May 22 - 24, 2017
UCLA Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference Center
Los Angeles, California

2017 NASPA Religious, Secular, & Spiritual Identities Convergence

NASPA
Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education



2017 NASPA Multicultural Institute: Advancing Equity and Inclusive Practice

The 2017 NASPA Multicultural Institute: Advancing Equity and Inclusive Practice is the premier event for student affairs and academic affairs professionals who are seeking an interactive forum that combines thought-provoking keynote speakers, challenging educational sessions, and opportunities for resource and idea sharing. The Institute exists to connect those with responsibilities for and those who are passionate about multicultural education at institutions across the country.

Call for programs deadline: July 14

Early-bird deadline: October 1

bit.ly/2017-NMI **December 10 – 12, 2017 | New Orleans, LA**

NASPA®

2018 NASPA Well-being and Health Promotion Leadership Conference

A NASPA Strategies Conference

Student affairs professionals strive to help students be well in every aspect possible, and create and sustain communities that value and support well-being. Health promotion is the process of enabling individuals to increase control over, and improve, their health. The field moves beyond a focus on individual behavior towards a wide range of social and environmental interventions. The NASPA Well-being and Health Promotion Leadership Conference will build attendees' knowledge and capacity around creating a culture of health and well-being, and inform future planning at institutions of higher education.

For more information and to register, please visit **bit.ly/Strat18-WHPL**

January 18 – 20, 2018
Portland, Oregon

NASPA®
Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

MONDAY, MAY 22

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration Open
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Pre-Conference Workshops
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Convergence Welcome & Opening Plenary
2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions I
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions II
5:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Networking Reception & Poster Sessions
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Participant Dinner at UCLA Hillel

TUESDAY, MAY 23

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Registration Open
7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Continental Breakfast (provided)
8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions III
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Roundtable Sessions I
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Mini-Institutes I
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (provided)
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Afternoon Plenary
2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions IV
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions V

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Registration Open
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast (provided)
8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Closing Plenary
9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions VI & Roundtable Sessions II
9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Mini-Institutes II
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions VII

WELCOME

NASPA WELCOMES YOU to Los Angeles and to the campus of UCLA and to the 2017 Religious, Secular, and Spiritual Identities Convergence. The Convergence is an opportunity to elevate the discussion of how religious, secular, and spiritual identities can better be supported on our campuses and throughout our work as higher education professionals.

Born out of idea that the 1998 Education as Transformation conference at Wellesley College was a pivotal moment in the engagement of higher education in the support of religious, secular, and spiritual identities, our gathering this week seeks to deepen relationships, chart new paths, and to be the next important step in the vital work of supporting students on our campuses. Throughout the week, you will experience a number of opportunities to engage in work that may be new for you and may stretch you professionally. We encourage you to engage deeply.

We are thankful for our hosts here at the beautiful UCLA campus and especially for the new Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference Center, in which most of our gathering will take place. UCLA's continuous efforts to support the larger needs of religious, secular, and spiritual identities has been paramount for higher education over the year, especially the efforts of the Higher Education Research Institute and Cooperative Institutional Research Program.

This Convergence should be considered an opportunity to explore your own identity as well as the complexity of the work that is needed to support students of all religious, secular, and spiritual identities. We encourage you to bring your questions, your experience, and your curiosity to the discussions, keynotes, panels, roundtables, and workshops. We also highly encourage you to spend time eating together and conversing throughout out time together with those who you do not already know. Welcome. We are so excited you've decided to join us.

> "On a spiritual journey, we all have the same destination." **A.R. Rahman**

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

NASPA is very thankful for the time, effort, and guidance of the conference planning committee.

AMER AHMED director of intercultural teaching and faculty development, University of Massachusetts

PETER LAURENCE former executive director, Education as Transformation Project at Wellesley College

RABBI JESSICA LOTT director of Jewish Educational Networks, Hillel International

J. CODY NIELSEN executive director, Wesley Foundation at the University of Minnesota; expert in residence for religious, secular, and spiritual initiatives, NASPA

SHARON PARKS senior fellow, Whidbey Institute

JANETT C. RAMOS doctoral candidate, Olivet Nazarene University

LARRY ROPER interim director, School of Language, Culture and Society, Oregon State University

NICK STANCATO campus organizing manager, Secular Student Alliance

ROSS WANTLAND assistant director, Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

JAMIE WASHINGTON president and founder, Washington Consulting Group

DAVE WRIGHT university chaplain and director for spiritual life & civic engagement, Center for Intercultural and Civic Engagement, University of Puget Sound; President, Association for College and University Religious Affairs

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secular student alliance

National Association of College and University Chaplains
A multifaith professional community supporting spiritual and ethical life in higher education

GENERAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

The Convergence registration desk is located in the Centennial Ballroom Foyer outside the Centennial Ballroom, and is open during the following hours:

Monday, May 22 | 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 23 | 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 24 |7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

All Convergence activities will be held at the UCLA Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference Center and are open to Convergence participants only.

UCLA Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference Center
425 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90095
1-855-522-8252

ATTIRE

Attire for the Convergence is business casual.

ACCESSIBILITY/DIETARY NEEDS

If you have an accommodation request, dietary concerns, or questions, please speak with the NASPA staff at the Convergence registration desk.

CELL PHONES

As a courtesy to presenters, speakers, panelists, and attendees, please turn off cell phones during program sessions. Please leave the session room if you must take a call.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

NASPA is an NBCC-Approved Continuing Education Provider (ACEP™) and may offer NBCC-approved clock hours for events that meet NBCC requirements. Sessions or programs for which NBCC-approved clock hours will be awarded are identified in this program book. The ACEP is solely responsible for all aspects of the program.

Participants can receive a maximum of five clock hours for this event. Up to three additional clock hours are available for attending pre-conference workshops. To receive credit, please complete a reporting form available at registration. In addition, you must complete an online evaluation of individual sessions, which will be emailed to you shortly after the conference. A certificate of completion will be sent via email after the form has been processed and approved.

EVALUATION

The 2017 NASPA Religious, Secular, and Spiritual Identities Convergence evaluation will be available online following the conclusion of the Convergence and will be sent via email to all participants.

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOST & FOUND

Lost and found articles should be turned into the Convergence registration desk.

LUSKIN CENTER MAP

A map of the meeting space can be found at the back of the program book. We are located on Meeting Levels 1 and 2 throughout the Luskin Center.

MATERIALS

Session materials will be posted to the NASPA Professional Development Archive behind the members-only section of the NASPA website. To view the program materials, login using the credentials you used at the time of registration and select 2017 NASPA Religious, Secular, and Spiritual Identities Convergence under Current National Events. You will then see a listing of program titles which are hyperlinked to uploaded materials. Presentations are available as they are uploaded from presenters.

NAME BADGES

Convergence badges are required to participate in sessions and any meals provided by the Convergence. Your badge not only indicates that you are fully registered for the conference, but serves to build community among attendees.

NASPA MOBILE APP

Enhance your conference experience with the NASPA Mobile App, powered by Guidebook! View the schedule and create our own itinerary, browse exhibitors and sponsors, read up on speakers, floor plans, and more. To download, visit the Apple App Store or Google Play and search for "NASPA Mobile App." After installation, download the 2017 NASPA Religious, Secular, and Spiritual Identities Convergence guide from within the NASPA Mobile App.

NURSING MOTHERS ROOM

There are nursing mother rooms available for participants to utilize. To access these rooms, please stop by registration for details.

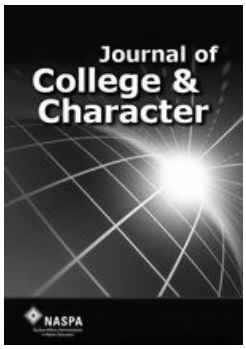
SOCIAL MEDIA

Join in on the conversation via Twitter and Instagram! Participants should use the hashtag **#RSSIConvergence** as the hashtag for the event. For all the latest tweets and photos, be sure to follow the official NASPA Twitter, @NASPAtweets.

WIFI

There is complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the meeting spaces. Participants can connect to the **Luskin_meeting** network. Passcode is: **lcc2017**.

Journal of College and Character SPECIAL ISSUE



NASPA *Journal of College and Character (JCC)* with guest editors, Nick Bowman and Jenny Small, will publish a special issue February 2018 relating to the theme of the 2017 NASPA Religious, Secular, and Spiritual Identities Convergence. The issue will include selected articles based on scholarship presented at the conference.

The JCC is a professional journal that examines how colleges and universities impact the moral and civic engagement of students. The journal publishes scholarly articles and applied research on issues concerning ethics, values, character development, and spiritual growth in the higher education setting. In addition to its primary emphasis on peer reviewed articles, the journal publishes ongoing columns on current topics relating to the journal's mission as well as invited articles by leading scholars in the field of higher education and character development.

The journal audience includes faculty, administrators, graduate students, and practitioners in student services and campus ministry, as well as others engaged in research and practice in moral education in colleges and universities. To read general information about the journal as well as the current issue and past issues, go

UNSESSIONS

Unsession is a participant-driven space designed to promote face-to-face engagement, collaboration, dialogue, and creativity during Convergence. The Unsession will provide a semi-facilitated space for Convergence attendees to engage with emergent topics with their peers. Throughout Convergence, attendees will have opportunity to identify these key issues for discussion within the Unsession spaces. Perhaps you have a big question you'd like to explore with fellow Convergence participants, or maybe a national or international event has raised a significant concern. Whatever the topic that is selected, the Unsession is designed for Convergence participants to come together for spontaneous conversation and brainstorming. Convergence will offer three Unsessions during the following times:

- **Monday, May 22 | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, May 23 | 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, May 24 | 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

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PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS PRACTITIONERS

In July 2015, the NASPA Board of Directors approved Professional Competency Areas for Student Affairs Practitioners. The set of professional competency areas is intended to define the broad professional knowledge, skills, and in some cases, the attitudes expected of student affairs professionals regardless of their area of specialization or positional role within the field. Within the conference program, sessions that fall into particular competency areas are marked with the icons as indicated below.

