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# NEW PRESIDENTS PROGRAM

**Spouses and Partners  
of New Presidents Program**

January 3–4, 2025  
JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa  
San Antonio, Texas  
[cic.edu/2025NPP](https://cic.edu/2025NPP)

**Practical Advice+  
Strategic Inspiration=  
Early Success**

## A Message From the Director

Welcome to the CIC family! I am pleased to invite you to participate in the 2025 New Presidents Program (NPP) on January 3–4 in San Antonio, Texas. I hope you will join this interactive, practical, and network-building program, with its dynamic parallel program for new presidential spouses and partners, as you launch your presidency.

The NPP immediately precedes CIC's 2025 Presidents Institute, by far the largest annual meeting of college and university presidents in the country. This year's institute theme is "Engaging Communities." We will explore ways that college and university presidents can nurture relationships on and off campus and strengthen CIC networks to sustain and renew you through uncertain times. I encourage you to make participating in the full Presidents Institute a cornerstone of your early presidency.

My 15 years as president of Notre Dame of Maryland University were a capstone to a 42-year career in independent higher education filled with rewards and meaning. I remember well, in my early years as president, the excitement about opportunities to move an institution forward—as well as the challenges, which can at times be overwhelming, especially in the first months. The possibility for significant achievement exists, but unintentional missteps can threaten to derail long-term success. CIC's NPP and Presidents Institute helped me connect with both seasoned college and university leaders and those who were, like me, new to the role. These colleagues formed a network of informal advisors that helped me launch a strong start in those early years. Some became long-time friends and trusted professional resources.

Please contact me by email at [mseurkamp@cic.edu](mailto:mseurkamp@cic.edu) or by phone at (443) 253-5497 with any questions you may have about CIC's 2025 New Presidents Program.

I look forward to seeing you in January.



**Mary Pat Seurkamp**

CIC Senior Advisor and Director, New Presidents Program  
President Emerita, Notre Dame of Maryland University



**"CIC's New Presidents Program helped me to better understand the various facets of my journey as a new college president. The guidance and advice provided by the program facilitators helped me answer numerous questions I had as I started my new job. The program also provided me with a network of colleagues who I know I can call upon for continued support and advice."**

**Kyle Farmbry**  
President,  
Guilford College (NC)

# About the New Presidents Program

Since 1989, more than 1,600 new presidents have participated in CIC's New Presidents Program. The NPP provides the relevant tools and wise counsel that keep a young presidency on a smooth course. The agenda focuses on the practical needs and resources to help participants avoid early pitfalls while capitalizing on the opportunities that the first year represents. Ample opportunities for formal and informal conversations allow participants to build community.

## Participants point to these features as particularly valuable:

- Presenters are current or recently retired CIC presidents and spouses or partners who understand the needs of their new colleagues.
- Professional networks are created as participants build relationships with colleagues who often continue to serve as informal advisors.
- The program makes efficient use of time and represents excellent value.
- Trusting friendships are established among participants providing confidential support and counsel on the most sensitive and consequential issues.



"Professional development has always been extremely important to me in every role I have taken in higher education. CIC has often been the source of my most valued educational and enrichment programs, and the New Presidents Program was no exception. My board was excited to have me participate, and the lessons I learned and the connections I made with other presidents have served me extremely well during my first two years as president."

**Michael Sosulski**  
President,  
Washington College (MD)



"It would be hard to enumerate all the benefits of the New Presidents Program. At a formative time in my presidency, I was able to engage with new and seasoned presidents around critically important topics and to raise questions and concerns in a supportive context. Many of the people I met through the program remain friends and trusted advisors. CIC has designed an experience that offers both useful tools for action and inspiring exemplars of presidential leadership."

