Diversity, Civility, and the Liberal Arts:  
An Institute for Faculty and Administrators at  
Independent Colleges and Universities  
Atlanta, Georgia • June 3-6, 2018  

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

This Institute is generously supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Sunday, June 3, 2018  
Theme: Engaging the 21st-Century Campus

Noon–1:00 p.m.  
**Registration** (lunch not provided)

1:00–1:30 p.m.  
**Welcome and Institute Overview**

1:30–2:45 p.m.  
**Demographics and Diversity: Colleges Students Today and into the Future**  
*Nathan D. Grawe*, Ada M. Harrison Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Social Sciences, Carleton College  
*How has the college student population in the United States changed by race, ethnicity, sex, age, social class, and other characteristics? What do current demographic trends suggest about the college student population of the future? What are the implications of these changes for higher education, especially for smaller private colleges? And what are the pedagogic implications for students—whether “traditional” students or students from previously under-represented populations—whose educational experiences and outcomes will be shaped by contexts that differ sharply from those of the past?*

2:45–3:00 p.m.  
**Break**

3:00–4:30 p.m.  
**Information and Authority: How Can We Redesign the Liberal Arts for Students Coming of Age in a Divisive, Globally-Connected World?**  
*Cathy Davidson*, Distinguished Professor and Founding Director of The Futures Initiative, CUNY Graduate Center  
*Students entering college in 2018 were infants on 9/11. Their entire lives have been shaped by a world of terrorism, fear, curbing of civil liberties, and rhetorics of racial and religious intolerance and even white supremacy sanctioned as “free speech.” At the same time, pundits tend to point to students’ over-use of social media as “the problem.” What role can the liberal arts play in addressing the volatile world in which students today live, work, and learn?*

5:00 p.m.  
**Reception**
6:00 p.m. Dinner
Presentation: Diversity, Civility, and the Liberal Arts: The Case of Kalamazoo College
Eileen B. Wilson-Oyelaran, President Emerita, Kalamazoo College

Wilson-Oyelaran will discuss the experience of trying to create a more inclusive and student-focused community at Kalamazoo—an effort that depended on the participation of every campus constituent.

Monday, June 4, 2018
Theme: Identities and Fairness

8:00–9:00 a.m. Breakfast
Roundtable discussions by institutional role.

9:00–10:30 a.m. The Social Construction of Identities and the ABCs of Inclusive Pedagogy
Beverly Daniel Tatum, President Emerita, Spelman College
How to think critically about social constructs—especially race, ethnicity, gender, and class—and their social consequences, both inside and outside of the classroom.

10:30–10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m.–Noon Interfaith Literacy and Leadership
Eboo Patel, Founder, Interfaith Youth Core

The United States is the most religiously diverse nation in human history and the most religiously devout nation in the Western Hemisphere. Developing interfaith literacy and leadership is essential for everything from being an active citizen to being a competent professional. This session will explore how colleges can address interfaith issues in ways that generate light rather than heat.

Noon–1:30 p.m. Lunch

Presentation: The Language of Student Protests and Behavior
Allan Metcalf, Professor of English, MacMurray College, and Executive Secretary, American Dialect Society

How can closer attention to language promote civility? Many recent episodes on campus have turned around issues of language and, in some cases, a gap between how students and administrators or instructors use language. How can insights from linguistics help campus communities make better sense of such phenomena as marked and unmarked words, “microaggressions,” “political correctness,” and even the simple word “OK”?

1:30–1:45 p.m. Break
1:45–3:00 p.m.  
**The Ethics of Identity**  
*Danielle Allen*, James Bryant Conant University Professor, Harvard University  

*A review of some of the basic philosophical frameworks for approaching challenging ethical questions, followed by a deeper dive into recent literature that has specifically taken up the ethical challenges that flow from thinking about multiculturalism, identity, and liberal democracy.*

3:00–3:30 p.m.  
**Assessing the Day’s Work: Questions and Comments**

4:30–6:30 p.m.  
**Visit to the Center for Civil and Human Rights**  

*The Center, which is located in downtown Atlanta at 100 Ivan Allen Jr. Boulevard, was designed to “build a bridge between the American Civil Rights Movement and the contemporary struggle for Human Rights around the world.” Transportation will be provided. Institute participants will have an opportunity to explore the exhibits on their own and enjoy a light reception.*

6:30 p.m.  
**Dinner on Your Own**

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**Tuesday, June 5, 2018**  
**Theme: Social Change and Civility**

8:00–9:00 a.m.  
**Breakfast**  

*Roundtable discussions by institutional role or academic disciplines (in different groupings than the previous morning)*

9:00–10:30 a.m.  
**History, Diversity, Civility … and Humility**  

*David Blight*, Class of 1954 Professor of American History, Yale University  

*Decades of debate among scholars—and more recent statements by public figures and news analysts—have challenged the status and significance of “facts.” Have debates about relativism in the humanities and social sciences influenced public discussions about past and current events? How can campus leaders encourage civil conversations about history and help students draw effective lessons for social change from the past?*

10:30–10:45 a.m.  
**Break**

10:45 a.m.–noon  
**Difficult Histories of Race and Student Protest on Campus**  

*Craig Steven Wilder*, Barton L. Weller Professor of History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  

*A good deal of recent scholarship has examined the histories of exclusion and activism in American higher education. This session will focus on the case study of Georgetown University, where a history marred by slavery prompted student protests and efforts towards institutional reconciliation.*
Noon–2:00 p.m.  Working Lunch: Team Planning by Institution (I)

Teams will work together to discuss how they will develop plans to implement change on campus. The focus should be on specific goals and strategies. For example, what pedagogies for change are appropriate for each institution, given the specific mission, challenges, and climate on campus?

2:00–2:15 p.m.  Break

2:15–3:30 p.m.  Powerful but Invisible: Psychological Factors Shaping Student Success

Geoffrey Cohen, James G. March Professor of Organization Studies in Education and Business and Professor of Psychology, Stanford University

How insights from social psychology—including “stereotype threat” and the “growth mindset”—can be used to navigate difference, both inside and outside the classroom, and engage students’ concerns about identity, stereotyping, and equity.

3:30-4:45 p.m.  Case Studies in Intergroup Dialogue

Moderator: Beverly Daniel Tatum

Kristie A. Ford, Professor of Sociology and Founder of the Intergroup Relations Program, Skidmore College

Christopher House, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, Ithaca College

James Peterman, Professor of Philosophy and Director of Civic Engagement, Sewanee: The University of the South

Practical examples of how colleges and universities can promote and sustain conversations about challenging subjects among groups of students who have differing beliefs, identities, and political views.

5:15 p.m.  Reception

6:00 p.m.  Dinner

Presentation: How Can Free Speech Be Sustained On Campus?

Jonathan Zimmerman, Professor of the History of Education, University of Pennsylvania

What is the history and current state of free speech on campus, and how can good teaching and good leadership be applied to the challenge of contentious speech?

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Theme: Planning and Implementing Change

8:00–8:45 a.m.  Breakfast
8:45–10:15 a.m.  **Team Planning by Institution (II)**

*Teams will move from a discussion of goals and strategies to specific, practicable plans to implement change on campus.*

10:15–10:30 a.m.  **Break**

10:30–11:45 a.m.  **Reports from the Teams**

*Beverly Daniel Tatum*

11:45 a.m.–Noon  **Wrap-up**