- Advising and Supporting
- Assessment, Evaluation, and Research
- Law, Policy, and Governance
- Leadership
- Organizational and Human Resources
- Personal and Ethical Foundations
- Social Justice and Inclusion
- Student Learning and Development
- Technology
- Values, Philosophy, and History

Follow us on Twitter
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and tag your tweets
#RSSIConvergence!



In addition to our keynote speakers, a call for educational sessions was shared and we received almost 100 proposals. Accepted programs demonstrated relevance to Convergence and a contribution to the knowledge and practice of student affairs educators and religious, secular, and spiritual professionals within our communities. Sessions focus on the following topical areas which are also indicated throughout the program book:

Data-Driven and Research Oriented

- Content designed to incorporate data-driven decision-making practices using current research to provide fundamentals to those who are new to the field.
- A forum for experienced professionals to advance their skills by discussing these identities with educators, practitioners, scholars, and policy-makers.

Enhancing Practice(s)

College and University Driven Practice

- Promising practices in community partnerships on-and-off campus and program development.
- Promising practices related to trainings, programs, and services.

Religious, Secular, and Spiritual Practices

- Exploration of various religious, secular, and spiritual texts, traditions, and rituals.
- Discussion of needs and opportunities for religious, secular, and spiritual groups.
- Sharing of various models of religious, secular, and spiritual integration with the campus community.

Campus Policy

- Systemic and social justice approaches to including and discussing religious, secular, and spiritual identities on campus particularly in regards to current events.
- Approaches to campus related issues regarding space, calendars, dietary restrictions, or other accommodations that are being created and implemented.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Reverend Jamie Washington

Opening Plenary

President and Founder, Washington Consulting Group

Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington serves as the President and Founder of the Washington Consulting Group, a Multicultural Organizational Development Firm out of Baltimore, MD. Dr. Washington has served as an educator, administrator, and consultant in higher education for over 30 years. Dr. Washington is also the President and a Founder of the Social Justice Training Institute. He also serves as Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion and Social Ethics at Winston-Salem State University.

John L. Hoffman, Ph.D.



Plenary Speaker

Associate Professor, Educational Leadership Director, Doctor of Educational Leadership Program Chair, Department of Educational Leadership, California State University, Fullerton

Dr. John L. Hoffman is an associate professor of educational leadership at California State University, Fullerton where he also serves as the director of the doctorate of educational leadership program and the chair of the Department of Educational Leadership. Before transitioning to faculty, John spent 10 years working in administrative roles in academic and student affairs, seven of which were as a dean of students. He has experience in the development of theory-informed programs that enhance the success and retention of students of color; early interventions addressing student wellness and achievement; and the assessment of student learning in the cocurriculum. He serves nationally on the Professional Standards Division of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA). John has received professional awards from Western Association for College and University Housing Officers (WACUHO) for his diversity and leadership work as a dean of students and from NASPA for his professional mentoring efforts. His research interests focus on assessment and accountability, professional competencies in student affairs and higher educational leadership, and professional development and mentoring. John earned his Ph.D. in Higher Education Policy and Administration from the University of Minnesota.

Mamta Accapadi, Ph.D.



Closing Plenary

Vice President for Student Affairs, Rollins College

Mamta Accapadi is a mother first. She is grateful to be in a head and heart space where her daughter challenges and affirms her sense of purpose every day. Dr. Accapadi is a certified yoga instructor who grew up in a family that practiced both Sikhism and Hinduism and is married into a Malayali Catholic family. She grew up deeply influenced by both Sufi and Bhakti traditions and beliefs- both mystical traditions of their respective religions.

In her professional role, Mamta Accapadi joined Rollins College as the Vice President for Student Affairs in August 2013. At Rollins, Accapadi serves as a cabinet-level student affairs officer and provides broad leadership for initiatives focused on student learning, thriving, and success. During her time at Rollins, Accapadi has focused on developing strategic alignments of core student affairs areas in student care, community, and career and life planning in order to develop stronger functional alignments in support Rollins students, the College' retention efforts, and mission of educating students for global citizenship and responsible leadership.

Prior to Rollins, Dr. Accapadi served as the Dean of Student Life at Oregon State University, where she also coordinated the College Student Services Administration program. In addition, Accapadi served as the assistant director of the Multicultural Information Center at the University of Texas at Austin, and has held faculty appointments in Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, Education, and Educational Psychology.

Accapadi received her Ph.D. in higher education administration with research interests in Asian American identity and social justice education. She also has served as a postdoctoral fellow in Women's Studies at the University of Houston. In addition to a Ph.D., Accapadi also holds a M.Ed. in higher education administration and B.A. in microbiology, all from the University of Texas at Austin.

MONDAY, MAY 22

Centennial Ballroom Foyer | **8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**
Registration open

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP | 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Illumination Room | **9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**
From Identity to Community

PRESENTERS:

Peter Laurence, former executive director, Education as Transformation Project at Wellesley College

Christy Lohr Sapp, associate dean for religious life, Duke University

J. Cody Nielsen, executive director, Wesley Foundation at the University of Minnesota and expert in residence for religious, secular, and spiritual initiatives, NASPA

Angie Thurston, ministry innovation fellow, Harvard Divinity School

The focus of Convergence is identity, and how institutions of higher education can better accommodate the diverse elements of identity among students. The presenters will investigate how these many identities can be validated in their particularity, but might also be brought together into a harmonious campus community. Peter Laurence will begin by tracing the history of the interfaith movement and how it strives to bring people together across religious lines. The Education as Transformation Project at Wellesley College grew out of that movement and, in keeping with contemporary developments, also recognized the growing influence of students who characterize themselves as "spiritual but not religious." The project therefore identified its primary concerns as religious pluralism and spirituality in higher education.

**** Registration required. Continuing Education hours available for this program.***

CONVERGENCE WELCOME & OPENING PLENARY | 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Centennial Ballroom
Preparing the Next Generation Leaders: The Role of "Belief, Spirituality, Religion and Other Ways of Knowing" In Higher Education

SPEAKER:

Reverend Jamie Washington, President and Founder, Washington Consulting Group

Most college students would say that "spirituality" and "meaning making" is one of the things that is at the forefront of their minds. However, most colleges and universities steer clear of helping students navigate this important part of their identity. This is not only a missed opportunity, but it is a failure on the part of higher education to more fully prepare the next generation of leaders. This session will address the why and the how higher education can do better.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS I | 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Artistry Room | 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

A Year in Their Life: Exploring the Interfaith Perspectives of First-Year Students

PRESENTER: **Rebecca Crandall**, post-doctoral researcher, Interfaith Diversity Experiences and Attitudes Longitudinal Survey (IDEALS)

MEETING TAG: Data-driven and Research Oriented

COMPETENCIES: Assessment, Evaluation, & Research; Student Learning and Development

Learn the latest findings from the Interfaith Diversity Experiences & Attitudes Longitudinal Survey, a national study of students' attitudes, experiences, and expectations about worldview diversity. Drawing from data collected from over 20,000 first-year students at 122 U.S. institutions, the presenter will offer insight into the interfaith diversity attitudes of students across their first year of college. Attendees will also learn about specific facets of the campus experience that foster students' pluralism development. Session sponsored by the *Journal of College and Character*.

Continuing Education hours available for this session.

Innovation Room | 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Atheism is Not a Monolith: Understanding Atheist and Secular Students

PRESENTER: **Kathleen Goodman**, assistant professor, Student Affairs in Higher Education, Miami University

MEETING TAG: Data-driven and Research Oriented

COMPETENCIES: Social Justice and Inclusion; Student Learning and Development

Participants will learn about the diversity of perspectives within or associated with atheism, including anti-theism, agnostism, skepticism, secularism, humanitarianism, freethought, and more. Understanding the nuances of these beliefs can help administrators better serve the entire spectrum of atheist and secular students. The presenter will share examples from research and practice and engage the audience in discussion about working with atheist and secular students.

Continuing Education hours available for this session.

Illumination Room | 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Building an Inclusive Campus: Developing Students' Intercultural Competencies Through Co-curricular Religious Literacy and Immersion Programming

PRESENTER: **Adriana Tulissi**, manager, Faith & Spirituality Center, University of Calgary

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Social Justice and Inclusion; Student Learning and Development

University of Calgary students participated in a diversity program called the Kaleidoscope Project and were introduced to six world religions; religion and the public sphere; human rights law; public policy formation; models of secularism; interreligious dialogue and action; site visits, and case studies. The presenter will introduce the program, share results from the research project, and discuss whether participation in this type of programming increases students' intercultural competencies.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS I cont'd | 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Pathways Room | 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

I'm Not Who You Say I Am: Counternarratives of Media (Mis)Representations

PRESENTERS: **Leah Panther**, doctoral candidate, University of Missouri Kansas City

Sharon Rodriguez Benarroch, graduate research assistant, University of Missouri Kansas City

Faiza Chaudhry, doctoral candidate, University of Missouri Kansas City

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCY: Social Justice and Inclusion

Considering the influence of the media on Americans' perceptions of religious cultural groups, there are three objectives for this program: to (a) recognize and challenge the media representations of religious identity in American culture, (b) tackle common misconceptions about religious identity development on college campuses, and (c) provide case studies of effective practices in counternarrative representation. Using interactive case studies, a collaborative multimodal lecture, and providing counternarratives participants will evaluate religious bias in media representation of religion and integrate counternarrative strategies.

