

2026 Presidents Institute

A Deeper Purpose



January 4–7, 2026 ■ Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek ■ Orlando, FL



The Council of Independent Colleges

Building Culture, Community, and Connection as a Presidential Spouse/Partner



The Council of
Independent Colleges

A Deeper Purpose

2026 Presidents Institute • **Spouses and Partners Program**


Presenters

- ***Grant Cornwell***
President Emeritus
Rollins College (FL)
- ***Peg Cornwell***
Former Presidential Spouse
Rollins College (FL)
- ***Michael Householder***, Facilitator
Presidential Spouse
Macalester College (MN); Spouses and Partners Program Task Force
Chair, CIC




Thank you to our sponsor



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Considerations for a presidential spouse

- Presidency is larger than the President.
 - The Presidency has to convey the mission of the college.
 - The Presidential spouse can be a full scale partner in this role.
 - Intentionality is key.
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Ten tips to consider:

1. A spouse's role can benefit the Presidency, while establishing her/his own identity.





2. The college mission is your north star.

3. Show up - it matters





4. Be intentional about where you show up.

5. Create a signature program



6. Let the staff
do their work.





7. Students are the future leaders our of society. Get to know them.



8. Share
yourself with
others within
your comfort
zone.



9. Be a philanthropic partner



10. Be a thought
partner for your
spouse.



Q&A



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Thank you for attending this session!

