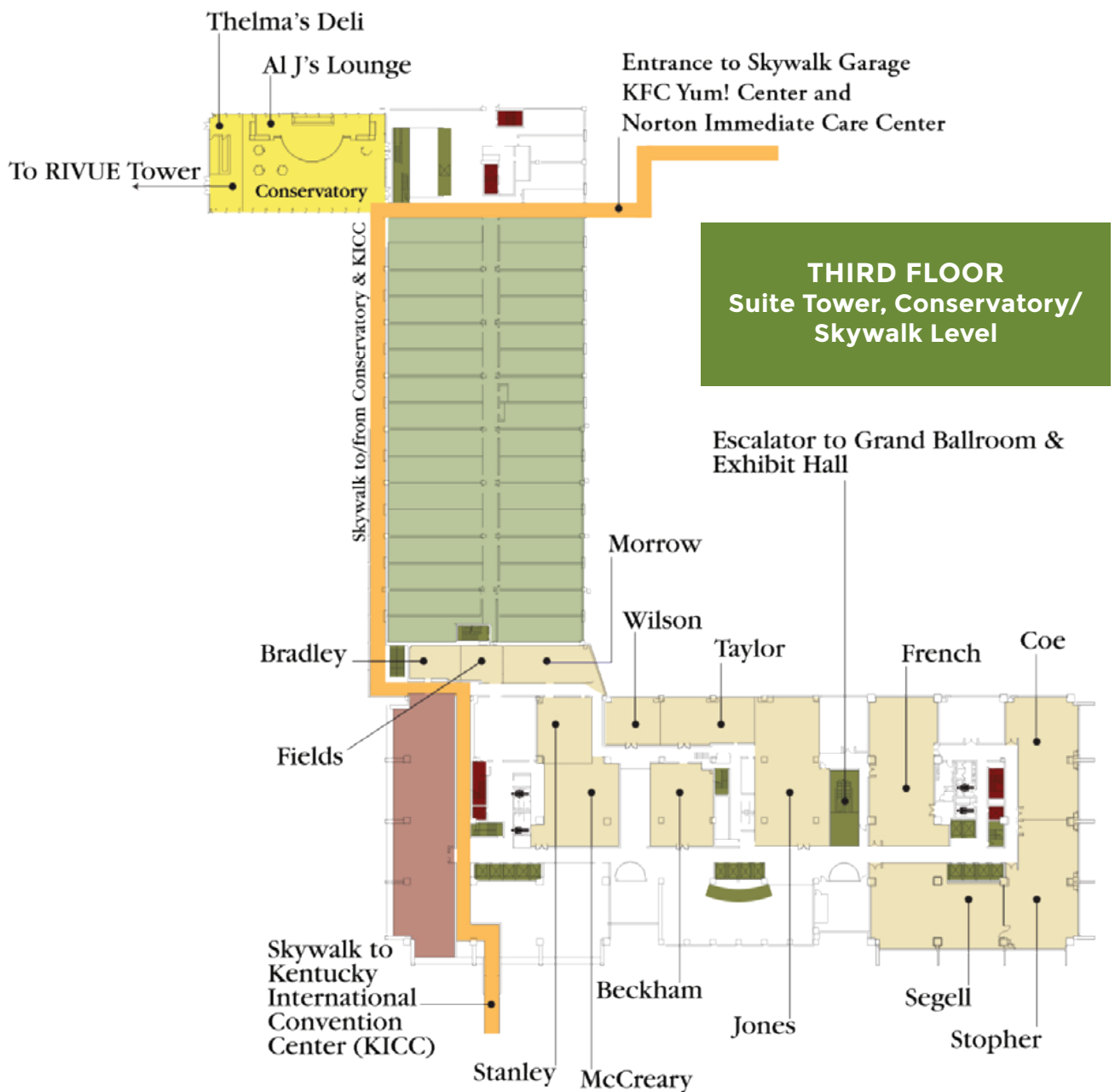


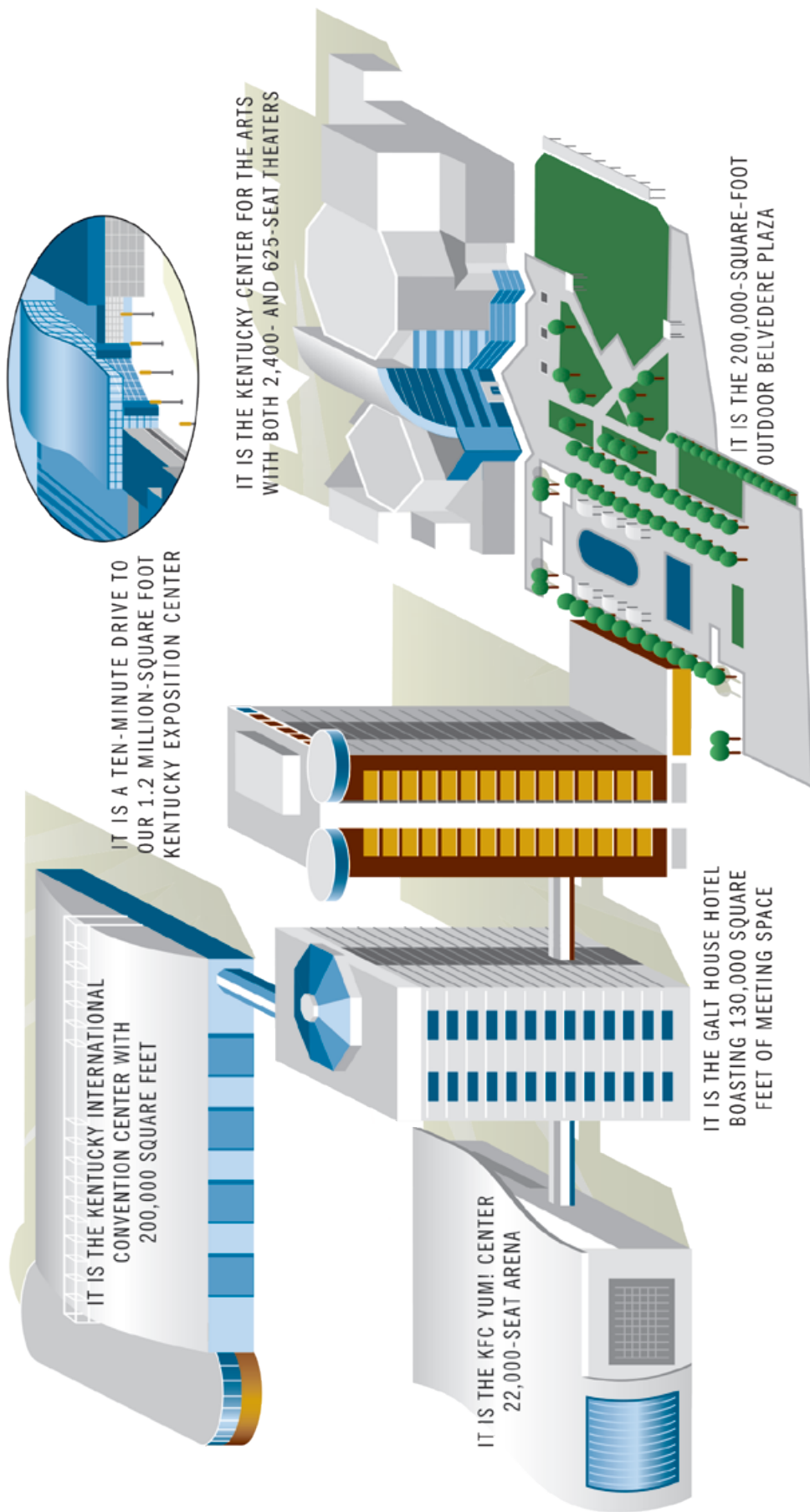
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2021 NetVUE CONFERENCE

March 18–20, 2021
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