2026–2027 NetVUE Regional and Topical Gatherings

Reminder: These gatherings are heavily subsidized for anyone from a NetVUE member institution. The cost is typically only $100 per person, including all meals and two nights' lodging.

Vocation And Experiential Learning: The Call to Mentorship

September 24–26, 2026 · Presbyterian College · Clinton, SC

When we invite students into meaningful mentoring relationships, whether in research labs, service experiences, congregational settings, career exploration, or beyond, we create transformative spaces for vocational discernment and discovery. Given the increasing importance of hands-on, immersive learning in undergraduate education and the vital need for human connection in our work, this gathering will invite faculty, staff, and administrators to consider how vocation, mentorship, and experiential learning intersect in higher education.

Telling Honest Stories as a Calling in Higher Education

October 11–13, 2026 · St. Olaf College · Northfield, MN

In places all over our campuses, we are telling stories about who we are. From admissions to marketing to official histories, our institutions are constantly articulating the ways in which where we came from lays a foundation for where we are and where we will go. Inspired by St. Olaf College's Land Acknowledgement statement, a group of faculty and staff spent a year and a half researching and telling untold and undertold stories from the college's history, which have been gathered together in the volume *Honest Storytelling: St.Olaf at 150*. Building on the work of this group, this regional gathering examines how colleges tell honest stories about their place, their people, and their purposes.

Pre-Conference Gathering at the AAR/SBL Annual Meeting
Is Citizenship a Vocation? Loyalty, Protest, Advocacy

November 19–20, 2026 · Colorado Convention Center · Denver, CO

At least since the Reformation and the early modern creation of the nation-state, accounts of a person's vocation almost always include a calling toward citizenship—and often, obedience to the rule of law and support for governmental officials. At the same time, many who have worked for justice and the common good (often within the context of religious belief) have understood their vocations as demanding protest against injustice and advocacy for the marginalized—think of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcom X, Dorothy Day, or Jesus of Nazareth. Today, in the face of partisan divides as the rule of law is hotly contested—sometimes violently—the conflicts among these callings is on full display. During NetVUE's annual pre-conference gathering before the SBL and AAR Annual Meetings, participants will deliberate on the worth and limits of our vocation as citizens.

Vocation and Whole Person: Education in a Transactional Age

December 3–5, 2026 · AdventHealth University · Orlando, FL

In a time of rapid technological change, this event will invite educators to reflect on how we can prepare students not just for careers, but for meaningful lives of service, purpose, and resilience. Rooted in AHU's commitment to faith-informed, holistic education, the gathering will highlight practices that integrate vocational exploration with whole-person development. The gathering will engage faculty, administrators, and mission leaders from a wide range of colleges and universities. Through shared learning, peer dialogue, and collaboration, participants will consider how institutions can nurture belonging, wellbeing, fulfillment, and purpose in students and educators alike.

Encuentra: Explorations of Culture and Calling

February 25–27, 2027 · Fresno Pacific University · Fresno, CA

Drawing on NetVUE's new resource, *Encuentra*: Conversation Cards on Calling, Career, and a Life Well-Lived, this regional gathering explores and celebrates the role of culture in human experience and understanding of the world and one's calling. Participants will experience the food, music, dance, art, and language of the diverse Hispanic, Latine, Latin American, and U.S. Latine cultures in Fresno and the surrounding communities as a way to frame learning more about the origin and unique contribution of these conversation cards, and how culturally responsive and sustaining pedagogy can help foster vocational exploration. Breakout sessions led by experienced practitioners will provide ample opportunity for hands-on practice, reflection, and discussion centered on the conversation cards.

Vocation, Higher Education, and the Future: Imagining Possibilities, Cultivating Practices

March 11–13, 2027 · Wake Forest University · Winston-Salem, NC

Join the 2027 NetVUE regional gathering, "Vocation, Higher Education, and the Future," at Wake Forest University to celebrate the launch of the new NetVUE Scholarly Resource Project book, *Vocation, Higher Education, and the Future: Imagining Possibilities, Cultivating Practices*. Participants will explore how institutions can foster meaningful vocational practices in a rapidly changing landscape. The program includes conversations with the book's contributors and Wake Forest leaders, offering insight into innovative, future focused approaches to vocational discernment and character formation as essential elements of the student experience. Everyone who registers for this gathering will receive a copy of the book.

Vocation at the Threshold: Accompanying Students in Meaning Making During the First Year

April 1–3, 2027 · Lewis University · Romeoville, IL

When should colleges and universities begin inviting students to explore purpose and vocation? The first year is an opportune time to introduce students to a culture of vocational exploration. Students can encounter accessible language for discussing meaning and purpose, begin identifying the people and experiences that shape them, and learn that discernment is not a single decision but a recurring practice and transferrable skill. This regional gathering will invite participants to consider how institutions can establish this culture deliberately, inclusively, and developmentally. Through plenary sessions and presentations, campus best-practice sessions, and facilitated conversations, participants will explore ways to introduce vocational exploration concepts without overwhelming students or reducing vocation to the selection of a career or major.

Roots, Branches, Leaves: Institutionalizing Vocational Discernment

May 20–22, 2027 · Le Moyne College · Syracuse, NY

Stand-alone vocational programs are valuable, but they can seem to be disconnected islands, only having an impact on those who find them. However, when programs become more integrated into an institution's culture, they can have a stronger and deeper impact on students. Touchpoints are multiplied and messages are reinforced. Further, institutionalizing vocational work builds community and enhances campus culture. Work on vocational discernment breaks down silos and brings people together from across campus constituencies. People discover deeper dimensions of their work and see themselves as engaged in a common project with colleagues from across the institution. This regional gathering will use the story of the Manresa Program, Le Moyne College's vocational discernment program, as a model to help participants to explore ways they could further institutionalize their own vocational discernment efforts. Participants will leave this conference with concrete ideas and proven strategies that can deepen and strengthen their work with undergraduate students.