



Dear Colleagues,

My business card reads: **Work Colleges Consortium – “Seven distinctive colleges promoting the purposeful integration of work-learning-service.”** The Work Directors created this tagline while developing the WCC branding and communications materials. It's simple, gets to the heart of who we are, and describes our unique approach to higher education that is more relevant now than ever.

Our institutions not only serve as an exemplary model for higher education, but also as a model for collaboration and partnership. I marvel at these seven schools, each cut from different cloth. Our colleges run from conservative to liberal, small to large, from Appalachia, to the heartland, to the green mountains of Vermont. **Despite the varied size and style of our campuses, and our operational differences, we recognize what we share and hold in common: the ethos, culture and spirit of work-learning-service.**

When we come together, we learn much from one another and share best approaches for work practices, methods of evaluation, and the effective preparation of student workers. The list is long. Yet, we succeed, even when we dare seven academics from seven different colleges to develop a simple set of common work-learning outcomes upon which we may all agree. **We know how to work and we know how to get things done. Our colleges value and teach the importance of genuine collaboration and teamwork as a hallmark of community.**

The Work Colleges are indeed a model to be emulated. They provide a first class education coupled with real work experience to students who participate in the actual operation of their institution. There is a premium placed on students serving one another, their college community, and the community beyond the campus borders. Our graduates go on to serve others at higher rates than both public and private college graduates. **Each year the seven Work Colleges collectively graduate approximately 1000 students who are well equipped to make the world a better place one person at a time.**

That's the kind of world I want to live in and be a part of. And we are the fortunate ones to help support the great work that these colleges do.

Best regards,

Robin Taffler

apply now

**FACULTY
& STAFF
GRANT PROGRAM**

Deadline: June 21st

WCC LEADERSHIP

Presidents Council

Work Colleges are pleased to welcome three new presidents:
Lyle Roelofs, Berea College
Matthew Derr, Sterling College
Steve Solnick, Warren Wilson College.

The 2013 Presidents Council:

Joe Stepp, Chair
Alice Lloyd College

Jerry Davis, Vice Chair
College of the Ozarks

Oren Paris, Secretary/Treasurer
Ecclesia College

Lyle Roelofs, Berea College

Mim Pride, Blackburn College

Matthew Derr, Sterling College

Steve Solnick, Warren Wilson College

WCC Campus Updates

Alice Lloyd College recently completed a major library renovation and will continue the renovations this summer. They have recently added Accounting and Kinesiology majors and are adding an Entrepreneurial minor. In addition, they have signed an agreement with the University of Kentucky for a nursing degree.

[“Healing Appalachia: Students Work to Reclaim Land”](#)

Berea College has a new president, Lyle Roelofs. There have been great efforts to implement educational components in the labor program and the new Workforce Training and Development Resource Center has been very successful.

[“Berea College Dedicates Carter G. Woodson Center for Interracial Education”](#)

Blackburn College is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its work program. John Comerford has been named the 16th President of the College, and he will take office on July 1, 2013, following the retirement of President Mim Pride.

[“Celebrating 100 Year Anniversary of the Work Program”](#)

College of the Ozarks will not be participating in student loan programs of any type—the goal is for students to graduate debt free. To assist students, **C of O** is increasing access to their summer work program. In addition, they are eliminating commuter status for students. **[“To Further Discourage Debt, College of the Ozarks Adds More Cost-Saving Opportunities for Students”](#)**

Newly added to **C of O's** campus is a “School of the Ozarks” laboratory school of the College and a preparatory school for students in grades 9-12.

Ecclesia College is developing a campus master plan. A Behavioral Sciences Program is being added and Fall 2013 enrollment is expected to exceed 200 FTEs!