**Katie Conboy**  
President,  
Saint Mary's College (IN)





# Session Topics

## New Presidents

For presenters and other details, visit [cic.edu/2025NPP](https://cic.edu/2025NPP)

### Day 1

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- Making Connections
- Innovative and Strategic Leadership for the Current Environment
- The President and Institutional Advancement
- Creating an Engaged and Inclusive Environment
- Working with the Board—Basics and Beyond
- I Wish I Had Known What I Know Now

### Day 2

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- Financial Fundamentals, Benchmarking, and Strategies
- Enrollment, Marketing, and Today's Students: Getting Them and Keeping Them
- Perspectives on Critical Leadership Issues
- You Got the Job, Now What?

## Spouses and Partners of New Presidents

For presenters and other details, visit [cic.edu/2025SPNPP](https://cic.edu/2025SPNPP)

### Day 1: Exploration

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- Making Connections
- Roles and Expectations
- Finding Your Sweet Spot as a Presidential Spouse/ Partner: Exploring the Spheres of Self, Spouse/ Partner, and Stakeholder
- Meetings that Matter
- The Gender Factor
- Tips and Tools to Help You Navigate the Role

### Day 2: Evolution

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- Navigating Change with Resiliency
- Mapping Your Personal Interests with Institutional Impact
- Making the Role Work for You: Plan for Success
- Reflections
- Mentor Mixer



# About the Spouses and Partners of New Presidents Program

The role of presidential spouse or partner is unique in higher education: it rarely has a position description and varies enormously depending on the campus and the skills, interests, and personal circumstances of the individual. The concurrent and at times joint Spouses and Partners of New Presidents Program (SPoNPP) is designed to enhance participants' understanding of their role, engage participants in fellowship with others new to the role to develop a support network, and equip participants with tools for success. Led by a team of experienced presidential spouses, the program is highly interactive, stimulating, informative, and entertaining.

Participants are strongly encouraged to register also for the Spouses and Partners Program offered during the Presidents Institute January 4–7. While the SPoNPP focuses on personal exploration of the spouse and partner role, the Presidents Institute program offers dozens of presentations and small group discussions on a wide variety of topics, many more practically oriented.



**"With a professional background in construction followed by a decade as a homemaker, I felt unequipped for this new endeavor without the safety of a hard hat or the comfort of our family home. This program helped me understand how my seemingly unrelated skills could be applied in my new role. With the incredible support and encouragement of my 2023 program cohort, I realized that I wasn't isolated in my feelings of uncertainty. I left feeling fearless with a concrete plan and shovel in hand!"**

**Naomi Chavez**  
Presidential Spouse,  
Our Lady of the Lake University (TX)



**"CIC's Program for Spouses and Partners of New Presidents fundamentally changed how I see my role. As a spouse with a demanding career, I believed that my role was very limited, but the program allowed me to identify specific areas where I could bring value and contribute to my partner's success. I left the program not just with more information, but also a set of specific objectives and a network of resources to help me succeed."**

**David Colquhoun**  
Presidential Spouse,  
McDaniel College (MD);  
Biologics/Advanced Workflows Specialist,  
Mid-Atlantic and Tristate Regions



# We've Saved You a Spot ... Registration and Hotel Information

CIC's New Presidents Program will be held just prior to CIC's Presidents Institute in San Antonio, Texas.

- **Dates:** January 3–4 (just prior to CIC's Presidents Institute on January 4–7)
- **Registration opens:** August 5, 2024
- **Registration deadline:** December 4, 2024
- **Location:** JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa San Antonio, Texas
- **Registration fee:** \$475 for presidents, \$360 for spouses and partners (includes all meals and session materials)
- **Hotel room rate:** \$259 single/double per night (includes Wi-Fi and complimentary fitness center use)
- **Please Note:** First, register for the Presidents Institute and sign up for the New Presidents Program as a session. An email will then be sent to the person completing the registration which includes hotel reservation details and a code to make a room reservation at the CIC discounted rate.



To register, and for additional information about the hotel, travel arrangements, and the Presidents Institute program, please visit [cic.edu/2025PI](https://cic.edu/2025PI). For assistance, please contact Alonso De Los Rios, conference coordinator, at [adelosrios@cic.edu](mailto:adelosrios@cic.edu) or (202) 553-8973.