



Leading Vocational Exploration on Campus

A Seminar for NetVUE Faculty Fellows • June 10–13, 2025

Bottleworks Hotel, Indianapolis, IN

Seminar Information

Participants in this NetVUE faculty seminar, Leading Vocational Exploration on Campus, will prepare to design and lead a seminar on teaching vocational exploration at their home institutions. Seminar leaders (Erin VanLaningham and Rachael Baker) will share recommendations for seminar design, best practices, and content resources for leading an on-campus seminar to help faculty members and/or staff in their efforts to support vocational exploration among students. Seminar participants will be given work time to plan and design their own vocation seminar based on what they learn and will have the chance to collaborate with and receive feedback from other seminar participants. Participants will be expected to lead the seminar they design on their campus during the 2025–2026 academic year or the following summer. Some funding may be available to defray the costs of their seminars, but applicants are expected to work with senior administrators to secure a substantial institutional contribution to this effort.

Participation

Up to 12 participants will be selected by competitive nomination. Full-time faculty members who have been designated as NetVUE Faculty Fellows are eligible to apply. Selected participants will be notified in January 2025.

Seminar Leaders



Rachael Baker is the director of professional development for NetVUE. In this part-time position, she develops training programs and works with NetVUE campuses to support efforts to implement vocation-informed practices for faculty members, staff, and students. She also serves as associate professor and

co-chair of the department of chemistry and biochemistry at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Rachael was a participant in the 2021 NetVUE Teaching Vocational Exploration seminar, which encouraged her to develop curriculum and faculty workshops to help students develop virtue practices in courses across their programs, creating unique avenues for conversations about vocation that help students engage thoughtfully in communities and teams. Rachael holds a BS in biochemistry from Calvin College and a PhD in biochemistry and biophysics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Erin VanLaningham is director of the NetVUE Scholarly Resources Project. In this part-time position, she recruits contributors for future NetVUE publications, facilitates the seminars through which they develop their contributions, and edits their work for publication. She also co-hosts the NetVUE podcast, *Callings:*

Conversations on College, Career, and a Life Well Lived. She serves as professor of English at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. Erin participated in the NetVUE faculty seminar on Teaching Vocational Exploration in 2017, subsequently adapting and leading a similar seminar at her own institution. Erin teaches courses in the British novel, the spiritual memoir, and Irish literature; her research includes art, gender studies, and vocation. She recently co-edited and contributed to *Cultivating Vocation in Literary Studies* (Edinburgh, 2022). Erin holds a BA from Luther College, an MA from Northeastern University, and a PhD from Saint Louis University, all in English.



Nomination Process

CIC will select up to 10 participants from the pool of interested NetVUE Faculty Fellows. Faculty Fellows who wish to participate in the seminar should ask the chief academic officer of their institution to nominate them for participation. The CAO should submit a letter as described below that makes a case for the nominee's participation in the program and affirms the institution's support (including financial support) for an on-campus seminar in the academic year or summer following the seminar. Each institution may nominate one individual.

Each nomination should be submitted through the [nomination portal](#) on the CIC website, and should include the completed nomination form and the following three items, uploaded as a single document:

1. Nomination letter from the chief academic officer that emphasizes the nominee's qualifications, the nominee's commitment to the institution's mission, and the institution's commitment to support a faculty development seminar on campus to be hosted by the nominee. The letter should include an indication of the degree of financial support that the institution is willing to commit to hosting the seminar on campus, such as (for example) food and beverage costs and/or stipends for participants.
2. Nominee's curriculum vitae (no more than five pages).
3. Nominee's proposal (no more than two pages) indicating reasons for wishing to participate in this seminar and information about the workshop they hope to develop through participation in the seminar. The workshop planning notes should include:
 - An estimate of the planned workshop's duration, which at a minimum should be a full day (or 8 hours spread through multiple meetings). Workshops can be multiple days, if desired, and can occur either in a single block or spread throughout the year.
 - A tentative date (before the beginning of the 2026-2027 academic year) when the workshop will be hosted and whether it will be designed for faculty, staff, or both.
 - Two proposed outcomes for the workshop, which may include themes such as equipping participants to teach vocational exploration, exploring the vocation of a faculty member, or creating a common language of vocation on campus.
 - Possible sources for funding (internal and/or external) for the workshop. Note that this information will be used for planning purposes and will not affect your eligibility for the seminar.

Nomination Deadline: November 22, 2024

Selection of Participants Announced: January 2025

Location and Expenses

The seminar will take place June 10–13, 2025, at the Bottleworks Hotel in Indianapolis, IN. Thanks to generous support from Lilly Endowment Inc., CIC will cover most seminar costs, including materials, lodging, and meals, and will provide a travel reimbursement of up to \$800 per participant.

“It was invaluable to have time to work through and develop components specific to my seminar after having aspects modeled and foundational information explored.”

— a NetVUE
Faculty Seminar
participant

CONTACT INFORMATION

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