



CORE COMMITMENTS: Educating Students for Personal and Social Responsibility

The Core Commitments Launch Meeting will feature significant time for you to delve into the foundational concepts of the project, establish some common principles and language for doing the work, and identify other campuses that have formulations and practices that can enrich your institution's Core Commitments project. Below you will find the guiding philosophy that drives Core Commitments as a whole, as well as specific goals for this launch meeting.

Core Commitments Guiding Philosophy

- Student learning is the collective responsibility of all individuals and units responsible for the curriculum and co-curriculum;
- Education for personal and social responsibility, to be intentionally fostered in all students, must pervade the institution's culture;
- Institutions must care about and unapologetically teach for personal and social responsibility;
- Ethical, civic, and moral development must be closely tied to a substantive vision for student learning in the college years that is shared across constituent groups; and
- These forms of learning are cumulative and build on prior knowledge and experience and need to be assessed along the way.

Core Commitments Launch Meeting Goals

- Acquire an understanding of the origin of the project—situate Core Commitments within larger AAC&U mission and vision for liberal education.
- Develop a common language and conceptual framework for the “what” of the project— the Five Dimensions and their contexts.
- Explore the ambitious scope of the project—institutional-level commitment and expectations to advance the five dimensions comprehensively.
- Expand a practical sense of the “how” of the project—advancing specific project work, conducting dialogues, and using assessment to inform practice and better ensure outcomes.
- Begin to familiarize yourself with the expertise and practice embedded in the Leadership Consortium as resources for achieving the overall goals of Core Commitments.



Association
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Core Commitments: Educating Students for Personal and Social Responsibility

Project Launch Meeting

March 30–April 1, 2007
Mayflower Hotel ♦ Washington, DC

Friday, March 30, 2007

- 11:00 am–1:30 pm** **Meeting Registration**
Colonial Pick up meeting notebook and name tag. Lunch is “on your own”. A flyer with restaurant recommendations in the area is in the back pocket of your notebook.
- 1:30–2:00 pm** **Welcome and Framing**
Caryn McTighe Musil, Senior Vice President and Vice President for the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Global Initiatives, AAC&U, and Director, Core Commitments
- 2:00–3:15 pm** **The Educational Paradigm Guiding Core Commitments**
L. Lee Knefelkamp, Professor of Psychology, Teacher’s College, Columbia University, and Director of Dialogue and Assessment, Core Commitments
This session will focus on the concept of collective and cumulative institutional responsibility that informs Core Commitments as well as the developmental learning and cultural context framing the project.
- 3:15–3:30 pm** **Break**
Soda, coffee, and snacks will be available.
- 3:30–4:15 pm** **Project Highlights–Round 1**
Bowling Green State University, Concordia College–Moorhead, Middlesex Community College, Rollins College, Tulane University, University of the Pacific
- 4:30–6:00 pm** **Team Time I**
see chart below for room assignments
Teams should use some of their time to reflect on and respond to the following questions as a group: (1) What were the most important insights you took away from the discussion of the educational paradigm? (2) What questions do you have? (3) What implications does the paradigm have for your project processes and goals?
- 6:00–7:00 pm** **Free Time**
- 7:00–9:00 pm** **Dinner**
East Room We have organized this evening to match participants at tables with people who have similar campus roles.

Saturday, March 31, 2007

- 7:30–8:30 am** **Continental Breakfast**
Colonial
- 8:30–9:00 am** **Debriefing of Friday Team Time and Overview of the Day**
Caryn McTighe Musil and Nancy O’Neill, Director of Programs, Office of Educational and Institutional Renewal, AAC&U