[“Academic Excellence in Ecclesia Athletics”](#)

Sterling College has a new president, Matthew Derr, and he immediately began working with campus constituencies to develop a new strategic plan. Sterling College is now at 100 FTEs with a goal of 120 FTEs. A year round academic calendar has been implemented at the College. It provides students with more opportunities and the option of graduating in three years. Jennifer Payne, Dean of Work Learning, is implementing a new time system and a new “Work Committee” has been added to the Board of Trustees. **[“Sterling College to Divest From Fossil Fuels”](#)**

Warren Wilson College has a new president, Steve Solnick. Ellen Graves has been appointed as the new Director of Work Learning and Training, and she has been busy developing performance learning goals for the work program. The Work-Learning Task Force developed meaningful opportunities to integrate work throughout the triad and the Trustee Committee formed a Triad Education Committee.

[“Warren Wilson College named to the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction”](#)



We wish Mim Pride the very best as she steps down after 22 dedicated years of service as President of Blackburn College. Learn more at [“Thanks for the Mim-ories”](#)

Annual Meeting Highlights

Presidents of the Work Colleges met in February in Washington D.C. Their busy schedule included meetings with key policy makers and developing an ambitious agenda for the upcoming year.

Approved items include:

- The WCC annual budget
- A robust research agenda
- New Service Project Grants
- Renewal of Faculty/Staff Research Grants
- Dates/locations of WCC Fall Conferences through 2018!

[2013 Fall Conference is Nov 7-9 at Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes, KY.](#)

WCC OFFICE

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Staff note:
We are delighted to welcome Brenda Boggs back to the WCC office.

Students and Work Deans take to D.C.

November's annual WCC Fall Leadership Conference, held in Washington, D.C., gave students the remarkable opportunity to meet with members of Congress and legislative staff to share stories of their Work College experiences. Students and Work Directors had a rare opportunity to discuss how legislative policy impacts higher education.

Leaders who met with the group included: Sarah Flanagan, Vice President for Government Relations and Policy at NAICU; former Congressman Phil English and his former Legislative Director Laura Doyle (now both associates with Arent Fox); and Patricia Evans, Executive Director of Serve D.C.

Touring national monuments, visiting Smithsonian museums, and participating in a service project at the Capital Area Food Bank—which distributes 33 million pounds of food and fresh produce annually—rounded out the incredible experience.

Fall Conference 2013 is being hosted by Alice Lloyd College, and we look forward to gathering in Pippa Passes, KY next November.

On Being a Work College

Not every college can be a Work College. Today there are only seven federally recognized Work Colleges in the nation. However, the Work Colleges program is open and competitive. Any college may apply to be a Work College as long as they meet and comply with the Federal Guidelines. [Click here for the Code of Federal Regulations under which our colleges operate.](#)

When was your college “federally recognized” as a Work College? Most of our colleges operated as “work colleges” long before any legislation was enacted, some for more than 100 years. Legislation was written in 1991 by the Department of Education to recognize and protect the unique model of “work education” today referred to as “work-learning-service.” However, that legislation was not enacted until 1992 under the Higher Education Act and the Work Colleges were formally recognized.

The WCC Work Groups keep your campus connected

All member colleges share the common purpose of work-learning-service, but each college integrates this into its mission and campus life in a unique way. The WCC relies on the expertise and experience of “Work Groups” which include representatives from each college. WCC Work Groups are: Academic Group, Admissions Group, Career Services, Financial Aid and the Research Group. The Work Directors Council helps coordinate the activities of the Work Groups. Highlights from recent Work Group meetings and campus contacts for each group are on the [WCC website, click here.](#)

This framework allows WCC Member Colleges to benefit from collaboration, the sharing of best practices, and communication both within the Consortium and as a collective voice for higher education policy and financial aid. Work Groups meet regularly and join forces to respond to the changing opportunities and challenges facing Work Colleges.

The Work Colleges Consortium office provides strategic and logistical support, facilitation, and assistance in executing all WCC activities. The WCC office acts as a liaison for government relations and keeps in contact with our state delegation members and consultants. Importantly, we work closely with the Chair of the WCC Presidents Council and keep all WCC initiatives in motion.

