



The Council of
Independent Colleges

NetVUE

Network for Vocation
in Undergraduate Education
cic.edu/netvue

Life and Health Sciences/Vocation

A DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC SEMINAR FOR NETVUE FACULTY MEMBERS · AUGUST 2–6, 2027

The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) is pleased to announce a new discipline-specific seminar, **Life and Health Sciences/Vocation**, for full-time faculty members in scientific disciplines at colleges and universities that are members of CIC's Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE). Participants will examine the interrelationship of the study of vocation and calling with the life and health sciences, exploring implications for research, teaching, mentoring, and service to the institution.



DATES AND DEADLINES

Application deadline

JANUARY 22, 2027

Selection of participants

FEBRUARY 2027

Seminar Gathering

AUGUST 2–6, 2027

Seminar Location

MARQUETTE HOTEL

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

In laboratories and lecture halls, faculty members are encouraging students to view their scientific pursuits not merely as technical training, but as a summons to preserve life, steward the environment, and improve human health. There is a growing body of literature exploring the importance of questions of vocation within the sciences, asking how a deep understanding of living systems contributes to a flourishing life for all. This seminar is designed for full-time faculty members in scientific disciplines such as Biochemistry, Biology, Molecular Biology, Health Sciences, and Environmental Sciences at NetVUE member institutions.

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

This seminar is intended for faculty members in scientific disciplines at all levels. Participants will probe a variety of understandings of vocation, focusing on the central themes of life, stewardship, and human health in undergraduate education. The goal of the seminar is to provide participants with a deeper understanding of how vocational discernment intersects with scientific inquiry and to establish a broader network of faculty members committed to exploring vocation as an area of scholarship within the life and health sciences.



www.cic.edu/LifeAndHealthSciencesVocation

SEMINAR LEADERS



RACHAEL A. BAKER is the NetVUE associate director, where she leads a broad portfolio of initiatives that help member institutions develop and sustain vocation-informed programs for faculty members, staff, and students. She also holds a faculty position as an associate professor of chemistry at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Trained as a biochemist with a longstanding interest in vocational exploration, she developed curriculum that helps students integrate virtue practices into their academic programs and collaborative work. As part of her undergraduate research program, she co-founded the Rare Disease Network, a collaborative organization that trains undergraduate science and pre-health students while supporting and educating the broader rare disease community. Rachael earned a BS in Biochemistry from Calvin University and a PhD in Biochemistry and Biophysics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

MEGHAN M. SLINING is a professor of Health Sciences at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. Trained as a nutritional epidemiologist, her work aims to promote well-being without increasing body dissatisfaction, disordered eating, and weight stigma. She has found her vocational home in the liberal arts, where she balances rigorous intellectual development with the intentional cultivation of the heart. Meghan is the former assistant faculty director of the Cothran Center for Vocational Reflection and contributed “A Case for Compassionate Pedagogy: Caring for the Public’s Health, Cultivating Sustainable Vocations” to the fourth book in the NetVUE Scholarly Resources Project, *Called Beyond Ourselves: Vocation and the Common Good*. She earned a BA in Multicultural Health Advocacy at Fairhaven College, an MS in Food Policy and Applied Nutrition and an MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from Tufts University, and a PhD in Nutrition Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



APPLICATION DETAILS

Any full-time member of the faculty who holds a terminal degree in a scientific discipline (or a closely-related field) at a NetVUE member institution is eligible to apply. Through the generosity of Lilly Endowment Inc., all seminar costs will be covered, including a generous travel reimbursement. Applicants will be asked for basic contact information, and then will need to upload to the online application portal a single document that includes the following three items:

1. A statement of interest (no more than two pages);
2. An abbreviated curriculum vitae (no more than five pages);
3. One letter of recommendation from a colleague in the field.

For complete information, visit cic.edu/sciencesVocation

CONTACT

For questions about the seminar or the nomination process, contact Rachael Baker, NetVUE associate director, at (616) 632-1060 or rbaker@cic.edu.