Continuing Education hours available for this session.

Odyssey Room | 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Trumped and Scared: Responding to the Needs of Marginalized Religious Identities During Times of Political Uncertainty

PRESENTER: **J. Cody Nielsen,** executive director, Wesley Foundation at the University of Minnesota and expert in residence for religious, secular, and spiritual initiatives, NASPA

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Law, Policy, and Governance; Social Justice and Inclusion

The results of our most recent Presidential election necessitates higher education pay closer attention to marginalized religious identifying persons. Considerations of policies and practices that support those of Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, and Hindu traditions will be addressed and information from campuses across the United States will be incorporated into the session. This workshop will particularly benefit higher education professionals in diversity work and those specifically tasked with supporting the lives of religious, secular, and spiritual identifying students on campus.

Continuing Education hours available for this session.

Enlightenment Room | 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Utilizing Angel Cards for Spiritual-But-Not-Religious Connection, Reflection, and Affirmation

PRESENTER:	**Juan Mendizabal**, convener of the spiritual life project, Florida State University
MEETING TAG:	Enhancing Practice(s)
COMPETENCIES:	Personal and Ethical Foundations; Social Justice and Inclusion

Due to the nature of spiritual-but-not-religious (SBNR) practices being individual and varied, few rituals or resources are able to resonate across all SBNR identities. However, angel cards are often used in SBNR spaces to channel a spiritual connectedness similar to tarot, but are meant for personal affirmation and reflection rather than predicting future events. In this session, participants will learn how to facilitate an angel card reading and understand how to connect with SBNR individuals through this inclusive spiritual medium.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS II | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Innovation Room | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Appreciative Discipleship: Appreciating Your Spirituality in Higher Education

PRESENTER:	**James R. Walters**, director of Catholic Scholars and Residence Ministry, St. John's University
MEETING TAG:	Enhancing Practice(s)
COMPETENCIES:	Advising & Supporting; Leadership

Appreciative Discipleship, built upon the Appreciative Inquiry and Appreciative Advising models, focuses on the spiritual dimension of students' holistic development in higher education. The six-stages plus the foundational discernment process, provides a unique framework that values the experiences of students of all (or no) faith tradition, while supporting their educational journey. This process was utilized successfully with students and colleagues both in higher education and the community level, and can be easily implemented by colleagues in any work environment.

> "Science is not only compatible with spirituality; it is a profound source of spirituality."
>
> **Carl Sagan**

CONCURRENT SESSIONS II cont'd | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Odyssey Room | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Effectively Introducing the Enneagram Personality Paradigm as a Helpful Identity/ Spiritual Formation Tool on Campus

PRESENTERS: **Joshua Ritter**, assistant director for Formation, Baylor University

Kristen Richardson, director for Formation and associate chaplain, Baylor University

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Personal and Ethical Foundations; Student Learning and Development

Participants will learn effective strategies to implement the Enneagram as an identity/spiritual formation tool on campus. They will hear a brief history of the Enneagram, which includes a short introduction into the uses and benefits of this personality model. Participants will then explore various ways the Enneagram might be used for student programming. A rich discussion is encouraged and welcomed.

Illumination Room | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Mindfulness for Students of Color

PRESENTER: **Reka Prasad,** assistant director, Global Spiritual Life/MindfulNYU, New York University

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Social Justice and Inclusion; Student Learning and Development

Practices and principles of present moment awareness, like meditation, non-judgment, breath work, and compassion relating to one's emotions and body, are tools for self-empowerment. Self-awareness, stress reduction, management of triggers, reclamation of the body, and deeper connectivity with self and others, offers a pathway to positive and affirmative racial identity. Students can understand the self beyond imposed narratives and negative conditioning so that they have more choice in who and how they want to be in a world.

Continuing Education hours available for this session.

Artistry Room | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Intersection of Sexual Identity and Spirituality at Religious Institutions

PRESENTER: **Vanessa Roberts Bryan,** assistant dean of student development, Texas Christian University

MEETING TAG: Data-driven and research oriented

COMPETENCIES: Social Justice and Inclusion; Student Learning and Development

Despite recent scholarly interest in college students' spiritual development, as well as research indicating that students have a strong desire to integrate spirituality into their lives, few researchers have addressed the spiritual experiences of gay and lesbian college students. In this session, presenters will discuss the research they conducted on how gay and lesbian college students experience spirituality at two religiously affiliated institutions. The results of this study will be presented along with recommendations for working with students at the intersection of spirituality and sexuality.

Continuing Education hours available for this session.

Pathways Room | **4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**
Unsession

Unsession is a participant-driven space designed to promote face-to-face engagement, collaboration, dialogue, and creativity during Convergence. The Unsession will provide a semi-facilitated space for Convergence attendees to engage with emergent topics with their peers. Throughout Convergence, attendees will have opportunity to identify these key issues for discussion within the Unsession spaces. Perhaps you have a big question you'd like to explore with fellow Convergence participants, or maybe a national or international event has raised a significant concern. Whatever the topic that is selected, the Unsession is designed for Convergence participants to come together for spontaneous conversation and brainstorming.

NETWORKING RECEPTION AND POSTER SESSIONS

Centennial Terrace | 5:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

During this time appetizers and a cash bar will be available for participants.

#DigitalFaith: Using Social Media to Create Authentic Personal & Professional Spaces

PRESENTERS: **Janett C. Ramos**, doctoral candidate, Olivet Nazarene University

Sable Manson, Souljourners program director, University of Southern California

Ever-changing social media platforms offer educators an untapped opportunity to communicate with and influence college students. In the area of religious, secular, and spiritual identities development, a movement has begun to meet students where they are digitally by providing access to spiritual resources at their fingertips. This poster highlights the opportunities that exist, the impact, and the outreach of #DigitalFaith resources. Best practices for utilizing and tailoring social media platforms to meet the individualized needs of college students and the professionals that serve them will also be shared.

Faith-Informed Political Engagement: A Three-Part Investigation of University Social Justice Programs

PRESENTERS: **Peter Marie**, doctoral candidate, Saint Louis University

Bryan Sokol, director, Center for Service and Community Engagement

The community service commitments of faith-based universities make them an ideal place to explore the intersection of individuals' faith and civic lives. Students from such institutions typically indicate high levels of interest and involvement in community service. Still, this does not necessarily translate to similar commitments of political engagement and social justice advocacy. This poster draws on several samples of students from a Catholic-Jesuit institution and investigates the intersection of religiosity, spirituality, political motivation, and civic engagement in the college-based sample.

NETWORKING RECEPTION AND POSTER SESSIONS cont'd

Centennial Terrace | 5:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Ideas for Avoiding Religious and Christian Privilege in Student Affairs Practice

PRESENTER: **Kathleen Goodman**, assistant professor, Student Affairs in Higher Education, Miami University

The presenter will convey the types of privilege that can sneak into our work with spiritual, religious, and secular students if we aren't paying close attention. The poster includes a variety of definitions and examples of religious and Christian privilege, as well as tips for how to avoid these types of privilege in student affairs practice.

Re-Defining Higher Education Diversity to Include Invisible Minorities

PRESENTERS: **Montisa Watkins**, doctoral candidate, Central Michigan University

Wafa Hozien, assistant professor, Educational Leadership, Central Michigan University

A report, "The Religious Preference of Incoming Freshmen" (2014), of a midwestern university identified 11 students of Muslim faith. The Justice Department along with college and university campuses, reported an increase in an anti-Muslim hate crimes. Utilizing Tierney's (2008) framework, a comprehensive audit, examined the culture of the midwestern university, utilizing four interviews to inform a change initiative to advocate, support, and embrace the religious identity of the Muslim minority students at this university.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Religiosity on Campus

PRESENTERS: **Leah Panther**, doctoral candidate, University of Missouri Kansas City

Sharon Rodriguez Benarroch, graduate research assistant, University of Missouri Kansas City

Faiza Chaudhry, doctoral candidate, University of Missouri Kansas City

A name and face attached to the stories of religious student experiences on public campuses is offered for your consideration in this poster presentation. Each auto ethnographic snapshot will invite the viewer to draw their own implications with contextual information about the institution, the incident, and what the student would like their campus to know. Several representatives of the stories will be present to engage the viewers in conversation, provide additional context, and hear your stories.

The Role of Religion/Spirituality in Promoting a Positive Campus Culture

PRESENTER: **Kevin Fosnacht**, assistant research scientist, Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research

This study attempts to understand the student experience of campus culture for students who identify with a minority religious or spiritual belief. Building on the analytical framework for the study of racial/ethnic campus cultures (Hurtado et al., 1999), the presenters investigate the influence of Christian privilege on campus cultures, and how students who do not identify as Christian experience these campuses, using quantitative data from a multi-institutional sample.

Using Spirituality to Increase Student Success among Academically At-Risk College Students

PRESENTER: **Michael Jones**, doctoral candidate, Mississippi College

According to the Pew Research Center (2009), 87% of African Americans report to have some sort of religious affiliation. Furthermore, spirituality among academically at-risk African American college students on academic probation has also been endorsed to represent a sign of strength within their overall academic experience. This is reason enough to examine tactical strategies of religious and spiritual programing efforts to help improve professional staff cultural learning, integration of academic and student development, and improve faith community partnerships.

