

**PHILANTHROPY AND
INDEPENDENT HIGHER EDUCATION:
TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES
IN A TIME OF CRISIS**



**CIC Conversation between
Foundation Officers and
College and University Presidents**

PROGRAM—OCTOBER 19, 2020

9:30 a.m. Welcome

Jo Ellen Parker, Vice President of Communications, Council of Independent Colleges

Elizabeth Davis, President, Furman University, and Vice Chair for Resource Development, CIC Board of Directors

Christina Cutlip, Senior Managing Director and Head of Client Engagement and National Advocacy, TIAA

9:40 a.m. *Session I:* Keynote Address

Introduction: **Richard Ekman**, President, Council of Independent Colleges

Elizabeth Alexander, President, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Moderator: **Elizabeth Davis**, President, Furman University, and Vice Chair for Resource Development, CIC Board of Directors

10:15 a.m. Break

10:20 a.m. *Session II:* Opportunities for Private Colleges and Universities

Na'ilah Suad Nasir, President, Spencer Foundation

Mariko Silver, President, Henry Luce Foundation

Moderator: **Suzanne Mellon**, President, Carlow University

10:55 a.m. *Session III:* Trends in Philanthropy for Independent Higher Education

Amy Holmes, Director, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors

Michael Murray, President, Arthur Vining Davis Foundations

Moderator: **Elizabeth Paul**, President, Nazareth College

11:30 a.m. Break

11:45 a.m. *Session IV:* The Role of Regional Foundations in Philanthropy for Independent Higher Education

Amelia Bond, President, St. Louis Community Foundation

Edward Burger, President, St. David's Foundation

Moderator: **William (Bill) Spiker**, President, Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges

12:20 p.m. Acknowledgments and Roundtable Transition

12:30 p.m. Roundtable Discussions

Breakout 1

Moderator: **Na'ilah Suad Nasir**

Breakout 2

Moderator: **Michael Murray**

Breakout 3

Moderator: **Amy Holmes**

Breakout 4

Moderator: **Edward Burger**

1:15 p.m. Roundtable Discussions End



CIC gratefully acknowledges the support of TIAA over the years for the Conversation between Foundation Officers and College and University Presidents.

FOUNDATIONS AND PRESENTERS

ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION

Founded in 1969, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation endeavors to strengthen, promote, and, where necessary, defend the contributions of the humanities and the arts to human flourishing and to the well-being of diverse and democratic societies. To this end, it supports exemplary institutions of higher education and culture as they renew and provide access to an invaluable heritage of ambitious, path-breaking work. The foundation makes grants in four core program areas: Higher Learning, Arts and Culture, Public Knowledge, and Humanities in Place.



ELIZABETH ALEXANDER—poet, educator, memoirist, scholar, and cultural advocate—is president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Alexander has held distinguished professorships at Smith College, Columbia University, and Yale

University, where she taught for 15 years and chaired the African American Studies Department. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, serves on the Pulitzer Prize Board, and co-designed the Art for Justice Fund. Notably, Alexander composed and delivered “Praise Song for the Day” for the inauguration of President Barack Obama in 2009, and she is author or co-author of 14 books. Her book of poems, *American Sublime* (2005), was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry in 2006, and her memoir, *The Light of the World* (2015), was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Biography in 2015.

THE ARTHUR VINING DAVIS FOUNDATIONS

Grounded in Arthur Vining Davis’s principled and innovative leadership in national corporate life and philanthropy, the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations (AVDF) strengthen America’s intellectual life, humane instincts, and democracy through philanthropic support for private higher education; interfaith leadership and religious literacy; public educational media; environmental engagement, stewardship, and solutions; and palliative care. Since inception, the foundations have given over 3,800 grants totaling more than \$300 million to colleges and universities, hospitals, medical schools, and divinity schools. The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations have funded visionary leadership in public television for scientific and historical documentaries, children’s programming, and the distribution of high-quality educational media.



MICHAEL MURRAY came to AVDF from the John Templeton Foundation where he served first as vice president of philosophy and theology and, since 2011, as senior vice president of programs. Murray began his career at Franklin and

Marshall College where he was awarded the Arthur and Katherine Shadok Chair in Philosophy and the Humanities. He also held faculty positions at the University of Wisconsin, Madison; the University of Notre Dame; and Oxford University. During this period, he published numerous academic articles as well as monographs and edited collections with Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Blackwell, and Yale University Press. His research focuses on issues at the intersection of science, philosophy, and theology, as well as on 17th-century Continental philosophy. Murray is currently a senior visiting scholar at Franklin and Marshall College. He received his BA degree in philosophy from Franklin and Marshall College and his MA and PhD in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame.