WCC support includes the development and distribution of strategic communications; marketing; the sharing of information and research about our colleges. The brochure “Understanding and Measuring the Success of Work College Graduates” and the recent individual brochures for each college are examples of collaborative efforts of the Consortium.



Work Directors Council

Work Directors Council met in Lexington January 17-18
David Johnson, Chair, Alice Lloyd College; David Tipton, Berea College; Roger Fenton, Blackburn College; Chris Larsen, College of the Ozarks; J.E. Wadkins, Ecclesia College; Jennifer Payne, Sterling College; Ian Robertson, Warren Wilson College

Topics of discussion included:

- Ways to strengthen supervisor training on each campus;
- Efforts to address student retention through the Work Program;
- Opportunities to re-envision the WCC "Summer Service Week" to include more students and create better opportunities to partner with our sister schools. The Council developed and recommended "Service Project Grants" which are aimed at having greater impact on our local communities, better supporting need within our own regions, while providing expanded service opportunities for students.

Research Group

WCC Research Group met in Lexington, January 7-8
Sherry Long, Alice Lloyd College; Judith Weckman, Berea College; Kristi Nelms, Blackburn College; Fran Forman, College of the Ozarks; Angela Courage, Ecclesia College; Jennifer Payne, Sterling College; Allyson Hettrick, Warren Wilson College

The Research Group developed a robust research agenda which includes the following:

- A WCC Health and Wellness survey for work supervisors which is being launched on ALL campuses in April;
- Participation in the Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory during spring 2013;
- Participation in NSSE in spring 2014;
- Participation in second alumni survey in 2015;

Academic Group

Megan Burnett, Alice Lloyd College; Janice Blythe, Berea College; Greg Meyer, Blackburn College; Eric Bolger, College of the Ozarks; Bob Headrick, Ecclesia College; Pavel Cenkl, Sterling College; Carol Howard, Warren Wilson College

The Academic Group revised the Faculty/Staff 2013 Grant program and is prepared to administer the second round of grants. **We encourage all faculty and staff interested in work-learning-service to submit a proposal.**

Admissions Group

Angie Phipps, Alice Lloyd College; Luke Hodson, Berea College; Alisha Kapp, Blackburn College; Marci Linson, College of the Ozarks; Barry Landon, Ecclesia College; Lynne Birdsall, Sterling College; and Richard Blomgren, Warren Wilson College

The Admissions group created information and marketing materials featuring all of our colleges for use by each of our schools.

Career Services Group

Janet Johnson, Alice Lloyd College; James Atkinson, Berea College; Suanne Krupica, Blackburn College; Ron Martin, College of the Ozarks; Barry Landon, Ecclesia College; Jennifer Payne, Sterling College; Wendy Seligman, Warren Wilson College

The group will be holding their first on-site meeting within the next few months to finalize their first collective publication "Why Hire a Work College Graduate." In addition, they will be exploring options to further support and expand career opportunities for our students.

Financial Aid Group

Jacqueline Stewart, Alice Lloyd College; Nancy Melton, Berea College; Jane Kelsey, Blackburn College; Kyla McCarty, College of the Ozarks; Josh McGuire, Ecclesia College; Ned Houston, Sterling College; Kathy Pack, Warren Wilson College

The Directors of Financial Aid are key players in the daily life of our colleges. They verify work-study eligibility, do accountability reporting, and apply for funding from the Department of Education. Most importantly, they work diligently to counsel and assist students with understanding the costs related to their education and how to be effective financial stewards.

WCC OFFICE

Do not hesitate to contact our office if we can be of assistance.

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COMING SOON . . .

The Work Colleges' online presence is soon to be updated with a fresh new look. The new website will include a host of social media features, timely higher education news, and collaboration tools for member colleges.

WCC is counting on your campus for ideas, photos, feature stories and promotional materials to help tell the world about the incredible benefits of the Work Colleges.