PARTICIPANT DINNER AT UCLA HILLEL

UCLA HILLEL | 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

NASPA
Spirituality and Religion in Higher Education KC

NASPA Spirituality & Religion in Higher Education Knowledge Community invites you to Dinner with Convergence Participants, featuring kosher & vegetarian food generously catered by UCLA Hillel. ***Meet in Luskin Center Lobby at 6:45 p.m. for group walk to UCLA Hillel.***

Jon C. Dalton Institute On College Student Values

"Who is My Neighbor?:
The Power of Compassion and the Rhetoric of 'Us vs. Them'"

Save the Date

Jon C. Dalton Institute On College Student Values

February 1-3, 2018 • Tallahassee, Florida

Call for Programs, Call for Papers, and Awards nominations open July 31, 2017

Earlybird registration opens September 5, 2017

https://studentvalues.fsu.edu

DaltonInstitute Dalton Institute

Centennial Ballroom Foyer | 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Registration open

Centennial Terrace | 7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
Breakfast available

CONCURRENT SESSIONS III | 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Exploration Room | 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
Making Space for Life's Big Questions: Assessing Spiritual Development Through Community Engagement

PRESENTER:	**Jennifer Jones**, communications specialist, Lowell Bennion Community Service Center, University of Utah
MEETING TAG:	Enhancing Practice(s)
COMPETENCY:	Student Learning and Development

What can you learn about student spirituality from a former news producer? The questions you ask determine the answers you get. Making space for spiritual development through community service may be an incomplete endeavor without an effective structure to assess the student experience. The Lowell Bennion Community Service Center at the University of Utah has developed a deeper measure of meaning. The presenter uses experiential activities to help professionals of all levels develop strategies for a more expansive approach.

Enlightenment Room | 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
Navigating Identity and Privilege in Multifaith Engagement on a College Campus

PRESENTERS:	**Joel Harter,** associate chaplain for Protestant Life, Elon University
	Meir Goldstein, associate chaplain for Protestant Life, Elon University
	Maggie Castor, program coordinator for inclusive community and well-being, Elon University
MEETING TAG:	Enhancing Practice(s)
COMPETENCIES:	Social Justice and Inclusion; Student Learning and Development

How do different forms of privilege and intersectionality create challenges and opportunities for multifaith engagement? Since we experience the world through multiple identities, we need a collaborative interdisciplinary and interdepartmental approach to building inclusive spiritual community on campuses. Participants will explore how social justice education, race and gender studies, and wisdom gleaned from our specific traditions and worldviews can together empower student life professionals in building an inclusive community and working together across traditions for positive social change.

Pathways Room | 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Our Spirituality, Our Health: Religion, the LGBTQIA+ Community, and the Healthcare System

PRESENTER: **D'vorah Rose**, rabbi, Struggling in Good Faith

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Social Justice and Inclusion; Student Learning and Development

Examine how spirituality impacts one's health. Reflect on how health is diminished when clergy, communities, and healthcare providers hold harmful religiously-based beliefs about LGBTQIA+ people. Explore how American religious communities, traditionally opposed to LGBTQIA+ people, are discerning how to maintain religious integrity while fully welcoming and celebrating LGBTQIA+ community members. Learn how these approaches assist healthcare providers to grow into full recognition of LGBTQIA+ people. Explore multifaith ritual and liturgy that brings healing to those harmed by healthcare providers' discrimination.

Continuing Education hours available for this session.

Innovation Room | 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Searching for God in Judaism: A Rational Quest for a Mystical Presence

PRESENTER: **Chaim Seidler-Feller**, director emeritus, rabbi, Hillel at University of California, Los Angeles

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Advising & Supporting; Values, Philosophy, and History

The discussion constitutes a personal effort at articulating a meaningful notion of God that is spiritually fulfilling and at the same time intellectually uncompromising. This search ranges across the Jewish tradition from the fundamentals of biblical monotheism to Maimonides' rationalism and onto Hasidic mysticism. The result is a contemporary notion of God that is both inspiring and humbling.

Odyssey Room | 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Spiritual Leadership: A Phenomenological Study of Community College Presidents in the Southwest

PRESENTER: **Gina Hochhalter**, instructor of English, Clovis Community College

MEETING TAG: Data-driven and Research Oriented

COMPETENCIES: Leadership; Personal and Ethical Foundations

In what ways do community college presidents perceive, experience, or use spirituality in their roles as executive leaders? Twenty presidents were interviewed, and phenomenological findings revealed several themes to include in their application of spirituality to decision making. Participants explained the importance of spirituality to their leadership, but admitted that they would not reveal their spiritual identities at work because of their obligation to remain open to everyone of all backgrounds, cultures, and beliefs in an open-access, public institution.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS III cont'd | 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Imagination Room | 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

The Intersection of Mental Health and Religious, Secular, and Spiritual Identities

PRESENTERS: **J. Cody Nielsen**, executive director, Wesley Foundation at the University of Minnesota and expert in residence for religious, secular, and spiritual initiatives, NASPA

Janett C. Ramos, doctoral candidate, Olivet Nazarene University

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Advising & Supporting; Leadership; Values, Philosophy, and History

Mental health concerns of college students are perhaps the most important issues facing higher education today. Research over the past two decades shows significant decreases in mental health issues amongst students who are religiously practicing while in college. Why this is and how to support this important part of students' identities is a topic of much importance. Practitioners will be introduced to this emerging area of identity in higher education and offered case studies of how universities across Canada are supporting this form of identity.

ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS I

Centennial Ballroom | 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Holistic Care and Contemplative Pedagogy, a Roundtable Discussion

PRESENTERS: **Lara Glass**, fellow, Wellesley College

Tiffany Steinwert, dean, Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, Wellesley College

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Advising & Supporting; Student Learning and Development

Change is constant, and institutions of higher education have to respond to these changes. In 1998, with the "Education as Transformation" conference, Wellesley College put a spotlight on the changing role of religious and spiritual life on college campuses. This roundtable discussion will continue the conversation started by Wellesley College and prompt deeper conversation. Three discussion sections will consider if more changes in recent years demand another shift in understanding the presence and purpose of religious and spiritual life on college campuses. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of the complex factors affecting religious and spiritual life on campus, their definitions, and their roles that prompt higher education professionals to better articulate the purpose and mission of the college, specifically with a view to practical application of these goals in the operations of the college.

More than a Book Club: Creating a Community of Worldview-Pluralist Women Leaders with Fiction Texts

PRESENTER: **Juan Mendizabal**, convener of the Spiritual Life Project, Florida State University

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Leadership; Personal and Ethical Foundations

Religious diversity continues to be an enriching yet controversial presence on many higher learning campuses. The presenter of this session will explore what happened when women of various faith and non-faith systems participated in a series of intergroup dialogues rooted in fictional literature with a worldview focus. After reviewing the effectiveness of single-gender discussion, literature as a dialogue basis, and ethical development in the context of worldview diversity, participants will be challenged to apply takeaways to their own diversity initiatives.

Poets & Prophets

PRESENTER: **Bonnie Jeanne Casey**, director of Spiritual Life, Simmons College

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Personal and Ethical Foundations; Social Justice and Inclusion

"Poets & Prophets" will explore how spiritual life departments can gear programs towards the leadership development of students. By examining the role distinct religious leaders have played in building traditions, orchestrating social movements, and galvanizing people, religious advisors can demonstrate the relevance of religion and the need for courageous leaders.

Purpose Discovery and Identity Formation: The Life Story University Ritual in Practice

PRESENTER: **Jessica Robinson**, doctoral candidate, Baylor University

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Advising & Supporting; Personal and Ethical Foundations

College students are notorious for telling their "life stories" to one another as a means of introduction. However, this practice may have an additional benefit—it may prove more helpful for the individual college student and may serve as a means of cohering the student's identity, reminding him or her of specific moral commitments that he or she has previously made. Furthermore, this process may help the student understand a deeper sense of life purpose and direction. This session will offer tangible opportunities for student affairs practitioners, administrators, and faculty alike to participate in practices aimed at understanding purpose, narrative, and identity formation and the intersection of these three concepts. By taking part in this session, attendees will be provided with tangible tools for fostering conversation about narrative, purpose, and identity on their individual university campuses.

ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS I cont'd

Centennial Ballroom | 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Religion and Your Work

PRESENTERS: **Kevin McIntosh**, complex director, Emory University

Ross Wantland, director of Diversity & Social Justice Education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Advising & Supporting; Social Justice and Inclusion

Do you ever feel like you want to talk about religion, faith, secular or spiritual identities and really don't know how it intersects with your functional area? Where and how does orientation, residence life or Greek life connect with Convergence's larger themes? This roundtable will be facilitated by members of the NASPA Spirituality and Religion in Higher Education knowledge community and it will be a time for question and reflection about how our work can truly and deeply impact our students as they make meaning out of today's world.

Though They Slay Me...Keeping the Faith and Thriving in Trying Professional Times Utilizing Spirituality as a Self-Care Tool

PRESENTER: **Kim Marmon**, free-lance office administrator / recruiter

MEETING TAG: Spirituality as a Tool for Self-care

COMPETENCY: Personal and Ethical Foundations

To ignore the role of spirituality in personal development and professional behavior...is to overlook a potentially very powerful avenue through which many of us construct meaning and knowledge" (Lindholm, 2007, p. 10). People from varying disciplines are referencing the importance of self-care as a tool to maintain balance in one's life. Self-care is defined as the actions that an individual might take in order to reach optimal physical and mental health, but spiritual health should be included as well.

