



The Council of Independent Colleges

Network for
Vocation in Undergraduate Education

NOMINATION DEADLINE
September 27, 2024

Teaching Vocational Exploration

A Seminar for NetVUE Faculty Members · June 2-6, 2025

PAUL J. WADELL

Professor Emeritus of Theology and Religious Studies, St. Norbert College

DARBY KATHLEEN RAY

Donald W. and Ann M. Harward Professor of Civic Engagement, Bates College

The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) is pleased to offer a multidisciplinary seminar, **Teaching Vocational Exploration**, for full-time faculty members at the assistant or associate professor level in all fields at colleges and universities that are members of the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE). Participants will learn to strengthen the teaching of vocational exploration by probing a variety of understandings of vocation and their importance in educating undergraduates, by developing new courses or course materials or redesigning existing courses, and by establishing a broader network of faculty members committed to teaching vocational exploration. Thanks to a generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., CIC will cover most costs of participation (including travel) for those faculty members who are selected.

One of the most promising ways that faculty members can serve their students is to introduce them to the subject of vocation. What would it mean for students to think of themselves as “called” or “summoned” to use their intellect and abilities to have an impact on the world? Faculty members have the opportunity to guide students in the exploration of their respective callings and to help them probe questions of meaning, purpose, and identity, as well as consider contributions that they can make to society. This work can expand, deepen, and enrich faculty members’ understanding of the privilege and responsibility of their own callings as teachers.

This seminar aims to strengthen the teaching of vocational exploration by examining different meanings of vocation and their importance for undergraduate education, by considering content and teaching methods for courses that focus on vocational exploration, and by reflecting on the shape and experience of the academic vocation. In preparation for the seminar, participants will be expected to read a substantial quantity of selected materials on vocation and submit a brief written reflection. In the academic year following the seminar, they will be expected to develop a new course or course materials or to redesign an existing course with greater focus on vocational exploration. The seminar will be held at the Alexander Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana.



SEMINAR LEADERS



PAUL J. WADELL is professor emeritus of theology and religious studies at St. Norbert College, where he also served as coordinator for faculty and staff development of St. Norbert's Faith, Learning, and Vocation program.

He is the co-author of *Living Vocationally: The Journey of the Called Life* (2021) and the author of *Happiness and the Christian Moral Life* (2007), *Becoming Friends* (2002), and *Friendship and the Moral Life* (1989).



DARBY KATHLEEN RAY is Donald W. and Ann M. Harward Professor of Civic Engagement at Bates College, where she also is professor of religious studies and director of the Harward Center for Community Partnerships. She

previously served as founding director of the Millsaps Faith and Work Initiative at Millsaps College. Ray is the author of *Working* (2011), *Incarnation and Imagination: A Christian Ethic of Ingenuity* (2008), and *Theology That Matters: Ecology, Economy, and God* (2006).

NOMINATION PROCESS

- CIC will select up to 16 participants by competitive nomination. Chief academic officers may nominate one individual for the seminar; interested faculty members should provide a statement of interest to the CAO at their institution.
- A nomination form and additional seminar information is available at <http://www.cic.edu/TeachingVocation>
The nomination deadline is September 27, 2024.
- For questions about the seminar or the nomination process, contact David S. Cunningham, director of NetVUE, at (616) 632-1060 or dcunningham@cic.edu

“At the NetVUE faculty seminar, participants arrive as strangers but depart as friends.”

- PAUL J. WADELL

The Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) is a nationwide network of colleges and universities formed to enrich the intellectual and theological exploration of vocation among undergraduate students. NetVUE seeks to examine the role of vocation and calling, to deepen vocational exploration in a variety of institutional contexts, and to encourage members to share knowledge, best practices, and reflection on experiences across participating campuses. This initiative is a program of the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) with generous support from Lilly Endowment Inc. and member dues. More information about NetVUE can be found at www.cic.edu/NetVUE.