Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows
Who Are Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows?

A retired Marine Corps major general who has devoted his post-military career to veterans’ issues; a former United States ambassador to multiple African countries who has twice served as director for Africa at the National Security Council; a senior advisor to the National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council; a contributing editor of Newsweek who appears regularly on The McLaughlin Group; a portrait artist whose subjects are outstanding Americans who dared to tell inconvenient truths during troubled times; the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission’s assistant inspector general for investigations who was a whistleblower during the Madoff investment scandal; the sometimes anchor of the acclaimed PBS NewsHour; a research scientist who went diving in the Gulf of Mexico during the BP oil spill to determine for herself its environmental impact; a lawyer turned diplomat who played a significant role in the reconstruction of Iraq; and a radio program host whose documentary film about the civil rights saga, Eyes on the Prize, was lauded across the world.

These are but a few of the 115 eminent professionals from across America and abroad who constitute the roster of the Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows. Whatever their fields, Fellows share a passion for higher learning, an eagerness to share their experiences and insights with faculty members and students, and a desire to communicate important lessons to the wider public. Fellows are artists, actors, novelists, journalists, business leaders, government officials, civil libertarians, diplomats, Wall Street investors, environmentalists, and human rights experts.

How Does the Fellows Program Work?

For more than 40 years, the Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows program has brought prominent artists, diplomats, journalists, business leaders, and other nonacademic professionals to campuses across the United States for substantive dialogue with students and faculty members. Through a week-long residential program of classes, seminars, workshops, lectures, and informal discussions, the Fellows create better understanding and new connections between the academic and nonacademic worlds.

Instead of the one-day visit typical of the college lecture circuit, the Visiting Fellows program provides time to develop trust, explore complex issues, and establish ongoing relations. Through these extended visits, students and faculty members can explore how the classroom and campus are related to broader society. By their own example, Fellows demonstrate that there are challenging opportunities for those who want to build a better world through professional activities and as informed citizens.
Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow Callie Crossley brought journalism to life for students at Mount Ida College. She is pictured here (second from the right) during a show on mid-term elections on Fox Boston with (left to right) Mount Ida professor Kelly Keough, political commentator Doug Goudie, and first-year student Jasmin Hill.
The Fellows interact with students, faculty members, administrators, local civic leaders, and the media—both informally outside the classroom and formally in campus lectures and seminars. They discuss their areas of expertise, of course, but connecting with campus communities is what they treasure. Fellows report that spending a full week on campus fosters intellectual intimacy with campus constituencies, and campuses report that the extended time with Fellows devoted to campus activities changes outlooks, brings new perspectives, and excites imaginations.

The goal of the program is to provide colleges and universities with an intellectual and cultural experience that will enrich the lives of all members of the campus community. As a group, participating institutions share the belief that a liberal arts education is the best preparation for well-informed and publicly engaged citizenship.

Which Campuses Are Eligible?

The Visiting Fellows program is available to all four-year public and private, non-profit colleges and universities in the United States as well as Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) International Member institutions. CIC member campuses participate at a discounted rate. The cost is modest because Fellows care more about participating in the educational process than receiving financial reward.

Since the inception of the program in 1973, more than 285 colleges have participated, many for several years.

How Are Fellows Selected for the Program?

CIC strives to match Fellows’ expertise with campus programming and to work with campuses to meet academic needs by helping to select the appropriate Fellow.

Fellows are selected for their professional expertise, personal enthusiasm for the goals of the program, interest in interacting with students, and ability to listen as well as to speak. They share their practical knowledge in such areas as journalism, politics, business practices, the arts, the role of the United States in global affairs, and the social and environmental impact of technological advances.

Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow Stuart Diamond is a creative thinker and an engaging speaker who encouraged our students to take an active, interrogative approach to their studies at Concordia. He spoke about creating new business models in online environments, the impact of media on society, and finding integrity in art and business, among other topics.

—Kurt Krueger, President, Concordia University Irvine
Who Administers the Fellows Program?

Beginning in 2007, CIC succeeded the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation in administering this highly respected Visiting Fellows program.

How Does a Campus Apply to Host a Fellow?

To view the complete roster of Fellows and apply to host a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow, visit www.cic.edu/VisitingFellows. You can search the listings by name or category or view the entire roster. Each Fellow’s listing includes a brief biography and a sampling of the topics he or she can address while on campus.

Next, complete the online “Campus Request Form” on the website.

Institutions are encouraged to apply by April for the following academic year to allow ample time to plan a successful visit. Applications are accepted year-round.

Abbreviated visit options will be considered on a case-by-case basis. For more information, contact Roger W. Bowen, CIC senior advisor and director of the Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows Program, at (202) 466-7230 or by email at visitingfellows@cic.nche.edu.

What Are the Fees for Hosting a Fellow?

Participating institutions pay a fee to CIC that covers the Fellow’s honorarium, primary travel, and other expenses. The institution also is responsible for arranging and paying for the Fellow’s lodging, meals, and transportation between the airport and the campus.

CIC members pay a reduced fee of $5,950 for a Fellow’s visit (or $6,950 for a visit by a couple). The fee for non-member colleges and universities to host a Woodrow Wilson Fellow is $6,550 (or $7,550 for hosting a visiting couple). The fees have not increased since 2010.

Stephen Vetter’s visit to the Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA) helped to deepen awareness of our academic commitment to socially engaged arts practices, including on a wider, even international scale. We believe art has to engage with and change the world of which it is a part. At CIA, we refer to this as SEA Change—or socially engaged artists for change—and we are dedicated to preparing our students to create, connect, and build better futures.

Steve’s presence here was a keystone in this process and will be a foundation for the entire year.

—Christopher Whittey, Vice President of Faculty Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, Cleveland Institute of Art

Photo courtesy of Robert Muller, Cleveland Institute of Art
The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) is an association of 750 nonprofit independent colleges and universities and higher education affiliates and organizations that has worked since 1956 to support college and university leadership, advance institutional excellence, and enhance public understanding of private higher education's contributions to society. CIC is the major national organization that focuses on providing services to leaders of independent colleges and universities as well as conferences, seminars, and other programs that help institutions improve educational quality, administrative and financial performance, and institutional visibility. CIC conducts the largest annual conference of college and university presidents. CIC also provides support to state fundraising associations that organize programs and generate contributions for private colleges and universities.

One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 320 • Washington, DC 20036-1142
Phone: (202) 466-7230 • Fax: (202) 466-7238 • www.cic.edu