MINI-INSTITUTE SESSIONS I | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Enlightenment Room | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Advancing Interfaith Cooperation in Higher Education

PRESENTERS: **Mary Ellen Giess**, senior director of co-curricular partnerships, Interfaith Youth Core

Megan Lane, co-curricular partnerships manager, Interfaith Youth Core

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Leadership; Social Justice and Inclusion

What does it look like to advance a research-based approach to interfaith engagement on campus? While many campus leaders are committed to promoting interfaith engagement, discerning the best approach for your individual campus community can be a challenge. Come learn with Interfaith Youth Core about existing research to inform campus practice in addition to discussing promising practices from campuses across the country. This action-oriented session will also provide concrete opportunities to share experiences and workshop ideas for activities on campus.

Exploration Room | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Using "Ask Big Questions" as a Tool for Civic and Spiritual Conversation

PRESENTERS: **Josh Feigelson,** founder and executive director, Ask Big Questions

Leah Siskin Moz, associate director for Dialogue and Inclusion, Ask Big Questions

Neal Schuster, rabbi and senior Jewish Educator, KU Hillel

Danielle Natelson, Simha and Sara Lainer director of Jewish Learning and Leadership, UCLA Hillel

Lauren Goldberg, assistant director, Hillel, Ohio University

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Personal and Ethical Foundations; Social Justice and Inclusion

Participants will develop greater knowledge of the Ask Big Questions methodology and resources as tools for creating inclusive conversations across lines of political and cultural difference. The session includes hands-on participation in model ABQ conversations, unpacking theory, review of available materials, and a panel discussion with practitioners.

Odyssey Room | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The Intersection of Spirituality and Social Justice

PRESENTERS: **Tahera Ahmad**, association chaplain and director of Interfaith Engagement, Northwestern University

Varun Soni, dean of religious life, University of Southern California

Rabbi Dana Benson, assistant director of Hillel, University of Washington

Chaplain Dave Wright, director of spiritual life and engagement, University of Puget Sound

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Advising & Supporting; Social Justice and Inclusion

There has been growing recognition of the role of religion and spirituality and the impact it has on college students' worldview on issues of social justice. What are the shared challenges that we face as communities of faith around questions of social justice that may impact our relationship within an interfaith context? How can you enhance and empower your community, and others, to be in the best position necessary to come to terms with the challenges that confront our students around difficult dialogue? How do we restore religious discourse to a place where it is seen as a life-giving and positive impact on community? How do we as faith communities deal with the perception (particularly among young people) that religion is retrograde or will not help bring constructive conversation around social justice and reform?

LUNCH PROVIDED

Centennial Terrace | 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

AFTERNOON PLENARY | 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Centennial Ballroom

When Religious, Secular, and Spiritual Identities Converge: Putting Dialogue into Practice

MODERATOR: **John Hoffman, Ph.D.**, associate professor, educational leadership director, Doctor of Educational Leadership program chair, Department of Educational Leadership, California State University-Fullerton

PANELISTS: **Raja Gopal Bhattar**, director, LGBT campus resource center, University of California, Los Angeles

Rabbi Jessica Lott, interim director, Meyerhoff Center for Jewish experience, Hillel International

Katrina Jenkins, dean of religious life, Rollins College

Student affairs educators are committed to the holistic development of college students, which includes their religious, secular, and spiritual identities. However, campus practices often implicitly (and sometimes explicitly) suggest to students that they set aside these identities when engaging in debates, discussions, and dialogues. When these suppressed identities do emerge, they often do so in a dramatic and emotional manner and through speech that is more dualistic than thoughtful. In this presentation, panelists will explore the convergence and intersection of religious, secular, and spiritual identities through inclusive social justice lenses and then discuss implications for putting dialogue into practice.



CONCURRENT SESSIONS IV | 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Centennial Ballroom | 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

A Labyrinth is Not a Maze! Utilizing the Labyrinths in Spiritual/Religious Settings

PRESENTER: **Katrina Jenkins**, dean of Religious Life, Rollins College

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCY: Values, Philosophy, and History

The presenter will explore the history of the labyrinth and it's re-emergence in the 21st century as a tool for mindful reflection, problem solving, and counteracting stress. Our exploration will cover how the labyrinth can be used in a myriad of ways in higher education. Regardless of the amount of past experience you have using the labyrinth, this workshop will enable participants to reflect on the usefulness of the practice and enable those new to using the labyrinth to get started.

Enlightenment Room | 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Female Muslim Identity Formation on American College and University Campuses

PRESENTER: **Wafa Hozien**, assistant professor, Educational Leadership, Central Michigan University

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Personal and Ethical Foundations; Social Justice and Inclusion

To gain insight with the increasing US Muslim immigrant population, 30 college/university Muslim females, who wear a headscarf or hijab, were interviewed in New York and New Jersey. This qualitative study examined the ways these women view the role of the headscarf in their schooling and how this symbol reflects their attitudes toward their Muslim identity. Subjects were surveyed and interviewed about their higher education experiences as headscarf wearers, their ethnic self-identifications, and their perceptions.

Continuing Education hours available for this session.

Odyssey Room | 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Making the Case for (Boldly) Entering into Conversations about Spirituality at Public Institutions

PRESENTER: **Maria Blandizzi,** dean for students, University of California, Los Angeles
University Religious Conference Board of Directors representatives
UCLA student leaders

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCY: Student Learning and Development

U.S. public universities have traditionally maintained a stance that generally views the formal study or consideration of religion and spirituality in any context outside of the academic realm as inappropriate. However, recent research (Astin, Astin, Lindholm, 2010, 2005) indicates that institutional programming fostering the development of our students' spirituality is essential to their total education. This session will address why it is imperative for public institutions to boldly enter into conversations about spirituality with their students and how these efforts will ultimately foster students' adjustment and incorporation into campus life.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS IV cont'd | 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Exploration Room | 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Not Just Nothing: Facilitating Identity Development with Atheist, Agnostic, and Secular Students

PRESENTERS:	**Nick Stancato**, campus organizing manager, Secular Student Alliance
	Pete Zupan, campus organizer, Secular Student Alliance
MEETING TAG:	Data-driven and Research Oriented
COMPETENCIES:	Advising & Supporting; Social Justice and Inclusion

The Secular Student Alliance will go over the importance of including secular language and the implementation of identity development as a key part of campus policy. Using a mixture of solid research and engaging exercises, attendees will learn to use empathy and neutrality when helping students develop their identities without imposing one upon them. Participants will leave with a better understanding of how to engage with secular students, the importance of identity development and with guidance on increasing the acceptance of secular students.

Continuing Education hours available for this session.

Innovation Room | 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

What Should I do When I Grow Up? Spirituality and Vocational Discernment

PRESENTER:	**Garland Dunlap**, assistant director of internships, Dallas Theological Seminary
MEETING TAGS:	Data-driven and Research Oriented
COMPETENCIES:	Advising & Supporting; Student Learning and Development

Some studies suggest the current generation looks for meaning and purpose in what they do to earn a living. This search for meaning affects the way they choose degree programs and get involved in extracurricular activities. The purpose of this presentation is to provide a guide to advisors and administrators to help build programs and direct students to those programs with the end goal of helping students develop in meaningful ways and to connect student to the institution.

Pathways Room | 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Unsession

Unsession is a participant-driven space designed to promote face-to-face engagement, collaboration, dialogue, and creativity during Convergence. The Unsession will provide a semi-facilitated space for Convergence attendees to engage with emergent topics with their peers. Throughout Convergence, attendees will have opportunity to identify these key issues for discussion within the Unsession spaces. Perhaps you have a big question you'd like to explore with fellow Convergence participants, or maybe a national or international event has raised a significant concern. Whatever the topic that is selected, the Unsession is designed for Convergence participants to come together for spontaneous conversation and brainstorming.

Imagination Room | 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

A Thriving Minority: Pathways to Success for Religious Minority Students Attending Christian Institutions of Higher Education

PRESENTER: **Ryan Richardson**, associate chaplain and director of worship & chapel, Baylor University

MEETING TAG: Data-driven and Research Oriented

COMPETENCIES: Social Justice and Inclusion; Student Learning and Development

This presentation will address the degree of institutional fit and overall thriving that non-Christian students reported as a part of the national project on College Student Thriving. Thriving is defined as optimal functioning academically, interpersonally, and intra-personally (Schreiner, 2010a, 2010b, 2010c). Studies related to Thriving suggest that religious involvement and overall spirituality contribute significantly to the variation in thriving for students (Schreiner, Kalinkewicz, McIntosh, & Cuevas, 2013). Recent scholarship has effectively identified the deficit of the student experience for religious minorities; however, no prior study has been conducted to identify pathways to Thriving for religious minorities attending Christian institutions. The operating premise of this study is that thriving offers a unique lens through which to explore the psychological processes that impact the well-being and ultimately, retention and success of non-Christian students attending Christian institutions of higher education.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS V | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Odyssey Room | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Creating Partnerships to Provide Spiritual Living and Learning Communities

PRESENTER: **Terisa Riley**, senior vice president for Student Affairs, Enrollment Management and University Administration, Texas A&M University-Kingsville

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Law, Policy, and Governance; Leadership

Participants will learn about a creative partnership between a public university and a Catholic Diocese. The Diocese allowed for a land swap and creation of the Newman Student Center, a new Catholic Chapel, and St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Housing for students. AT the time this was created, it was only the second spiritual living and learning community of this kind in the U.S. Participants will learn about the contractual issues, legal issues, and partnerships forged through this agreement and benefits to campus.

