



The Council of  
Independent Colleges

# NEW PRESIDENTS PROGRAM

Spouses and Partners  
of New Presidents Program

January 3–4, 2026

Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek

Orlando, Florida

[cic.edu/2026NPP](https://cic.edu/2026NPP)

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Practical Advice +  
Strategic Inspiration =  
Early Success

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## A Message From the Director

Welcome to the CIC family! I am pleased to invite you to participate in the 2026 New Presidents Program (NPP) on January 3–4 in Orlando, Florida. As you launch your presidency, I hope you will join this interactive, practical, and network-building program, with its dynamic parallel program for new presidential spouses and partners.

The NPP immediately precedes CIC's 2026 Presidents Institute, which is by far the largest annual meeting of college and university presidents in the country. This year's Institute theme is "A Deeper Purpose." In community, we will explore strategies that empower campuses to fulfill meaningful missions, provide opportunities, and remain resolute in serving the common good. I encourage you to make participating in the NPP and Presidents Institute a cornerstone of your early presidency.

Over the years, I have served as a faculty member and administrator at a mid-sized public R1 university, as the provost for a small independent university, and I just retired as president of Franklin & Marshall College, one of the oldest US liberal arts colleges. My years at F&M have coincided with what we all recognize as a particularly turbulent time. The president role has changed significantly and become much more challenging. The CIC NPP was intensely helpful to me in my first year, as I learned in the company of peers and great coaches. Now, the need for information, new ideas, an understanding of best practices, moral support, and a network of trusted advisors is even more important. Please join us! We will make it an excellent investment of your time.

Please contact me by email at [baltmann@cic.edu](mailto:baltmann@cic.edu) or by phone at (541) 954-0633 with any questions you may have about the 2026 New Presidents Program.



**Barbara K. Altman**

CIC Senior Advisor and Director, New Presidents Program and President Emerita, Franklin & Marshall College (PA)



**The New Presidents Program was the most impactful professional development opportunity I have experienced since assuming the responsibilities of president. Hearing from other presidents who are wrestling with the same issues I have encountered and learning about the diverse approaches they have taken to address them broadened my perspectives and allowed me to bring back valuable insights to campus that have informed our decision making processes and enhanced our strategies.**

**Matthew J. Draud**

President, Briar Cliff University (IA)



**The New Presidents Program was an invaluable professional development opportunity. The sessions were practical, and the presenters were candid in sharing their experiences and perspectives. The camaraderie among my peers helped me build meaningful connections with a cadre of fellow presidents. I left feeling prepared and supported exactly what a new president needs.**

**Anne Kenworthy**

President, Spalding University (KY)

# About the New Presidents Program

Since 1989, more than 1,650 new presidents have participated in CIC's New Presidents Program. The NPP provides the relevant tools and wise counsel that keep a young presidency on a smooth course. The agenda focuses on the practical needs and resources to help participants avoid early pitfalls while capitalizing on the opportunities that the first year represents. Ample opportunities for formal and informal conversations allow participants to build community.

## Participants often point to these features as particularly valuable:

- Presenters are current or recently retired CIC presidents and spouses or partners who understand the needs of their new colleagues.
- Professional networks are created as participants build relationships with colleagues who often continue to serve as informal advisors.
- The program makes efficient use of time and represents excellent value.
- Trusting friendships are established among participants providing confidential support and counsel on the most sensitive and consequential issues.



**The New Presidents Program was for me a personal investment with a real return. Beyond the tremendous learning opportunities from the program curriculum, building relationships with the network of presidents continues to provide authentic, real time support that has been invaluable.**

**Donald W. Comer**  
Interim President, Lane College (TN)



**As someone in the first few months of a first presidency, this program was incredibly valuable, both for the just in time practical content we received as well as for the development of a cohort of peers who understood in a very direct way all the challenges I was facing. The sessions were fun and engaging, and the whole experience felt like a success booster. In just a few days, I made friends with other presidents who have become a great peer support group for me. I am also very glad to be part of the CIC network: in my first few months as a member, I have found the organization impressive, and I have taken advantage of every opportunity offered. I plan to deepen my CIC connection.**

