



An AAC&U Working Conference

## General Education and Assessment:

Maintaining Momentum,  
Achieving New Priorities

– Learn about maintaining momentum in general education reform and creating effective assessment plans, especially in tough economic times



*Association  
of American  
Colleges and  
Universities*

# General Education and Assessment

## ATTEND...

To learn new approaches to aligning scarce resources with an ambitious vision for learning in general education, and ways to integrate into the curriculum issues of diversity, global, civic engagement, and scientific and quantitative literacy through problem-based pedagogies in real-world settings.

## Conference Highlights

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 7:00 – 8:30 P.M.**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS:**

### **Conceptualizing a Twenty-First-Century Renaissance for General Education**

**ROBERT WEISBUCH, President, Drew University**



Is Core a bore inevitably? Can general education distribution requirements ever escape looking like a warehouse inventory? How can we convey the joy of the arts and sciences to a changing student population? Too many lukewarm results imply the need for new campus discussions about compelling visions for and practices in general education. Dr. Weisbuch will share insights on the kinds of general education and assessment that provide all students with the opportunity to achieve important educational goals, find purpose beyond their selves, and contribute to the well-being of society.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 9:15 – 10:30 A.M.**

**PLENARY:**

### **Speaking Frankly: General Education for the Unknown**

**REBECCA BERRYHILL JESSUP, Seattle University; ISIAH BINGLEY, Seattle Central Community College; MEGAN OTIS, Western Washington University; MARINA PITA, University of Washington-Seattle; and WASSAN SINGH, Highline Community College**

**FACILITATORS: GILLIES MALNARICH and EMILY LARDNER, Codirectors, Washington Center for Improving the Quality of Undergraduate Education, The Evergreen State College**

Students from the Seattle area will respond to the vision of learning presented in *College Learning for the New Global Century*—from what they think students need to know and be able to do, given contemporary realities, to whether they think their education is adequately preparing them for the “unscripted challenges” of the future. Students will offer recommendations regarding the kind of general education that is truly engaging, the campus services they especially appreciate, and what they would like us to stop doing.



**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 12:15 – 2:00 P.M.**

**LUNCHEON PANEL**

## **General Education and Assessment: Planning Today, Looking to the Future**

**SANDRA ELMAN**, President, Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities; **STEPHEN D. SPANGEL**, Vice President, Higher Learning Commission; and **BARBARA WRIGHT**, Associate Director, Accreditation, Western Association of Colleges and Schools

What can institutions do to support and improve general education and assessment in the face of epic budget cuts? How can institutions avoid sacrificing important progress in strengthening general education and assessment? Panelists will share insights on the future of general education and assessment and the role accreditation agencies might play in helping institutions prepare students for complex challenges throughout their lives.

Separate registration and \$50 fee required for Luncheon Panel

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 11:00 A.M. – NOON**

## **Betting on Gravity**

**KEN O'DONNELL**, Associate Dean, Academic Program Planning, California State University, Office of the Chancellor



Advocates for reform at all levels can improve the odds for success by taking into account revolutions—in demographics, technology, and the nature of work—that are already changing higher education. How can campus leaders mobilize these dynamics to help shape and advance a coherent, compelling account of their institution's next steps? Who will listen? What will they need to know? Mr. O'Donnell will integrate projections from the Department of Education, the Department of Labor, the Census Bureau, and various higher education think tanks to argue that we can influence the future by hitching a ride on the inevitable.

# General Education and Assessment

## Pre-Conference Workshops

Separate registration and fee required (\$100 members, \$125 non-members); seating will be limited, so register early

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2:00 – 5:00 P.M.**

### **Navigating the Journey to General Education Reform**

This workshop will help participants navigate the path of general education reform. Drawing upon the experience of two institutions that have recently completed major revisions in general education, Leskes & Miller's (2005) *Self-Study Guide for Review and Assessment*, as well as Gaston & Gaff's (2009) *Revising General Education—And Avoiding the Potholes*, participants will examine the process of reform at their own institutions. In particular, participants will review relevant strategies illustrated with examples and lessons learned from the presenters' institutions. Participants will then work in small groups to develop plans to take home.

**FREDERICK S. FOSTER-CLARK**, General Education Coordinator, Millersville University; and **BONNIE ORCUTT**, Coordinator, Liberal Arts and Sciences Curriculum, Worcester State College

### **Interdisciplinary Ethical Leadership Challenges**

Participants will be introduced to designs and strategies for reframing their work to address ethics and ethical leadership on campus. This workshop will provide innovative theories and programs for integrating ethics into the disciplines and general education. A theoretical leadership approach supportive of academic rigor, social responsibility, cultural awareness, and inclusion will serve as the "tapestry" for addressing ethics within research, curriculum development, and academic programs.

**MELVINA TURNER KING**, Leadership Studies, Morehouse College

### **Preparing Students for an Interdependent and Unequal World**

This workshop will feature emerging curricular designs from participating colleges and universities in Shared Futures: General Education for Global Learning, a three-year project started in 2005. Participants will learn how to integrate global learning in general education with specific emphasis on developing learning opportunities that bridge the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. They will examine programs that expand knowledge about the world's peoples and problems and that nurture student agency for equity and justice at home and abroad.

