

The biennial NetVUE Conference allows us to gather in person; in the off-years, NetVUE hosts a series of regional and topical gatherings, as well as the NetVUE UnConference. Campus leaders gathered online from Thursday, March 23, 2023 through the morning of Saturday, March 25, 2023, in order to speak with experienced colleagues, to share best practices, and to enjoy the company of friends. As with previous NetVUE UnConferences, all sessions are free for any member of the staff, faculty, or administration at NetVUE member institutions.

Thank you for your interest in the NetVUE UnConference. If you have questions, please contact the NetVUE office at (616) 632-1060, or drop a note to Alex Stephenson, NetVUE Administrative Assistant, at astephenson@cic.edu.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

12:00 noon–1:30 p.m. Eastern: Pre-Meeting Sessions on Special Topics (Choose One of Three)

Making the Most of NetVUE Resources

John Barton, Co-host of *Callings*, the NetVUE Podcast
Stephanie Johnson, Editor of *Vocation Matters*
Daniel Meyers, NetVUE Online Community Coordinator
Erin VanLaningham, Director, NetVUE Scholarly Resources Project



NetVUE seeks to create and to curate resources—both in print and online—for the use of leaders at its member institutions and beyond. These resources include books, blog posts, podcasts, an online library, and information about activities at member campuses. The goal of this Zoom gathering is to help NetVUE leaders find their way through this trove of material, so that they can make the best use of it in their classrooms, campus offices, and conversations among colleagues. The session will be led by the NetVUE staff members whose primary responsibilities include developing these resources and making them available to members.

Participating in (or Hosting!) a NetVUE Regional Gathering

David Cunningham, Director of NetVUE

Lynne Spoelhof, NetVUE Program Manager

In addition to the large national conferences that occur in the spring of even-numbered years, NetVUE offers a number of smaller gatherings at various venues across the country. These events are typically hosted by member institutions on their own campuses; they draw from 30 to 80 participants and focus on a particular topic. The gatherings are heavily subsidized, providing an outstanding opportunity for professional development at a very low per-person cost. If you are interested in learning more about these regional and topical gatherings—and possibly even hosting one on your campus—please join us for this informational session. You’ll also hear from some past regional hosts and learn about upcoming opportunities.

Proposing, Receiving, and Managing a NetVUE Grant

Carter Aikin, NetVUE Grant Director

Dave Guthrie, NetVUE Grant Assessment Coordinator

NetVUE offers a wide range of grant opportunities for member institutions. Whether your institution currently holds a grant or is thinking of applying for one (or both!), this session will provide hints and tips (as well as mentioning a few traps to avoid). Participants will be able to ask questions about developing conversations on campus in preparation for applying for a grant, as well as application procedures and best practices for successful grant administration—including the (always tricky) matter of assessing outcomes. The session will include a brief overview of the various categories of NetVUE grants and will provide guidance for choosing a grant program appropriate to your institution. NetVUE grants are made possible through the generous support of Lilly Endowment Inc.

2:00–3:30 p.m. Eastern: Gathering for the UnConference

Small Group Conversations by Campus Role

Hosted by NetVUE Staff and Campus Leaders

Please join us for a Thursday afternoon opportunity to meet and to network with colleagues on other NetVUE campuses who are in similar roles to your own. After a few opening remarks, participants will move into separate breakout rooms to meet with others in similar roles. The groups will be determined by registration, but are likely to include: academic affairs staff, faculty members (in various disciplinary divisions), mission officers, religious life staff, student life staff, staff of career services and vocation centers, and senior administrators (cabinet-level officers). This is a wonderful opportunity to “meet and greet” old friends and to meet new ones. For those who have not yet participated in a NetVUE event, this is also a great way to learn about the network and to hear why others have found it to be an asset for their campuses.

