

You are cordially invited to attend the

**Ninth Annual
Catholic College and University
Forum for Institutional Research**

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**Spirituality in Higher Education
Featuring HERI's
National Study of College Students'
Search for Meaning and Purpose**

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**Monday, April 14, 2003
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**The Villanova Room
The Connelly Center
Villanova University
Villanova, Pennsylvania**

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New This Year!

**Pre-Conference
Meetings and Discussions
Sunday Afternoon and Evening
April 13, 2003**

For the ninth consecutive year, we are pleased to host the Catholic College and University Forum for Institutional Research. This forum is the result of a special interest group of Catholic Colleges and Universities that met originally during the Northeast Association for Institutional Research (NEAIR) Conference in November 1994. The forum will be held:

Monday, April 14, 2003
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Villanova Room -- The Connelly Center
Villanova University
Villanova, PA

Please share this invitation with interested colleagues at your institution and beyond.

Monday's Agenda

9:00 Registration, Continental Breakfast and Networking

9:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks
James F. Trainer, Villanova

9:45 Keynote Address:

**Spirituality in Higher Education:
HERI's National Study of College Students'
Search for Meaning and Purpose**

Jennifer A. Lindholm, Ph.D.

Project Director for the Spirituality in Higher Education Survey
Associate Director of the Cooperative Institutional Research Program
Higher Education Research Institute
The University of California, Los Angeles

11:15 Break

11:30 Results from "The Questionnaire Regarding the Creation of a Formal Organization for Institutional Research Among Catholic Colleges and Universities"

12:00 Lunch

1:00 News from "On Campus"

This session will provide an opportunity for attendees to share news about activities on their campuses related to Catholic identity, mission integration and effectiveness, learning communities, service learning, spirituality, vocational discernment and other topics (e.g., Villanova recently participated in an effort to pilot test an instrument designed for national use in conducting needs assessments for campus ministry)

1:30 Roundtable Discussions

We will convene a number of roundtable discussions to address "hot topics" impacting institutional researchers and planners at Catholic colleges and universities.

2:15 Discussing the Future Agenda

2:45 Closing Remarks and Evaluation

3:00 Adjourn

Spirituality in Higher Education: HERI's National Study of College Students' Search for Meaning and Purpose

With a grant from the John Templeton Foundation, The Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at the University of California, Los Angeles has initiated a major new survey research program to track the spiritual growth of college students during their undergraduate years. Applying a broad definition to *spiritual development* this study seeks to understand how students make meaning of their education and their lives, how they develop a sense of purpose, the value and belief dilemmas that they experience, as well as the role of religion, the sacred, or the mystical in their lives. The ultimate aim of this effort is to focus more attention and awareness on the spiritual development of American college students and to enable institutions to develop programs and practices that will facilitate such development.

This new survey effort is built upon a bedrock of survey research at HERI spanning a period of more than 30 years. One of the most visible of HERI's activities is the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) fall survey of entering college freshmen, which annually involves more than 400,000 freshmen comprising the entering classes at more than 700 higher education institutions of all types. While the freshmen survey generates a good bit of national public attention each year, CIRP is really a *longitudinal* research program, designed by Alexander Astin, where each entering freshmen class is tracked to determine how students change and develop during and after college. In addition to the freshmen survey, the College Student Survey (CSS) and occasional alumni surveys serve as key components of this effort. HERI also administers a triennial National Faculty Survey and recently collaborated with the Policy Center of the First Year of College in the development of the Your First College Year Survey (YFCY).

In making her presentation on the development of the College Students' Belief and Values Survey, the key component of the Spirituality in Higher Education effort, currently in a national pilot stage, Dr. Lindholm will draw upon HERI's various ongoing survey efforts to discuss how we might employ these, in addition to the Beliefs and Values Survey, to gain a better understanding of our students, faculty and alumni from the perspective of their development in terms of spirituality and self-understanding. In doing so, she will touch upon the work of her HERI colleagues, including a recently completed (2002) study of Jewish students by Linda J. Sax and the work of Alexander and Helen Astin regarding the "Meaning and Spirituality in the Lives of College Faculty" (1999).