Imagination Room | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Exploring the Impact of Religion Faculty on Student Religious Identities

PRESENTER: **Joshua Patterson,** graduate administrator, Governor's Teaching Fellows, University of Georgia

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Law, Policy, and Governance; Student Learning and Development; Values, Philosophy, and History

Religion and spirituality are on the rise on today's college campuses and present many challenges for higher education, both in the United States and abroad. The religious beliefs held by students, faculty, staff, and administrators as well as those held by the governing boards, state government officials, and donors can all have impacts on the experience of students on college campuses. In this session, participants will explore the ways in which these systems interact, particularly with regard to religion faculty, and apply them to addressing current challenges within their individual campus contexts.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS V cont'd | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Enlightenment Room | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Interfaith Work on Faith-Based Campuses – Different Approaches for Different Contexts

PRESENTERS: **Josh Ritter**, assistant director for Formation, Baylor University

Kristen Richardson, director for Formation and associate chaplain, Baylor University

Todd Boling, associate chaplain, Texas Christian University

Britt Luby, associate chaplain, Texas Christian University

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Leadership; Student Learning and Development

We live in a world that is increasingly more religiously diverse yet, at the same time, increasingly religiously illiterate. The world of higher education is poised to address this incongruence. In this workshop, presenters will explore what interfaith education and work look like at a progressive private institution and a more conservative private institution. Presenters will relay information about both successful and unsuccessful program and share best practices for their respective communities.

Exploration Room | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Policy and Practice Pillars: Religious, Secular, and Spiritual Markers to a More Inclusive Campus

PRESENTER: **J. Cody Nielsen,** executive director, Wesley Foundation at the University of Minnesota and expert in residence for religious, secular, and spiritual initiatives, NASPA

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Law, Policy, and Governance; Social Justice and Inclusion

What are the policies and practices needed by a university to holistically address the lives of religious, secular, and spiritual students on campus? In what ways can a campus bring chaplains and campus ministry professionals into campus life? The presenter will focus on national research related to how, where, and in which ways policy and practice initiatives can change the overall campus climate related to this area of diversity.

Pathways Room | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Strategic Community Partnerships: A Theoretical Model of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion of Faith Communities for Administrators & Student Unions

PRESENTER: **Calvary deJong**, vice president external, Red River College Students' Association

MEETING TAG: Campus Policy

COMPETENCIES: Law, Policy, and Governance; Social Justice and Inclusion

A challenge of diverse campuses is how to ensure the full participation of all members of the campus community as holistic persons--including their religious, secular and spiritual identities. As actors on behalf of government, public post-secondary institutions have a duty to model diversity, equity, and inclusion within a religiously pluralistic society as well as not to infringe upon basic religious freedoms. During this session, the presenter will explore how faith communities represent a unique value-added proposition for institutions looking to provide additional supports for students through strategic community partnerships.

BRING ASK BIG QUESTIONS TO YOUR CAMPUS OR ORGANIZATION.



WE TRAIN YOUR STUDENTS AND STAFF
THEY LEAD REFLECTIVE CONVERSATIONS
THOSE CONVERSATIONS TRANSFORM YOUR COMMUNITY

Ask Big Questions works with colleges, universities, and organizations to engage communities in reflective conversations about purpose, identity, and responsibility.

We offer workshops, trainings, and printed resources that can be integrated into existing programs or into new approaches in orientation, residence life, student leadership, civic engagement, and spiritual life.

Our programs build connection, understanding, and personal and social responsibility.

ASK BIG QUESTIONS

UNDERSTAND OTHERS.
UNDERSTAND YOURSELF.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

Centennial Ballroom Foyer | **7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**
Registration open

Centennial Terrace | **7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.**
Breakfast available

CLOSING PLENARY | 8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Centennial Ballroom
Be the Light

SPEAKER: **Mamta Accapadi, Ph.D.**, vice president for student affairs, Rollins College

In the introduction of their book, *The Heart of Higher Education*, Parker Palmer and Arthur Zajonc invoke a call for us to leverage our wisdom and courage as educators by being 'brave enough to name what we care about, share what we know, and take the risks that transformation always requires.' What does this mean for all of us? How do we come to recognize the light within ourselves, while kindling that light with our students? How does this shift the core nature of our practice as educators? In this talk- I promise NO answers. I do promise reflection, joy, and a commitment to our mutual liberation.

ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS II | 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Centennial Ballroom

Enemies to Allies: Dignity in Christian and Secular Worldviews on LGBTQ Issues

PRESENTERS: **Peter Tremblay**, associate chaplain for Catholic Life, Elon University
Carrie Seigler, multi-faith and intern coordinator, Elon University

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Personal and Ethical Foundations; Values, Philosophy, and History

Traditional Christian teachings on sexuality and a secular view of LGBTQ issues have the same starting point of human dignity. A mutual recognition of dignity will be explored and shown to have very different ways of being realized. Diverse realizations of dignity leads to a divergence of perspectives on lifestyles. A Catholic priest and a queer secular millennial, from Elon University, will explore how to engage their discrepant views and create a new cooperative of mutual understanding and reciprocal accountably based on human dignity.

Engaging the Intersection of Spiritual/Religious and LGBTQ

PRESENTER: **Hilary Martin Himan**, reverend and Chamberlin Social Justice and Faith in Action coordinator, Lewis & Clark College

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Advising & Supporting; Social Justice and Inclusion

Come together to collaboratively share models of LGBTQ spirituality programs and learn about student organizations supporting this unique identity intersection. The presenter, (a queer, ordained Christian) will invite conversation to discuss opportunities and challenges to support LGBTQ students and their spiritual/religious identities, and share her experience of co-founding with student leaders Spiritual Que(e)ry at Lewis & Clark College.

Evangelicals Doing Interfaith: An Oxymoron or Is There Reason to Hope?

PRESENTER: **Kevin Singer**, doctoral candidate, Baylor University
Joshua Ritter, assistant director for formation, Baylor University

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Social Justice and Inclusion; Student Learning and Development

NASPA praises "inclusive campus environments." But oftentimes, Evangelical Christian students, representing one of the largest religious groups in America, are missing entirely from campus environments designed to enhance interreligious cooperation. This roundtable will encourage participants to share their experiences with this complex issue, along with the strategies and best practices they have employed to address it. Facilitators will contribute their experiences working with Evangelical Christian students and starting an interfaith group at Baylor University.

Going Deeper: Initiating Impactful Conversations with Students About Beliefs

PRESENTER: **Margaret (Peggy) Samicki**, director, Student Conduct and Programs, St. Cloud State University

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Advising & Supporting; Student Learning and Development

Students seek real answers to their hard questions. In our office they ask us about majors, relationships, and resume builders, but below the surface their questions run deeper. Who am I? Where do I belong? What do I believe? How do I know what's true? Join in this roundtable reflection to explore ideas for engaging students in religious, secular, and spiritual identity growth through individual conversations. Let's share the challenges and joys of these opportunities to impact students' lives.

Religion and Civic Engagement: Can we do anything right?

PRESENTER: **Janet Fuller**, university chaplain, Elon University

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Personal and Ethical Foundations; Social Justice and Inclusion

This facilitated roundtable invites campus leaders of all backgrounds and perspectives to reflect on, share, and learn from each other about bridging political and spiritual divides through dialogue, especially as it pertains to this current year's "hot-button" moments. We will share helpful and difficult experiences, critique our own limited perspectives, and offer to each other particular resources from spiritual communities (Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and secular) toward helping our larger communities flourish amidst interfaith and political or civic differences.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS VI | 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Legacy A | 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Inspiring Every Student to Make an Enduring Commitment: Hillel's Approach to Jewish Life on Campus

PRESENTER: **Rabbi Jessica Lott**, interim director, Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Experience, Hillel International

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCY: Student Learning and Development; Values, Philosophy, and History

Hillel International is the largest Jewish campus organization in the world, serving young adults at 550 colleges and universities in North America, and an additional 55 communities in South America, Israel, Europe, and the Former Soviet Union. This session will explore Hillel's methodologies to help Jewish students tackle questions of meaning, values, and identity through religious, social, cultural and spiritual discovery. Over 85% of all U.S. college-age Jews attend an institution of higher learning and since 1923, Hillel has played a critical role in creating a welcoming environment for students and demonstrating how Jewish tradition can be incorporated into their lives. Get to know more about Hillel's uniquely broad mandate: to expand their Jewish knowledge, deepen their feeling of peoplehood, hone their leadership skills, foster connection to Israel, and present opportunities for social justice work, all based around a relationship-based engagement methodology and student-driven leadership models.

Legacy B | 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Hidden Secularities and Complicated Identities: Negotiating the Changing Culture of Your Campus

PRESENTERS: **Samuel Speers**, director, Religious & Spiritual Life and assistant dean for Campus Life and Diversity, Vassar College

Rena Blumenthal, free-lance rabbi and campus consultant

Ian Oliver, senior associate chaplain for Protestant Life & pastor, University Church, Yale University

MEETING TAG: Data-driven and Research Oriented

COMPETENCIES: Student Learning and Development; Values, Philosophy, and History

Educators encountering students' religious, secular, and spiritual identities often find a minefield of unspoken presumptions, personal agendas, and fuzzy categories. Based on ten years' research on secularity in higher education, three chaplains will share ideas on how to unearth the unique secular dynamic of your campus and understand how this dynamic impacts student experiences in the classroom, the Dean's Office, and the Chapel. How are secularity and pluralism exercises of power? Who do they include and who do they exclude?