4:00–5:30 p.m. Eastern: Opening Plenary Session

Vocation in Action: Community Engagement with Diverse Populations

Sheila Bauer-Gatsos, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Core Curriculum,
Dominican University (IL)

John DeCostanza, Interim Vice President for Mission & Ministry, Dominican University (IL)

Trishia Kholodenko, Director of Innovation and Operations, Wheaton College

Bradley Pardue, Associate Professor of European History and Director, Center for Faithful
Education, College of the Ozarks

Hosted by Rachel Pickett, NetVUE Webinar Facilitator



As is the case for a live NetVUE Conference, the 2023 NetVUE UnConference officially kicks off on Thursday afternoon. Join us as we hear from campus leaders who have found ways of integrating vocational reflection with multicultural community engagement. In addition to helping students discern their many callings in life, this work can make an important contribution to making their campuses and communities more diverse, equitable, inclusive, and just. Rachel will speak with members of the faculty and staff who have carried out this kind of programming at College of the Ozarks, Dominican University (IL), and Wheaton College.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

10:00–11:30 a.m. Eastern: Plenary Session

The Change (and the Difference) that a NetVUE Grant Makes

Agam Iheanyi-Igwe, Associate Dean of Bible and World
Christianity, Bushnell University

Jason Mahn, Director, Presidential Center for Faith and Learning,
Augustana College (IL)

Daniel Meyers, Director, Center for Faith and Vocation, Butler
University

Claire Noonan, Vice President for Mission Integration, Loyola University Chicago

Hosted by Carter Aikin, NetVUE Grant Director



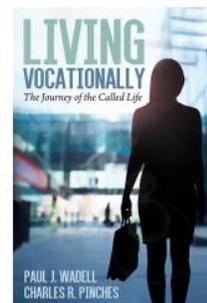
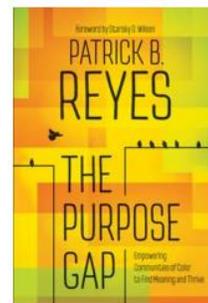
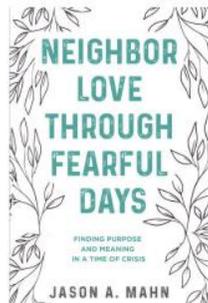
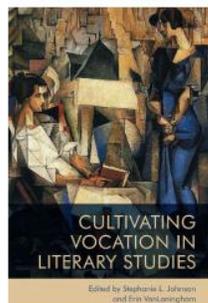
NetVUE provides financial resources for member campuses through its various grant programs. But how do these grants make a difference for the institutions that receive them? What changes take place as a result of this funding and the programming that it supports? In this session, we will hear from individuals who have helped to lead multiple NetVUE grants at their institutions.

They will speak about the changes that occurred on campus as a result of the work that was funded by these grants—which includes programming for students, professional development for faculty members and staff, and re-examinations of the institution’s mission. Join us for a conversation about the successes, the challenges, and the future possibilities for NetVUE grant-funded work.

12:00–1:00 p.m. Eastern: Lunch (or Brunch) with an Author

The Big Read and Beyond: Books for Classrooms and Reading Groups

Hosted by Fans of these Books!



Over the past few years, an increasing number of books are focusing on vocational exploration and discernment in theory and practice. Some of these books apply broadly (such as those selected for the NetVUE “Big Read”), while others focus on the intersection of vocation with various academic fields or pedagogical practices. These books include:

- *Cultivating Vocation in Literary Studies*, edited by Stephanie Johnson and Erin VanLaningham
- *Ecology of Vocation: Recasting Calling in a New Planetary Era*, by Kiara Jorgenson
- *Living Vocationally: The Journey of the Called Life*, by Paul Wadell and Charles Pinches
- *Neighbor Love Through Fearful Days*, by Jason Mahn
- *The Purpose Gap: Empowering Communities of Color to Find Meaning and Thrive*, by Patrick Reyes

We’ll gather briefly as a large group for a few thoughts about the use of such books on campus, then divide into breakout rooms for a discussion of one of the books listed above. The author(s) of each book will also be present for the conversation, so bring your questions for them as well!