**KEVIN HOVLAND**, Director for Global Learning and Curricular Change, AAC&U

## Using Course and Program Assessment to Improve Learning

What are some innovative ways in which faculty are assessing general education and using assessment results to improve learning? How do results from general education assessment feed into and enhance learning in the disciplines? In what ways are programs assessing general education outcomes and using those results to compare learning across disciplines and institutions? Participants will receive questions that will help them examine their own assessment initiatives prior to the conference and be asked to bring their current assessment plans and practices to the workshop for further review and modification.

**MARILEE BRESCIANI**, Associate Professor, Administration, Rehabilitation, and Postsecondary Education, San Diego State University

## Developing and Sustaining Intentional Programs

AAC&U's LEAP initiative provides a vision for aligning policies and practices as campuses seek to enhance student learning. This workshop will provide both theoretical grounding and practical guidelines for designing and sustaining programs based on student learning outcomes—beginning with an articulation of those outcomes for entering students and continuing through the undergraduate curriculum and cocurriculum. Participants will also examine assessment of those outcomes and strategies for utilizing assessment results for program improvement. Workshop presenters will provide analyses of their programs, stressing assessment and improvement, and work with participants in developing plans for implementing and sustaining such intentional practices on their campuses.

**KAREN ERICKSON**, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts at Southern New Hampshire University; **SCOTT EVENBECK**, Dean of University College, and **FRANK ROSS**, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Learning, both of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis



# General Education and Assessment

## Selected Conference Sessions

**Forum:** Global Citizenship and the Role of Higher Education  
*(open to the public and conference participants)*

**ERIC LIU**, Fellow, The New America Foundation and **KEVIN HOVLAND**, Director for Global Learning and Curricular Change, AAC&U

**A Case Study in Avoiding Potholes:** General Education Revision in a Time of Budgetary Cutbacks

Columbia College

**The Bottom Line for Students:** Unifying General Education with the Major and Cocurricular Experience

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Avoiding “Business as Usual” When Implementing New General Education Programs:** Engagement, Communication, and Assessment

Hawaii Pacific University

**Assessing Learning:** Effectively Communicating Results to Different Campus Constituencies  
Agnes Scott College and the University of California-Los Angeles

For a full schedule, visit [www.aacu.org/meetings/generaleducation](http://www.aacu.org/meetings/generaleducation).

## Conference Information



### Sheraton Seattle Hotel

All conference activities will take place in the Sheraton. Reduced conference rates are available through January 25, 2010, as space allows. **\$179 single/double**. For reservations call 888.627.7056.

Visit [www.aacu.org/meetings/generaleducation/gened2010/Registration.cfm](http://www.aacu.org/meetings/generaleducation/gened2010/Registration.cfm) to register online or download a registration form. For more information, call **202.387.3760** or visit [www.aacu.org](http://www.aacu.org).

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION RATES	Early Registration Deadline: January 25, 2010		Regular Registration	
	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
Registration Fee	\$400	\$515	\$450	\$565
Campus Team Fee* <i>(per person)</i>	\$350	\$465	\$400	\$515
Student Fee	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75
Workshop Fee	\$100	\$125	\$100	\$125

\*The Campus Team Registration Fee is the cost per person available when three or more register from the same institution.

## Schedule at a Glance

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010

10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Conference Registration and Membership Information
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Pre-conference workshops <i>(Separate registration and fee required)</i>
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	<b>OPENING KEYNOTE: Conceptualizing a Twenty-First-Century Renaissance for General Education</b> <b>Robert Weisbuch</b>
8:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Poster Sessions and Reception

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2010

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions and Continental Breakfast
9:15 – 10:30 a.m.	<b>PLENARY: Speaking Frankly:</b> General Education for the Unknown <b>Isiah Bingley, Rebecca Berryhill Jessup, Megan Otis, Marina Pita, and Wassan Singh</b> Moderated by <b>Gillies Malnarich</b> and <b>Emily Lardner</b>
10:45 a.m. – Noon	Concurrent Sessions
12:15 – 2:00 p.m.	<b>LUNCHEON PANEL</b> <i>(Separate registration and fee required.)</i> <b>General Education and Assessment:</b> Planning Today, Looking to the Future <b>Sandra Elman, Stephen D. Spangehl, and Barbara Wright</b>
2:15 – 5:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions
5:30 – 7:15 p.m.	<b>Forum:</b> Global Citizenship and the Role of Higher Educations <b>Eric Liu and Kevin Hovland</b>

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2010

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions and Continental Breakfast
9:15 – 10:45 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>PLENARY: Betting on Gravity</b> <b>Ken O'Donnell</b>

Photo credits: University of Puget Sound, Ball State University, California College of the Arts

## General Education and Assessment: Maintaining Momentum, Achieving New Priorities

### NETWORK FOR ACADEMIC RENEWAL

Exploring together the latest advances in teaching and learning, faculty work and leadership, diversity and inclusive excellence, general education redesign, curricular and cocurricular connections, and assessment for learning in undergraduate education.

### Network for Academic Renewal Conferences 2010

February 18–20, 2010 | Seattle, Washington

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March 25–27, 2010 | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Faculty Roles in High-Impact Practices**

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October 21–23, 2010 | Houston, Texas

**Diversity, Learning, and Inclusive Excellence**

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November 11–13, 2010 | Durham, North Carolina  
**Undergraduate Research**

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**[www.aacu.org/meetings/networkforacademicrenewal](http://www.aacu.org/meetings/networkforacademicrenewal)**



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