Enlightenment Room | 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Unsession

Unsession is a participant-driven space designed to promote face-to-face engagement, collaboration, dialogue, and creativity during Convergence. The Unsession will provide a semi-facilitated space for Convergence attendees to engage with emergent topics with their peers. Throughout Convergence, attendees will have opportunity to identify these key issues for discussion within the Unsession spaces. Perhaps you have a big question you'd like to explore with fellow Convergence participants, or maybe a national or international event has raised a significant concern. Whatever the topic that is selected, the Unsession is designed for Convergence participants to come together for spontaneous conversation and brainstorming.

MINI-INSTITUTE SESSIONS II | 9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Innovation Room | 9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Six Degrees of Acceptance: How to Foster Interfaith Relationships and Understanding on Campus

PRESENTER: **Alexis Donkin**, life coach, author, speaker, educator

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCY: Advising & Supporting; Social Justice and Inclusion

College campuses are cosmopolitan spaces creating the possibility for understanding and acceptance of different identities. In a world where deep religious identities shape governments, social norms, and cultural practices, it is important for faculty, staff, and students to foster active understanding and basic knowledge of different faiths. Through activities and discussions in this mini-institute presentation, attendees will have the opportunity to establish a foundation from which they can foster interfaith relationships and understanding on campus.

Pathways Room | 9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Teaching Religious Literacy: Exploring the Model of the Faith Zone Workshop

PRESENTER: **Ariel Ennis**, assistant director, New York University

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Assessment, Evaluation, & Research; Student Learning and Development

Faith Zone workshops are the most important pedagogic tool used at NYU to teach religious literacy and to promote open and productive conversations about religious and spiritual diversity on campus. This session will allow participants to explore elements of this award winning curriculum and discuss best practices that have been useful when implementing Faith Zone at campuses around the country.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS VII | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Enlightenment Room | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Atheism in Higher Education: A Phenomenological Study of Identity in the Workplace

PRESENTER: **Carrie Reisner**, executive director, University College, Indiana University East

MEETING TAG: Data-driven and Research Oriented

COMPETENCY: Social Justice and Inclusion

Institutions of higher education are perceived to be welcoming to individuals from a variety of backgrounds including race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and religion. Is this true for those who identify as atheist as well? This phenomenological study explored how the atheist identity manifests for those who are employed as professional staff in higher education. The results indicate that those in this particular religious minority feel compelled to remain closeted for fear of stigmatization and the risk of discrimination.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS VII cont'd | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Legacy B |11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Supporting Muslim Students: A Case Study of Oregon State University's Foot Washing Station

PRESENTERS: **Hilary Martin Himan,** reverend and Chamberlin Social Justice and Faith in Action coordinator, Lewis & Clark College

Larry Roper, professor, School of Language, Culture and Society, Oregon State University

MEETING TAG: Campus Policy

COMPETENCIES: Law, Policy, and Governance; Social Justice and Inclusion

President Trump's travel ban against multiple Muslim-majority countries tied with rising anti-Muslim prejudices raise concern for student affairs professionals and chaplains as to how to support American citizens and international students who identify as Muslim. This session uses a case study of the process and installation of a foot washing station in the Oregon State University library to accommodate the prayer needs of Muslim students. The presenters will provide resources and explore questions regarding the separation of church and state.

Continuing Education hours available for this session.

Artistry Room | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Hesychastic System of Spiritual Practices

PRESENTER: **Mark Flory**, instructor, Metropolitan State University

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Personal and Ethical Foundations; Values, Philosophy, and History

The presenters will share Hesychasm, an ancient but living system of spiritual practices from Eastern Orthodox Christianity. It is an integrated system of practices that transforms human nature and society. Based on the presenter's theory of practice, developed from the close examination of Hesychastic practice, participants will engage in several of the major practices: the use of the Jesus prayer, breath control, and bodily postures. These will reveal how spiritual practice can transform the individual and the world from within.

Legacy A | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Miseducation of the Other: Reflections on the Spiritual Conflict Encountered by Doctoral Students at Faith-Based Institutions

PRESENTERS: **Oscar Espinoza-Parra**, finance and communications coordinator, Association for the Study of Higher Education

Ben Thomas, assistant provost, Northwest University

Angelica Hambrick, assistant vice president of Diversity, Pacific Lutheran University

Kizzy Lopez, renaissance scholars coordinator, California State University, Fresno

MEETING TAG: Enhancing Practice(s)

COMPETENCIES: Social Justice and Inclusion; Values, Philosophy, and History

In this session, participants will explore the homogenous perspectives on race, gender, class, sexuality, and privilege often encountered by doctoral students at faith-based institutions. Presenters will describe personal experiences of creating counter-spaces to allow for a sanctuary in which the intellect, intuition, and spiritual ways of knowing can converge. The presenters will propose recommendations for similar programs by incorporating empirically-based research of faith-based institutions that have pursued organizational change to become more inclusive.

faith
A belief that is believed with strong conviction, often without, or in spite of, contrary evidence. Western religion often uses this term in relation to belief in God or holy texts.

identity
A consistent definition of one's self as a unique individual. Often in terms of roles, attitudes, beliefs, and aspirations. An identity label is usually adopted based on accepted social group concepts that hold these qualities in common with the individual.

interfaith
Interfaith refers to the cooperative and positive interaction among people of different faith traditions and worldviews (religious and secular) at both the individual and institutional level. The goal is to derive a common belief about similarities between faiths, shared values, leading to tolerance and commitment among the world religions and to the world. It promotes understanding between different religions to increase understanding of others rather than creating or synthesizing new beliefs.

religion
Belief in, and worship of, a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God, gods, or other supernatural beings. This may include worship, practice, and/or ritual in relation to these beliefs. Religion is often oriented around community functions and community building around shared values and beliefs.

secular
An umbrella identity term for non-theistic people of any identity label (such as atheists, agnostics, or Humanists). 'Secular' is drawn from the original Latin for "that which is other than religion."

secular values
Secular values are ethical beliefs which are structured solely around a naturalistic understanding of the world. They are therefore without reliance on supernatural sources of guidance, such as preexisting laws, or religious texts and traditions. A principle component of forming secular values is accepting the consequences actions have on all life on Earth, and the exclusivity of the natural world. What this means is that what we do during the span of our lives matters, and that our lives are finite (cease at the moment of death). Our actions have far reaching effects beyond just our own interactions with the world, and the actions of others affect our lives and livelihood as well. Based on this, we are able to engage in independent and collaborative reasoning about what works to enhance earthly well-being without reliance on preexisting laws, or religious texts and traditions. A secular value would therefore never be based on a higher edict, either exclusively or in part, though it could reach the same conclusion as those edicts. Instead, evidence and consensus must be used to confirm its viability as a value that should be adopted or rejected. Evidence must include not just our own personal preferences and needs, but also the overall objective effect the action has on others and the rest of the world.

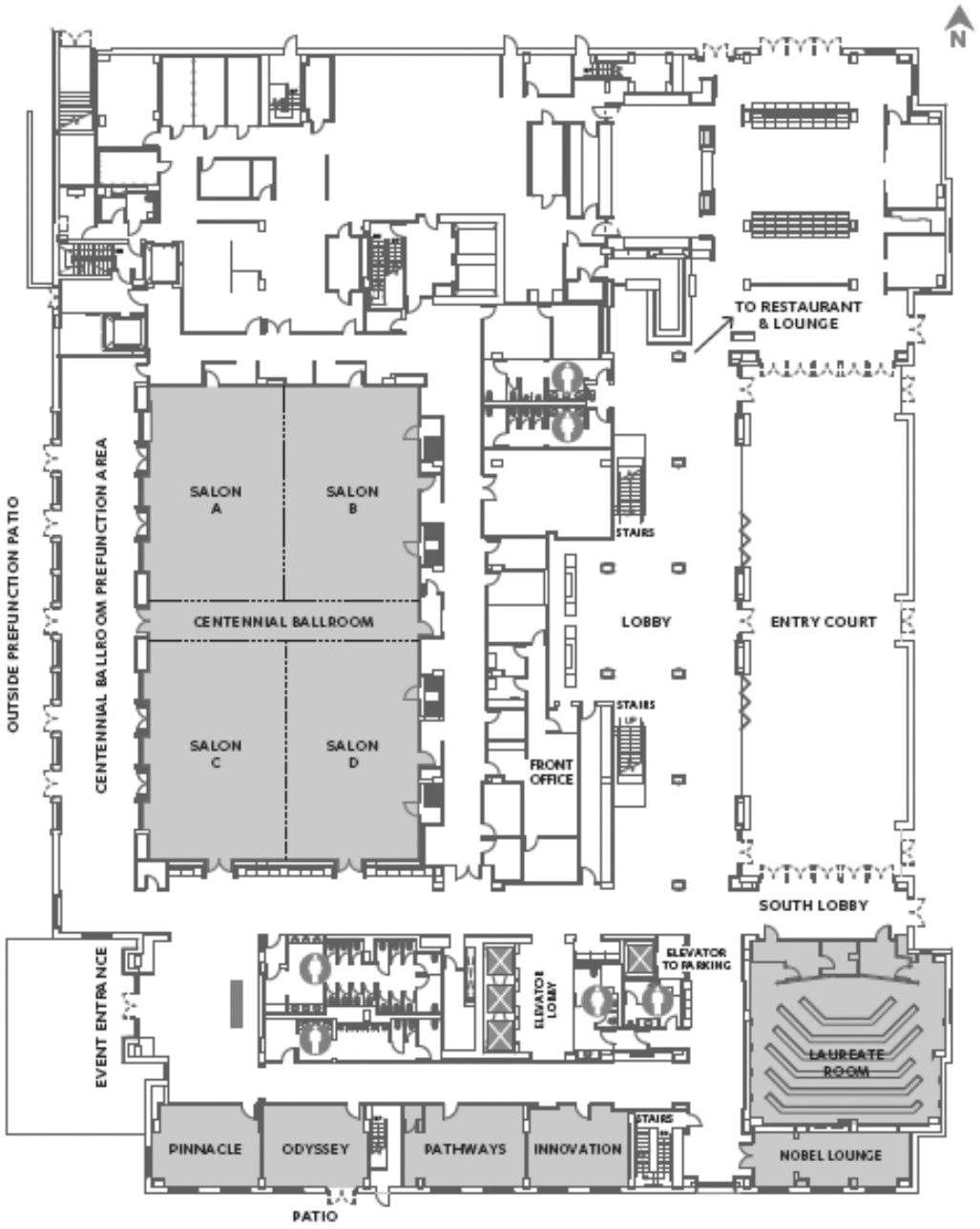
spirituality
In modern usage, the emphasis of having 'spirituality' is on the subjective experience of a sacred concepts or entities in relation to one's values or the meaning of life. It is often used in a context separate from organized religion or established religious traditions. 'Spirituality' may also refer to almost any kind of meaningful activity, especially a "search for the sacred." It may also refer to personal growth, blissful experience, or an encounter with one's own "inner dimension."

