Call for Proposals

From Inquiry to Impact:
Social Transformation through Liberal Learning

The Fifteenth Annual Conversation on the Liberal Arts
February 4-6, 2016
The Gaede Institute for the Liberal Arts, Westmont College
Santa Barbara, CA

The fifteenth annual Conversation on the Liberal Arts, “From Inquiry to Impact: Social Transformation through Liberal Learning,” will be held from February 4 to 6 at Westmont College in Santa Barbara. The Program Committee welcomes proposals from faculty, administrators, practitioners, and students that proceed from this question: “How does liberal education equip students for contributing to social transformation?” Appropriate submissions might include proposals from:

- Faculty across the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, addressing how their fields contribute to a broader liberal education that equips students for positive social change;
- Administrators, examining pedagogical and curricular innovations that equip students for this work;
- Practitioners engaged in social entrepreneurship, political activism, non-profit work, or religious ministry, exploring how their endeavors are enhanced by the skills, knowledge and sensibilities developed in liberal education;
- Undergraduate or graduate students, describing how their research or educational experience clarifies pathways to social transformation.

We especially encourage proposals from undergraduate students, both for concurrent-session panels and for a poster session dedicated to student research and initiatives. If you are teaching a relevant class this fall, please invite your students to submit.

One of the highlights of the Conversation on the Liberal Arts, as the name suggests, is the rich discussion it provokes. We anticipate lively conversation on the relationship between liberal education and various means of social transformation, and hope that all attendees will take part in the entire conference. Plenary sessions will include full-length paper presentations and extended opportunities for discussion. Concurrent sessions will be devoted primarily to discussion of papers (to be distributed in advance), following a brief introduction by the author.

Please submit either a 350-word abstract or a completed paper (maximum 25 pages in English, and including a short abstract) to libarts@westmont.edu. All standard academic citation and formatting styles will be accepted, but we prefer Chicago Manual of Style. Be sure to include: 1) First author's full name, academic rank or job title, name of institution or organization, and contact information—mail, phone, and email; 2) Full names, ranks or titles, and institutions/organizations of all co-authors; 3) Title of abstract or paper. All student work should be clearly identified as such.

The deadline for submitting a proposal is November 9, 2015. The program committee will contact authors by November 30 with a decision on acceptance. If a proposal is accepted, the full paper should be submitted by January 22, 2016. If you do not receive prompt confirmation of your submission, please contact Gaede Institute assistant director Aaron Sizer (asizer@westmont.edu or 805-565-6124).

For more information about the Conversation on the Liberal Arts, visit www.westmont.edu/conversation.