**Jeannine Diddle Uzzi**  
President, Thomas College (ME)





## Session Topics

### New Presidents

For presenters and other details, visit [cic.edu/2026NPP](https://cic.edu/2026NPP)

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#### Day 1

- Making Connections
- Innovative and Strategic Leadership for the Current Environment
- The President and Institutional Advancement
- Creating an Engaged and Inclusive Environment
- Working with the Board—Basics and Beyond
- I Wish I Had Known What I Know Now

#### Day 2

- Financial Fundamentals, Benchmarking, and Strategies
- Enrollment, Marketing, and Today's Students: Getting Them and Keeping Them
- Perspective on Critical Leadership Issues
- You Got the Job, Now What?

### Spouses and Partners of New Presidents

For presenters and other details, visit [cic.edu/2026NPP](https://cic.edu/2026NPP)

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#### Day 1: Exploration

- Making Connections
- Roles and Expectations
- Finding Your Sweet Spot as a Presidential Spouse/ Partner: Exploring the Spheres of Self, Spouse/Partner, and Stakeholder
- Meeting the Matter
- The Gender Factor
- Tips and Tools to Help You Navigate the Role

#### Day 2: Evolution

- Navigating Change with Resiliency
- Mapping Your Personal Interests with Institutional Impact
- Making the Role Work for You: Plan for Success
- Reflections
- Mentor Mixer



# About the Spouses and Partners of New Presidents Program

CIC's Spouses and Partners of New Presidents Program (SPoNPP) runs concurrently with the New Presidents Program prior to the Presidents Institute. The vision of the SPoNPP is for participants to:

- Enhance their understanding of the role of presidential spouse or partner
- Engage in fellowship with others serving in the same role
- Acquire tools for success in the role

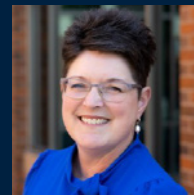
This program provides a supportive, intimate, and confidential environment to navigate new challenges and opportunities of the spouse and partner role. A small team of experienced presidential spouses leads the group through a comprehensive exploration of the role and how to serve effectively and with personal fulfillment. Participants have the option to connect with experienced mentor volunteers.

Participants in the Spouses and Partners of New Presidents Program are strongly encouraged to register also for the Spouses and Partners Program offered during the Presidents Institute. It addresses a wider variety of topics, many more practically oriented.



**Being a new presidential spouse is learning to play a role for which you didn't audition. This is what makes the CIC program so helpful. You realize that you're not alone and others are trying to figure it out, too. Supported by some wise and experienced guides, you also discover that not only can you do this, but there are a lot of different ways in which it can be done. I learned so much from this program and I recommend it highly.**

**Travis Tamerius**  
Presidential Spouse, Meredith College (NC)



**The CIC Program for Spouses and Partners of New Presidents was invaluable to me. It gave me a network of people to call on when needed and helped me find my path in this unique role. The camaraderie that developed among our cohort helped me immensely. The presenters shared helpful information along with tips about how to best approach the role. I felt more settled once I returned to campus having more questions to ask to clarify and create my own path as the president's spouse.**

**Kelly Shrock**  
Presidential Spouse and Director of Development, Graceland University (IA)



# We've Saved You a Spot ... Registration and Hotel Information

CIC's New Presidents Program will be held just prior to CIC's Presidents Institute in Orlando, Florida.

- **Dates:** January 3–4, 2026 (just prior to CIC's January 4–7 Presidents Institute)
- **Registration opens:** August 7, 2025
- **Registration deadline:** December 2, 2025
- **Location:** Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek
- **Registration fee:** \$490 for presidents, \$375 for spouses and partners (includes all meals and session materials)
- **Hotel room rate:** \$245 single/double per night (includes Wi-Fi and complimentary fitness center use)
- **Please note:** First register for the Presidents Institute and sign up for the New Presidents Program as a session. An email will then be sent to the person completing the registration which includes hotel reservation details and a code to make a room reservation at the CIC discounted rate.



To register, and for additional information about the hotel, travel arrangements, and the Presidents Institute program, please visit the CIC website. For staff assistance, please contact Alonso De Los Rios, conference coordinator, at [adelosrios@cic.edu](mailto:adelosrios@cic.edu) or (202) 553-8973.