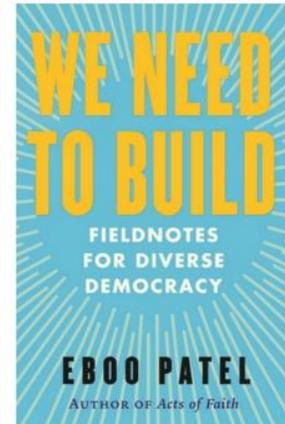
1:30–3:00 p.m. Eastern: Keynote Address

We Need to Build: How Interfaith Engagement Inspires a Vocation of Social Change

Eboo Patel, President and Founder, Interfaith America

NetVUE is pleased to announce that Eboo Patel will deliver the keynote address at the 2023 UnConference. In his new book, *We Need to Build: Field Notes for Diverse Democracy*, Eboo lays out a blueprint for moving from a culture of fracture and opposition to one of reconciliation, healing, and hope. His vision has guided his organization’s transition of Interfaith Youth Core to

Interfaith America, and his insights are highly relevant to NetVUE and its member institutions, which are at a similar inflection point. How can the work of interfaith engagement help to inform this work of “building,” as we seek to promote a more robust culture of vocational exploration and discernment? How might our students be inspired to pursue vocations in which they will build the thriving organizations and communities that are needed today?



Note: Thanks to the generosity of Interfaith America, the first 200 individuals who register for this session (and attend it) will receive a free hardback copy of *We Need to Build*.

3:30–5:00 p.m. Eastern: Plenary Panel

Recent Research on Vocation, Calling, Meaning, and Purpose

Heather Malin, Director of Research, Center on Adolescence, Stanford University

Joshua Miller, Director of Coaching and Programming, Franciscan University of Steubenville

Lindsay K. Monihen, Doctoral Researcher, Azusa Pacific University

Jason Rivera, Director of Strategic Research, Council of Independent Colleges



In this session, active researchers will describe their investigations into the outcomes for students who engage in the exploration of vocation and who understand themselves as living a purposeful life. Through both qualitative and quantitative approaches, this work is helping to demonstrate the difference that it makes when young people are given the opportunity to explore their callings and to develop a life of meaning and purpose. The panelists promise: no heavy statistical analysis or endless slides of pie charts! This will be an open conversation about what we are learning about the outcomes generated by these approaches. NetVUE expects to engage in additional sponsored research, so we also welcome participants who are willing to offer suggestions for future work in this area.

5:30–7:00 p.m. Eastern: Gathering with Friends

The 2023 NetVUE UnConference Reception

It's the next best thing to a live NetVUE Conference reception—we'll even send you some snacks! This is an opportunity to gather with friends and colleagues, new and old, for conversation about every topic under the sun. Don't worry about the potentially overwhelming size of this gathering; you'll spend most of the event in smaller breakout rooms, with plenty of opportunity for conversation. Those who commit to attending at least three additional sessions over the three-day UnConference will receive a link to order a free NetVUE snack box, with food, beverages, and a bit of swag. You can even choose your own snacks! Instructions for securing your treat will be sent to those who register for this reception.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon Eastern: Closing Plenary Session

Making Space in the Classroom for Vocation: Lessons from the Sciences

Rachael Baker, Professor of Biochemistry, Calvin University

Mari Elise Ewing, Professor of Environmental Studies, Austin College



Classroom time is a finite and precious resource. While we can't create more time in our classes, we can make time for what we value and align our content accordingly. Intentional engagement with vocation can enrich rather than detract from other learning goals in a class. In this session, two faculty members will describe how they have cultivated conversations on vocation in their courses. Rachael will discuss employing the language of the virtues to improve student

engagement and learning in her chemistry courses, while Mari Elise will focus on employing the language of the common good to center her environmental studies courses. Both of these educators will consider how their students can come to see their work in class as a collective endeavor. The session will include plenty of time for questions, answers, and conversation.



Thank you for your interest in the 2023 NetVUE UnConference!