Jennifer A. Lindholm, Ph.D.

Jennifer Lindholm is Visiting Assistant Professor of Higher Education and Organizational Change at UCLA where she teaches graduate courses in research methodology and the professoriate. Dr. Lindholm is also Associate Director of CIRP and Director of HERI's Triennial National Faculty Survey. She received her B.A. degrees in psychology and physical education from Whittier College, her M.S. in kinesiology and health promotion from California State University, Fullerton and her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in higher education and organizational change from UCLA. Prior to beginning work on her doctorate, she spent six years as a professional tennis player and coach.

Dr. Lindholm's research focuses on the structural and cultural dimensions of academic work; the career development, work experiences, and professional behavior of college and university faculty; and issues related to institutional change. Her dissertation and several recently published or forthcoming articles, book chapters, and monographs are related to these topics. Dr. Lindholm has also written on women's educational aspirations and attainment and recently directed a study funded by The American Association of University Women that used qualitative and quantitative methodologies to examine the educational paths, career plans, and life goals of recent high school graduates. Dr. Lindholm's prior work teaching undergraduates, coupled with her own experiences as a college student, have renewed an interest in learning more about students' inner lives and how their sense of meaning and purpose in life develops, and potentially changes, during their college years. In turn, she was recently appointed project director for a multi-year endeavor supported by The John Templeton Foundation that will enable HERI to design and administer a new national survey that examines college students' search for meaning and purpose.

Pre-Conference Activities
Sunday, April 13, 2003

3:00 pm **Defining a Collaborative Research Agenda to Improve our Understanding of Students at Catholic Colleges and Universities**

All interested parties are invited to join a discussion with their colleagues and Jennifer Lindholm on how we might collaborate to define and initiate a research agenda to improve our understanding of students enrolled at Catholic Colleges and Universities. In short, we would like to begin by determining a way to produce a representative profile of students at Catholic Colleges and Universities using existing surveys and new ones, if necessary. Realizing that not all institutions would be able to afford to participate in a full national survey of all of their students, we will need to discuss how we might draw a representative sample of students from across the spectrum of Catholic Colleges and Universities. We would also like to discuss which survey instruments would be best suited for this purpose. Ultimately, we would like to discuss the possibility of defining a longitudinal effort, similar to those undertaken by CIRP, to track the growth and development of our students while enrolled at our institutions and beyond. Additional conversations might include an exploration of the use of a set of supplemental questions to the CIRP freshmen survey designed to understand where students are in terms of religion and spirituality when they arrive on our campuses as well as the possibility of developing a profile of “College Catholics” enrolled at public and other non-Catholic private institutions. Such a discussion seems particularly timely given some of the recent reports in the *New York Times*, *The Catholic World Report* and elsewhere regarding the attitudes and beliefs of students at Catholic institutions.

Sunday’s sessions will be held in the Chapel Room of the Financial Services Building on Lancaster Avenue on Villanova’s Campus.

5:00 pm **Dinner Break** -- *We will gladly organize dinner groups/reservations for those interested.*

7:00 pm **Organizational Meeting**

Interested individuals are invited to attend a meeting to discuss the Creation of a Formal Organization for Institutional Research among Catholic Colleges and Universities. This session will continue the conversations held prior to last year’s Forum and continued over this past summer. Our plan is that this session will result in a proposal to be share with all Forum attendees the next day regarding the creation of such an organization. Potential activities for the proposed organization include: institutional participation in joint research and other projects; an annual conference; a web page; a list serve; informal networking; and, special workshops for key constituencies (e.g., designing research projects for special campus departments).

Background materials for this meeting can be found at the following urls:

http://optir.villanova.edu/catholic/catholic_IR_org/proposal.htm
http://optir.villanova.edu/catholic/catholic_IR_org/minutes.htm
http://optir.villanova.edu/catholic/catholic_IR_org/questions.htm

Individuals attending Sunday’s sessions are welcome to park in the lot located at the Financial Services Building. On Monday, however, you will need to follow the instructions sent with your registration confirmation.