- 9:00–10:00 am** **The Five Dimensions of Personal and Social Responsibility**
Lee Knefelkamp and Donald L. McCabe, Professor of Management and Global Business, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and member of the Core Commitments Advisory Board
 This session will explore the distinctive and overlapping qualities of the dimensions and the theories that inform them, and it will offer academic integrity and ethical reasoning as a case test.
- 10:00–10:30 am** **Table Reflection on The Five Dimensions Plenary**
- 10:30–10:45 am** **Break**
 Soda, coffee, and snacks will be available.
- 10:45–11:30 am** **Project Highlights–Round 2**
University of Alabama at Birmingham, California State University, Northridge, Babson College, Miami University–Ohio, Oakland Community College, St. Lawrence University
- 11:30 am–12:30 pm** **Demonstrating Student Learning**
Carol Geary Schneider, President of AAC&U and *Eric Dey*, Associate Professor, Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education, University of Michigan and Director of Research, Core Commitments
 This session will discuss why it matters that higher education offer evidence of student learning and will explain some of the principles and processes that influenced the assessment design of Core Commitments, including the development of the Personal and Social Responsibility Institutional Inventory.
- 12:30–1:30 pm** **Lunch – From Patchwork to Pathways**
 Colonial
 Individuals responsible for overseeing the Inventory or other assessment aspects will sit at three tables for further conversation with *Eric Dey*, *Ryan Smerek*, Research Assistant, University of Michigan, or *Lee Knefelkamp*. Other team members will sit at tables organized by the Five Dimensions.
- 1:30–2:30 pm** **The PSRI Inventory: Nuts and Bolts, Feedback, Questions**
Eric Dey
 This session will focus on the Inventory, the mechanics of administering it on campus, insuring sufficient samples, enhancing the quality of the data, the IRB process, and what the data will look like when it is processed. Participants will be invited to give feedback on aspects of the Inventory and hear about the pilot testing of the instrument that is occurring this spring.
- 2:30–3:15 pm** **Project Highlights–Round 3**
University of Central Florida, Saint Mary’s College of California, United States Air Force Academy, Wagner College, Michigan State University, Winthrop University
- 3:15–3:30 pm** **Break**
 Soda, coffee, and snacks will be available.
- 3:30–4:30 pm** **Building Shared Commitment and Action: Planning the Dialogues**
Lee Knefelkamp and Nancy O’Neill
 This session will help lay out some aspects to consider as campuses prepare for dialogues before and after the PSRI Inventory is administered.
- 4:30–6:00 pm** **Team Time II**
 see chart below for room assignments
 Teams should use some of their time to reflect on and respond to the following questions: (1) What were the most important insights you took away from today’s discussions on The Five Dimensions, the Inventory, and on using dialogues to foster institutional change? (2) What questions do you have? (3) What implications do today’s’ discussions have for your project processes and goals?

Saturday, March 31, 2007 - continued

6:00 pm– **Dinner “On Your Own”**
Enjoy an evening in Washington, DC.

Sunday, April 1, 2007

7:30–8:30 am **Breakfast Buffet**
Colonial Team Leaders will meet separately with project staff about reporting and project management.

8:30–9:00 am **Debriefing of Saturday Team Time and Overview of the Day**
Caryn McTighe Musil and Nancy O’Neill

9:00–10:00 am **The Summer Institute and Next Steps Once Everyone is Back on Campus**
Caryn McTighe Musil and Project Staff
Participants will be invited to offer ideas for the content and format of the Core Commitments Summer Institute, tentatively scheduled for August 1-5, 2007, and staff will answer questions about next steps once teams return to campus.

10:00–10:45 am **Communications and Advocacy**
Debra Humphreys, Vice President for Communications and Public Affairs, AAC&U
This session will focus on developing an internal and external communications strategy as a way to build campus and broader public support for this work.

10:45–11:00 am **Thank you and Final Remarks**
Caryn McTighe Musil

Congratulations—Good Luck!

Project Staff

Caryn McTighe Musil, Senior Vice President and Vice President for the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Global Initiatives, AAC&U; Director and Leadership Consortium Liaison, Core Commitments

L. Lee Knefelkamp, Professor of Psychology, Teacher’s College Columbia University; Director of Dialogue and Assessment and Leadership Consortium Liaison, Core Commitments

Eric Dey, Associate Professor, Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education, University of Michigan, and Director of Research and Assessment, Core Commitments

Nancy O’Neill, Director of Programs, Office of Educational and Institutional Renewal, AAC&U; Director of Programs and Leadership Consortium Liaison, Core Commitments

Michèle Leaman, Program Assistant, Core Commitments, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Global Initiatives, AAC&U

Ryan Smerek, Research Assistant, Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education, University of Michigan

Elizabeth Minnich, Senior Fellow, AAC&U; Core Commitments Leadership Consortium Liaison

David Paris, Leonard C. Ferguson Professor of Government, Hamilton College, and AAC&U Senior Fellow; Core Commitments Leadership Consortium Liaison

Other Speakers

Carol Geary Schneider, President, AAC&U

Debra Humphreys, Vice President for Communications and Public Affairs, Office of Communications and Public Affairs, AAC&U

Donald L. McCabe, Professor of Management and Global Business, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and Core Commitments Advisory Board Member

Core Commitments Leadership Consortium, March 2007 Team Time Break-out Room Assignments	
Institution	Room Assignment
Babson College	Maryland Room
Bowling Green State University	Colonial Room
California State University, Northridge	New Jersey Room
Concordia College–Moorhead	North Carolina Room
Miami University–Ohio	Colonial Room
Michigan State University	New Hampshire Room
Middlesex Community College	Massachusetts Room
Oakland Community College	Colonial Room
Rollins College	New York Room
Saint Mary’s College of California	Maryland Room
St. Lawrence University	Colonial Room
Tulane University	New Jersey Room
United States Air Force Academy	North Carolina Room
University of Alabama at Birmingham	Colonial Room
University of Central Florida	New Hampshire Room
University of the Pacific	Massachusetts Room
Wagner College	Colonial Room
Winthrop University	New York Room

Note: These rooms are reserved for you to use during team time. Teams may choose to hold team time at another location within the hotel, but they should be sure to hand in their reflection responses at the AAC&U registration desk if they change locations.