FOUNDATIONS AND PRESENTERS

THE HENRY LUCE FOUNDATION

The Henry Luce Foundation seeks to enrich public discourse by promoting innovative scholarship, cultivating new leaders, and fostering international understanding. Established in 1936 by Henry R. Luce, the co-founder and editor-in-chief of Time, Inc., the Luce Foundation advances its mission through grantmaking and leadership programs in the fields of Asia, higher education, religion and theology, art, and public policy.



MARIKO SILVER is the president and CEO of the Henry Luce Foundation. She was previously the president of Bennington College. During the Obama administration, Silver served for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

as acting assistant secretary and deputy assistant secretary for international policy. She also served for Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano as the policy advisor for economic development, innovation, and higher education. Prior to her government service, Silver was instrumental in the transformation and expansion of Arizona State University, leading teams in economic development policy and metrics, science, technology, and innovation policy, state K-12 and higher education policy, sustainability science, and global health. Silver is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She holds a BA in history from Yale University; an MS in science and technology policy from the Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex (UK); and a PhD in economic geography from UCLA.

ROCKEFELLER PHILANTHROPY ADVISORS

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA) is a nonprofit organization that partners with individuals, families, and institutions to help make philanthropy more thoughtful and effective. Since 2002, RPA has facilitated more than \$3 billion in grantmaking worldwide, establishing itself as one of the world's largest and most trusted philanthropic service organizations. Drawing on diverse and unmatched expertise, RPA provides tailored advisory, management, and fiscal sponsorship services, translating the motivations of innovative leaders into action. The RPA headquarters is in New York, with regional offices in Chicago, San Francisco, and London.



AMY HOLMES leads the New York Advisory team at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, where she directs strategic planning and program development for families, donor collaboratives, and private foundations. Holmes joined RPA in

2004 and has researched and led giving programs in youth development, higher education, and the Afghan Women Leaders Connect collaborative fund. She previously served as development associate for the Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center, a settlement house in Yorkville and East Harlem in New York. Holmes serves as chair of the board of the Support Center for Nonprofit Management and as secretary of the board of Harlem United, an agency providing services for adults with HIV/AIDS. She received a BA in English literature from the College of William and Mary and an MPA degree from the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University.

FOUNDATIONS AND PRESENTERS

THE SPENCER FOUNDATION

The Spencer Foundation invests in education research that cultivates learning and transforms lives. The foundation has been a leading funder of education research since 1971 and is the only national foundation focused exclusively on supporting education research. The foundation believes education research is integral to improving education, making education systems more equitable, and increasing opportunities to learn across the lifespan.



NA'ILAH SUAD NASIR is the sixth president of the Spencer Foundation, which invests in education research that cultivates learning and transforms lives. From 2008 to 2019, she held a faculty appointment at the University of California, Berkeley, where she also served as vice-chancellor of equity and inclusion. Nasir also was a member of the faculty in the School of Education at Stanford University. Her work focuses on issues of race, culture, learning, and identity. Nasir is the author of *Racialized Identities: Race and Achievement for African American Youth* (2012) and has published numerous scholarly articles. She is a member of the National Academy of Education and a fellow of the American Educational Research Association. Nasir earned her PhD in education psychology at University of California, Los Angeles.

ST. DAVID'S FOUNDATION

Established in 1996, the St. David's Foundation supports over 80 organizations focusing on wellness, education, and health initiatives, with a goal of strategically lifting up individual lives today to uplift the humanity of tomorrow. In particular, the foundation makes grants in six core program areas: resilient children, scholarships for students in the medical arts, healthy women and girls, older adults aging in place, thriving rural communities, and community health clinics. The foundation funds these initiatives at a level of nearly \$100 million each year throughout central Texas. The foundation has a shared interest in and ownership of the St. David's Healthcare system.



EDWARD B. BURGER is president and CEO of St. David's Foundation and president emeritus and professor emeritus of mathematics at Southwestern University, where he served for seven years.

Previously, Burger was Francis Christopher Oakley Third Century Professor of Mathematics at Williams College. He has authored or coauthored over 70 research articles, books, and video series, including his latest book, *Making Up Your Mind: Thinking Effectively through Creative Puzzle-Solving* (2019). In 2006, *Reader's Digest* listed Burger in its annual "100 Best of America" as America's Best Math Teacher. In 2010, he was named the winner of the Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching—the largest prize in higher education teaching across all disciplines in the English-speaking world; and the *Huffington Post* named him one of the "2010 Game Changers." Microsoft Worldwide Education selected Burger as one of their "Global Heroes in Education" in 2012, he was inducted as an inaugural Fellow of the American Mathematical Society in 2013, and he was elected to the Philosophical Society of Texas in 2014. His program, *Higher ED*, is produced by NPR's Austin-affiliate KUT. He is a past member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Independent Colleges.

FOUNDATIONS AND PRESENTERS

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The St. Louis Community Foundation is a public charity that invests and administers charitable funds on behalf of 600 donor funds totaling over \$350 million in assets. In 2016, the foundation and its donors made 4,000 grants totaling more than \$50 million. In 2015, the St. Louis Community Foundation was the second fastest growing community foundation in the country. The foundation offers a wide array of charitable services to donors and nonprofits, acts as a convener and supporter of community initiatives, and serves as administrator of scholarship and employee assistance programs.