worldview
A particular philosophy of life or conception of the world (religious or secular).

VENUE MAPS

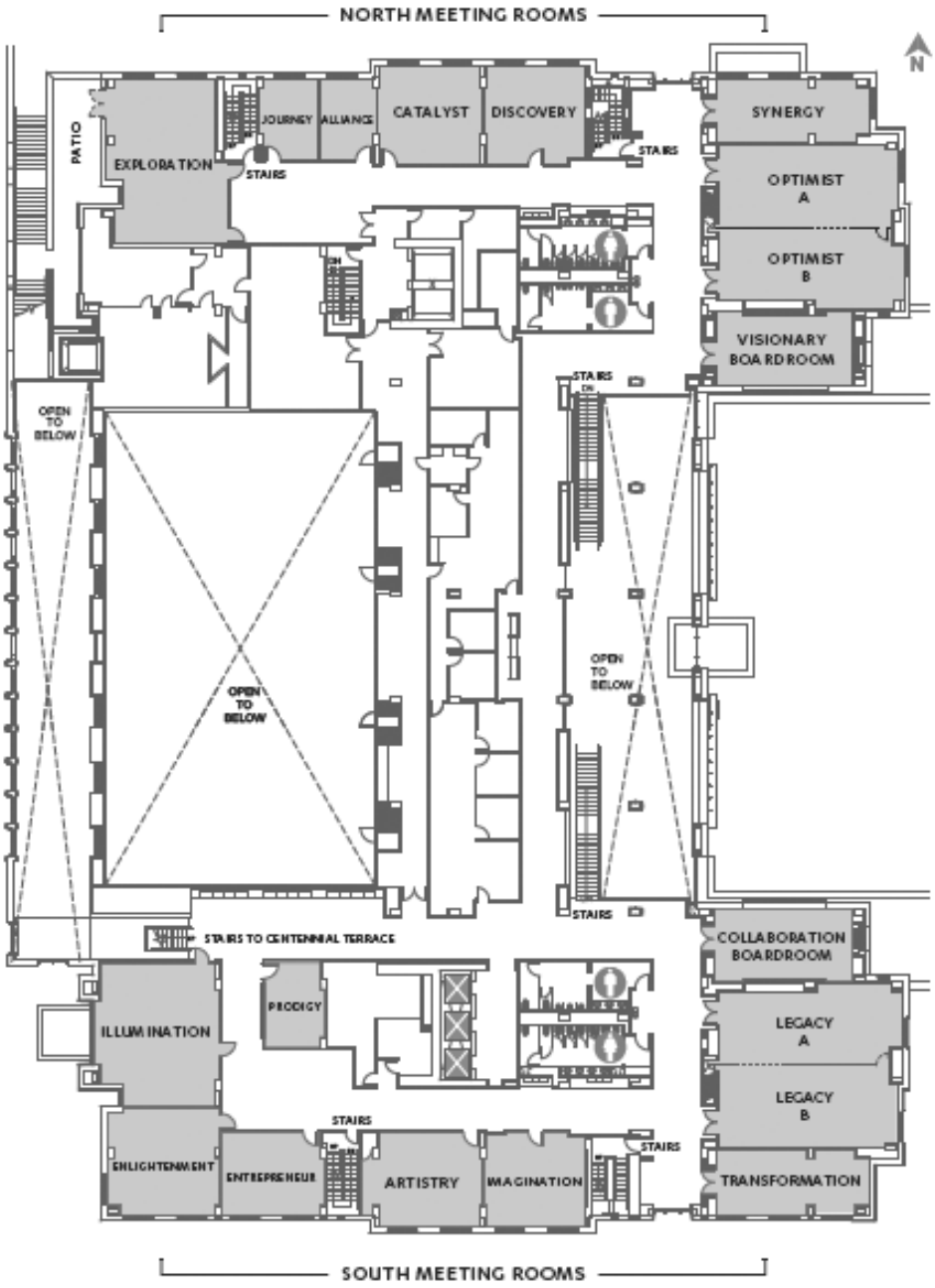
MEETING SPACE: LEVEL 1

UCLA LUSKIN CONFERENCE CENTER



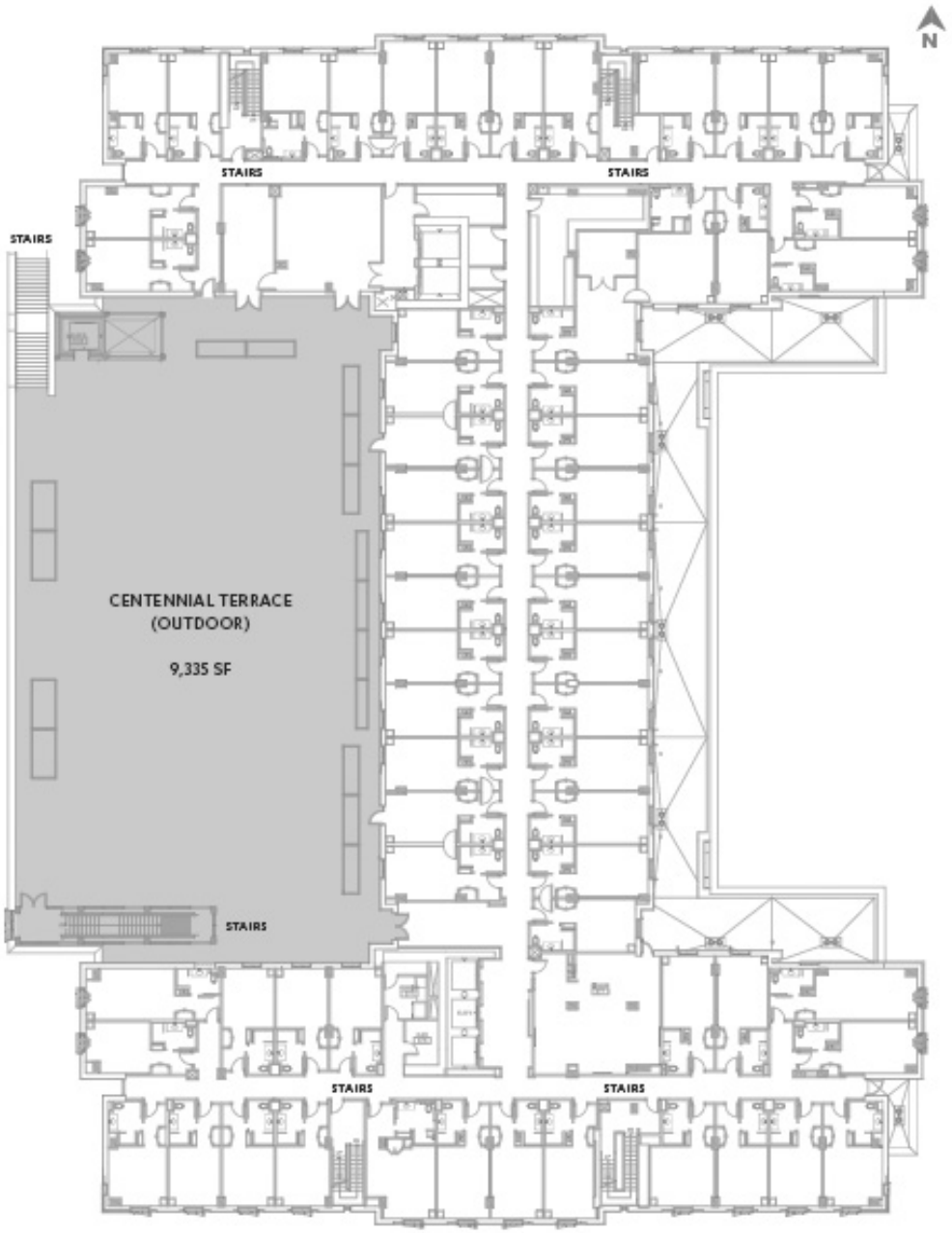
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MEETING SPACE: LEVEL 3

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NOTES

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