

NPP 2024 Facilitator Biographies



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



Marco J. Clark, *President, Holy Cross College at Notre Dame*. Marco Clark became the 6th president, and first one who is not a Holy Cross brother or priest, of Holy Cross College at Notre Dame in July 2022. Previously, Clark served as executive director of the Holy Cross Institute at St. Edward's University (TX), and as president and CEO (2010–2020) and Principal (1997–2010) at Bishop McNamara High School, a Holy Cross Brothers school located outside of Washington, DC. He has served, or currently serves, on several boards and committees, including the International Education Commission for the Congregation of Holy Cross, National Catholic Educational Association's Leadership Advisory Board, the Prince George's County (MD) Educational Task Force, the Board of Education in the Archdiocese of Washington, the Board of Visitor's at Bowie State University (MD), and as a trustee at the University of Holy Cross (LA), A.T. Still Health Sciences University (MO, AZ, CA), and the Consortium of Catholic Academies (DC). Clark earned a BA in psychology from the College of the Holy Cross (MA), an MA in Guidance and Counseling from Bowie State University, and an EdD in Interdisciplinary Leadership from Creighton University.



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

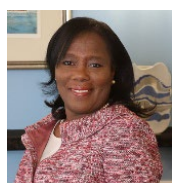
and PhDs in management from the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western University and philosophy in education from Michigan State University.



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



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



Tracy Y. Espy, *President, Mitchell College*. Tracy Espy became the eighth president and first African-American woman to lead Mitchell College in July 2020, bringing over 25 years of experience in higher education and servant leadership. Previously, Espy was provost and vice president for academic affairs at Pfeiffer University and vice president for servant leadership at the university's Francis Center for Servant Leadership. Drawn to Mitchell College's unique and powerful mission, President Espy is dedicated to providing access to quality higher education and increased opportunity to the broadest diversity of students, and to meeting the workforce and service needs of the great city of New London and state of Connecticut. She is thrilled to celebrate Mitchell College's 85th Anniversary, honoring its foundations in history and its distinctive mission. She serves on the Executive Board of the Connecticut Council of Independent Colleges (CCIC), the Leadership Committee of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), and participates in the Governor's Workforce

Council. Espy earned a BA from Berea College, a MS in family studies from Miami University, Ohio, and a PhD in child/family-marriage and family therapy from Syracuse University.



Julee Gard, *Vice President for Administration and Finance, University of St. Francis (IL)*. Julee Gard has served as vice president for administration and finance at the University of St. Francis in Illinois since 2016. She is a certified public accountant and certified management accountant, who most recently served as vice president for finance and human resources at Spectrum Technologies; vice president and corporate controller at Accretive Solutions; chief financial officer at Little Friends, Inc.; and vice president for finance at

SIRVA, Inc. Her specialties are generally accepted accounting principles; technical accounting research; financial reporting and analysis; and mergers and acquisitions. Gard earned BA and MBA degrees from the University of St. Thomas (MN), and an EdD in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania.



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

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



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

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



Ajay Nair, President, Arcadia University. Ajay Nair, an expert in student affairs issues and an accomplished social justice, race, and ethnicity scholar, has served as Arcadia University's 22nd president since April 2018. Nair is among the first university presidents of Indian-American descent in the U.S. His leadership in Arcadia's justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts and in the University's initiatives to combat anti-Black racism have garnered national attention. He's published on the topic in leading media outlets such as The Philadelphia Inquirer, and he has featured in several pieces in, and served as a frequent webinar panelist, for the Chronicle of Higher Education. Nair earned a PhD in Workforce Education & Development and a BS in Human Development and Family Studies from Pennsylvania State University.



Stefanie D. Niles, President, Cottey College. Stefanie Niles became president of Cottey College in July 2022. She previously served as vice president for enrollment and communications at Ohio Wesleyan University, and in similar leadership positions at Dickinson College, Hollins University, Bryn Athyn College, and DePauw University. She served as the president of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) in 2018–2019 (completing a three-year term on the board from 2017-2020) and was selected into the Fulbright International Education Administrators Program in 2017. She is an active peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission and currently serves on NAICU's Tax Policy committee. Niles earned a BA in English from the University of Virginia, an MS in education from Indiana University-Bloomington, and an EdD in Higher Education Management from the University of Pennsylvania.



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

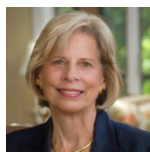


Paul C. Pribbenow, President, Augsburg University. Paul Pribbenow has served as the 10th president of Augsburg University since 2006. He is recognized as one of the country's most engaging commentators and teachers on ethics, philanthropy, and American public life. He publishes a bimonthly email newsletter titled, "Notes for the Reflective Practitioner." He is a leader among the 26 colleges and universities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and helps articulate the gifts that shape and support Lutheran higher education in the 21st century. Previously he served as president of Rockford University; dean for College Advancement and secretary of the Board of Trustees at Wabash College; vice

president of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; and associate dean of the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. He serves on the national boards of the Coalition for Urban and Metropolitan Universities and CIC Board of Directors. He was named “Professional Fundraiser of the Year” by the Association of Fundraising Professionals in 2019. He received the William Burke Award for Presidential Leadership in Experiential Education from the National Society for Experiential Education in 2012. Pribbenow earned a BA from Luther College and a MA and PhD in social ethics from the University of Chicago.



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



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



Sherry Turner, *Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, Rhodes College*. Sherry Turner joined her alma mater as vice president of strategic initiatives in 2019. Prior to that she served as the director of institutional success and support for United Negro College Fund’s Institute for Capacity Building, executive director and chief executive officer of the Atlanta University Center Consortium, and vice president for student affairs at Spelman College. She currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace. Turner earned a BA degree in psychology-anthropology and sociology from Rhodes College, MAs in theological studies from Emory

University's Candler School of Theology and in applied developmental and educational psychology from North Carolina State University, and a PhD in educational psychology from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



Lori E. Varlotta, *President, California Lutheran University*. Lori Varlotta became the 8th president and first female president of California Lutheran University in September 2020 after serving as the first female president at Hiram College (OH) for six years. In both these positions she was called to lead systemic changes that necessitated major (and, at times, unpopular) modifications in shared governance, board oversight, program delivery, and faculty scope of authority. Prior Varlotta held the role of senior vice president for planning, enrollment management, and student affairs at California State University-Sacramento and, before that, leadership positions at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and the University of San Francisco. She currently serves on the National Survey of Student Engagement Advisory Board, the New American Colleges and Universities Board of Directors, and was recently on the American Council on Education National Taskforce for Reimagining Transfer for Student Success.