AMELIA BOND is president of the St. Louis Community Foundation. She spent the majority of her career with A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. where she was a senior vice president and director of public finance. In addition, she served as a member of the A.G. Edwards's board of directors from 2003 until the merger with Wachovia in 2007. Bond remained with the successor firms of Wachovia and Wells Fargo as head of public finance until 2009. She served as chair and a member of the board of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. Bond is currently a member—and past chair—of the board of trustees of Webster University and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Independent Colleges. She is a graduate of Kenyon College and received her MBA from Washington University's Olin School of Business.

CONVENERS AND MODERATORS

CHRISTINA CUTLIP is senior managing director and head of client engagement and national advocacy at TIAA. She received an Outstanding Volunteer Award in 2016 from the Council of Independent Colleges State Councils for her contributions to higher education. Cutlip was appointed to the Department of Labor ERISA Advisory Council for a three-year term (2013–2016). She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Independent Colleges and chairs the board of Almasi Collaborative Arts. She also serves on the board of retirement healthcare provider Emeriti, and on the advisory councils of WISER and ERIC. Cutlip earned a BA from Grinnell College, an MBA from Regis University, and a PhD from Northcentral University.

ELIZABETH DAVIS has served as the president of Furman University since 2014. Previously, Davis spent 22 years at Baylor University, where she most recently held the position of executive vice president and provost. Davis is vice chair for Resource Development, CIC Board of Directors, and a member of the council of presidents for the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. She also is a member of the American Council on Education's Women's Network Executive Committee and the South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission. Davis received a BBA degree from Baylor University and a PhD from Duke University.

RICHARD EKMAN has served as president of the Council of Independent Colleges since 2000. Previously, Ekman served as vice president for programs of Atlantic Philanthropies and as secretary and senior program officer of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Earlier, he was at the National Endowment for the Humanities, successively as director of the Division of Education Programs and the Division of Research Programs; at Hiram College as vice president and dean, where he was a tenured member of the history faculty; and at the University of Massachusetts at Boston as assistant to the provost. He currently serves as a member of many boards, including those that provide guidance to the Harvard University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, American Academic Leadership Institute, Emeriti Retirement Health, Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute, and Project Pericles. His essays have appeared in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *University Business*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *Carnegie Reporter*, and *Washington Post*. Ekman earned his AB in history and PhD in the history of American civilization from Harvard University.

SUZANNE MELLON has served as president of Carlow University since 2013. Previously, Mellon was executive vice president of Saint Anselm College, and dean of the College of Health Professions and the McAuley School of Nursing at the University of Detroit Mercy. Her scholarship has focused on families and cancer survivorship. Mellon serves on the boards of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and the Pennsylvania Economy League. She is a member of the Conference for Mercy Higher Education Council of Presidents, the Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education President's Council, the Workforce Development Steering Committee of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, the International Women's Forum, and the Board of Directors of the Council of Independent Colleges. Mellon received a BSN from the University of Michigan, an MS degree from Ohio State University, and a PhD from Wayne State University.

CONVENERS AND MODERATORS

JO ELLEN PARKER serves as vice president for communications at CIC. Parker brings extensive experience to this position, including appointments as president of the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, president of Sweet Briar College, founding executive director of the National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education, president of the Great Lakes Colleges Association, and associate dean at Bryn Mawr College. She has written on subjects from George Eliot's early novels to digital pedagogy, and has authored numerous newspaper op ed pieces. Parker earned a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in English literature and is a Bryn Mawr College graduate.

ELIZABETH "BETH" PAUL is in her first year as president of Nazareth College after serving as president of Capital University since 2016. Previously, she served at Stetson University, first as provost and vice president for academic affairs, and then as provost and executive vice president; she also was a tenured professor of psychology. Paul was vice provost and professor of psychology at the College of New Jersey from 1992 to 2009. She is a past president of the Council on Undergraduate Research, and currently serves on the boards of directors of the National Association of College and University Business Officers and the Council of Independent Colleges. She also serves as treasurer of the Bonner Foundation board of trustees. Paul holds a BA in psychology and a PhD in personality psychology, both from Boston University.

WILLIAM (BILL) SPIKER has served as the seventh president of the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges since 2016. Spiker's career has included work in fundraising, alumni relations, marketing, and admissions for several institutions, including Baldwin Wallace University, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, University of Mount Union, Ohio State University, and Ohio Northern University. In his most recent position, Spiker led development efforts for Cleveland Sight Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Spiker is a founding member of the Northern Ohio Planned Giving Council, a longtime member of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, a member of the Cleveland chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Independent Colleges. He earned a BA in history from University of Mount Union and a JD from Ohio Northern University.