



# Vocation Across Campus

## Supporting Students' Search for Meaning

A Seminar for Staff at NetVUE Member Institutions · June 16-20 2025



The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) is pleased to announce **Vocation Across Campus: Supporting Students' Search for Meaning**, the first summer seminar for full-time staff in all campus offices and divisions at colleges and universities that are members of CIC's Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE). The seminar is designed for staff who direct campus programs or serve in other long-term administrative capacities, but who do not also hold faculty appointments. The five-day seminar will take place June 2025 in the central part of the country; all participant expenses are paid, including a generous travel reimbursement. Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about vocation and its importance for undergraduate students, to develop or revise programming or initiatives to support vocational exploration, and to cultivate a broader network of colleagues committed to supporting students' work in this area.

**One of the most promising ways that staff can serve their students** is to guide them into an exploration of their many callings in life. Staff who are committed to supporting students' vocational exploration and discernment can help them discover what might constitute a truly good, meaningful, and purposeful life—one that would lead to flourishing for themselves and others. Participating staff members will engage with vocational exploration through three specific emphases of the seminar:

- Reflecting on their personal vocational journeys and the ways their experiences shape their work with undergraduate students;
- Exploring a variety of language and frameworks for vocation, considering how these might align with the mission and contours of their institutions and how their own office's programs and initiatives might foster deeper vocational exploration; and
- Designing new or revised programming and initiatives for students that incorporate vocational exploration and discernment.

Discussions and case studies will also focus on understanding the characteristics of emerging adults, as well as considering how social, cultural, and institutional dynamics can both facilitate and hinder exploring and living out one's vocation. The seminar also includes substantial dedicated social time, designed to help form a cohort of mutual support. Participants will be expected, in the academic year following the seminar, to develop or revise programming to add a deeper focus on vocational exploration.

### DATES & DEADLINES

*Nominations open*

**May 2024**

*Nomination deadline*

**Nov. 18, 2024**

*Seminar gathering*

**June 16-20, 2025**

*Location*

**Central Station Hotel**

*Memphis, TN*

## SEMINAR CO-LEADERS



**Julie Massey** currently serves as the chief of staff at St. Norbert College, a role she assumed in the summer of 2021. Her previous roles included staff positions in ministry, mission, and student affairs. She directed St. Norbert's Lilly-funded vocational exploration program for over a decade, has served as a NetVUE consultant, and is a current member of the NetVUE Advisory Council. She holds an MDiv from Loyola University Chicago and will complete an Executive EdD in higher education at Boston College in May 2024. Vocational exploration is work that makes Julie's heart sing! She delights in learning with and from colleagues interested in deepening their own sense of calling, and in supporting students as they do the same. After decades of working alongside ministry and student affairs colleagues, she deeply respects the contributions made by staff in higher education and looks forward to the good work (and fun) that are sure to be part of this seminar.

**Richard Sévère** is associate dean of the college of arts and sciences at Valparaiso University. He led the implementation of the Bloom Scholars Program, the University's permanent four-year bridge program, which is designed to prepare a cohort of newly admitted historically-excluded students for life at college and beyond—with attention to their academic, social, and cultural development. In addition to his administrative duties, Richard teaches medieval literature and rhetoric; his current research project focuses on the fear of sodomy in the Middle Ages and its impact on friendship and masculinity among Black men. Richard is a NetVUE Faculty Fellow, has led workshops on vocation at other university campuses, and has appeared on NetVUE's *Callings* podcast. Richard is passionate about mentoring and is excited to co-lead this inaugural seminar for the dedicated staff at NetVUE colleges and universities, who play a central role in helping students search for meaning and explore their many callings in life.



## NOMINATION PROCESS

Staff members must be nominated for this opportunity by a cabinet member in whose division the nominee works. The nominator's letter must include an affirmation that the staff member will be released from all campus obligations during the week-long seminar and will not be required to take annual leave or otherwise compensate the institution for this absence. Up to 20 participants will be notified of their selection in January 2025.

The nominee will be asked to include a brief resume, a statement indicating their interest in the seminar, and a description of the the work in their current position description they would like to adapt or further develop from a vocation perspective through participation in the seminar.

A nomination form and additional seminar information is available at <https://cic.edu/VocationAcrossCampus>.

## CONTACT

For questions about the seminar or the nomination process, contact Rachael Baker, NetVUE director of professional development, at (616) 526-7939 or [rbaker@cic.edu](mailto:rbaker@cic.edu).