



THE NEW AMERICAN COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

INTEGRATING LIBERAL ARTS, PROFESSIONAL
STUDIES, AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

www.newamericancolleges.org

What is NAC&U?

Founded in 1995, The New American Colleges and Universities (NAC&U) is a national consortium of selective, small to mid-size independent colleges and universities dedicated to the purposeful integration of liberal education, professional studies, and civic engagement.

Since its inception, this group of like-minded institutions has come together to forge partnerships and collaborations that **enrich faculty work and improve student outcomes**. To improve the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning, The New American Colleges and Universities consortium sponsors projects and conferences, administrator and constituency groups, surveys and data benchmarking, and programs to expand student learning.

Its constituency groups gather regularly to share best practices and consult with one another to enhance institutional effectiveness, allowing its members to address challenges head-on with the knowledge and support of peers.

Administrators and faculty who engage in NAC&U activities find a multi-dimensional community of practice in which various constituency groups share **candid conversations** and develop a sense of trust that allows them to openly discuss challenges and successes in a beneficial way.



**Read about NAC&U's
accomplishments over
the past two decades.**

Our History

"We urgently need clusters of colleges that break out of the unitarian model of faculty research and define scholarship broadly to include not just discovery but integration, application, and teaching as well. Such institutions are what I would call the New American College."

- Ernest L. Boyer

In 1994, Ernest Boyer called for a "New American College" that would renew the tradition of higher education as a service to society. He felt that institutions had a duty to commit resources to society's problems. In essence, even private universities exist for a public purpose. The "New American College" was envisioned as an integrative institution with many connections - between disciplines, between liberal arts and professional studies, between faculty and students, and between the campus and the world. Boyer spoke about the New American College at a Wingspread conference, ever the catalyst for collaborative advances in the quality of education.

Boyer's vision at the Wingspread Conference gave rise to the creation of a consortium whose members are fully committed to the purposeful integration of liberal arts, professional studies and civic engagement. Established in 1995, this group is known as The New American Colleges and Universities.



Membership Benefits

- Members share and network within their constituency groups, and institutions share fiscal, academic and enrollment data that can be used for benchmarking. Members frequently reach out to constituency group members to consult on various issues.
- Members collaborate on panel discussions and presentations at national conferences to share best practices.
- NAC&U collaborates on grants to foster our mission and address challenges in higher education, most recently examining the concept of holistic departments and re-thinking faculty evaluation.
- Faculty who serve as NAC&U ambassadors serve as liaisons for their campuses and work together on projects to advance professional development and the consortium's mission.
- NAC&U conferences and workshops bring together administrators and faculty for roundtables, presentations and keynote sessions while offering activities to promote networking, professional development and collaboration among members.
- International and domestic study away programs and online courses are available to students, maximizing resources for all members.

**See all of NAC&U's
student programs.**

Membership Criteria

NAC&U members...

- Are committed to promoting the best practices of the purposeful **integration of liberal arts, professional studies, and civic responsibility**
- Are **private, residential** institutions
- Have **small to medium-size enrollments** (approximately 2,500 - 7,500 students), the majority of whom are residential students
- Are **financially stable**
- Are recognized by peers for **academic quality**
- Offer **undergraduate, graduate, and adult-learner programs**
- Require all students to take **general education** courses that are **consistent with the values of a liberal arts education**
- Have a significant percentage of students engaged in **community-based learning, undergraduate research, or other forms of experiential learning**

Connect with NAC&U

Contact Us

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Online and Social Media



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