



Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) Grants for Reframing the Institutional Saga

Awarded in December 2024 • Funding for 2025–2027

Assumption University (MA) will create a multilingual campus exhibit that highlights the institution's history and mission through the stories of its founders, graduates, staff, and faculty members. Established in 1904 to serve the French-speaking immigrant communities of New England, Assumption is dedicated to offering its distinctive Catholic liberal arts education to all who seek it. The exhibit will showcase how diverse members of the community have embraced and carried out this mission from the university's founding to the present day. It aims to foster a deeper understanding of Assumption's history while encouraging reflection on each individual's unique and invaluable role in the institution's ongoing saga.

Augustana University (SD) is increasingly embracing a hybrid approach, enhancing its physical campus and expanding digital access for a global audience. As part of this initiative, faculty members will contribute chapters to an anthology documenting the history of the university's buildings, complemented by an innovative virtual campus tour. This tour will offer a dynamic, immersive experience, allowing prospective students, graduates, and partners around the world to interact with Augustana's campus and the history embedded within it. Using Augustana's central buildings as focal points, the anthology will provide insights into the university's saga (with a particular emphasis on recent decades) in order to better understand its ongoing vocation of place.

DePaul University (IL) is committed to renewing its Catholic and Vincentian mission and embarking on the next chapter of its institutional saga, set against the backdrop of a rapidly changing world. This project will involve a critical examination of the evolution of the university's mission, alongside an exploration of the pressing social realities facing higher education and the broader world today. The outcome will be a printed booklet and digital website which articulate the deeper historical, philosophical, and theological roots of the institution's educational vision. These resources will serve as a foundation for collective discernment and decision-making, as well as a valuable tool for orienting and onboarding new faculty, staff, students, and administrators.

Gustavus Adolphus College (MN) will reframe its institutional saga in three key ways. First, a settler history research team, consisting of faculty members and students, will produce a more nuanced account of the college's founding and its implications for the college's justice-centered mission. Second, a series of gatherings will be convened, bringing together representatives from across the college for a two-year journey of truth-telling, reflection, and action planning, in partnership with Dakota and other community groups. Finally, a guidebook will be published, and a public symposium will be held—both designed to facilitate a conversation among gathering participants, Dakota and community partners, and settler history researchers about what has been learned and its significance for the future direction of the college's mission and operations.

Loyola University Maryland will continue to explore its legacies of slavery and racism, sharing the findings through expanded channels to reach a broader audience. This project will engage with the past to deepen the understanding of the institution's saga by developing curriculum modules and a supporting website to engage students, staff, faculty, and campus visitors. The goal is to create both virtual and physical spaces where the Loyola community and the greater Baltimore area can engage with and reflect on these histories.

Marian University (IN) will deepen engagement with its history by producing a collection of essays in a new book that brings to light untold stories and perspectives. This project will craft a comprehensive digital and physical narrative, bridging Marian's heritage with its present-day commitments. It will also enhance undergraduate education and vocational discernment opportunities while updating a previous text for employee onboarding. The project will culminate in anniversary celebrations, including a book release and the launch of an online exhibit. Through these efforts, Marian University will ensure a historical narrative that is inclusive, accessible, and reflective of the diverse experiences and contributions of its community.

Mount Mary University (WI) will create a community art collaboration in the form of a codex—a manuscript book featuring hand-lettered text, symbols, and imagery for display. This codex will intertwine the stories of the School Sisters of Notre Dame—a group of women who immigrated to North America and founded an institution rooted in social justice—with the experiences of current Mount Mary students, staff, and faculty members. The completed codex will be preserved as a permanent campus exhibit. Alongside this lasting work, the university will capture stories in various forms, including audio recordings and visual interpretations, to deepen understanding and thoughtfully reframe its saga.

North Central College (IL) will engage in archival research, experiential learning, and reflective dialogue to produce a book that updates and reframes the institution's history, with a particular focus on curricular and co-curricular life as it relates to underrepresented and marginalized persons. This effort will serve to interrogate the college's history and better understand its ongoing saga. The edited collection of essays will be shared widely at events for

graduates of the institution, new student and employee orientations, first-year courses, and with administrators and Board of Trustee members to inform strategic priorities in planning for emerging challenges at this pivotal time.

Rhodes College (TN) will host a series of public discussions and academic programs to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the College's relocation to Memphis. Additionally, an edited volume will explore Rhodes's history within the broader context of the cultural and racial dynamics that shape Memphis and its surrounding region. Key topics will include the racial climate at the time of the College's move, the Civil Rights Movement in Memphis, and the ongoing contributions of Rhodes College's programs and personnel to social justice, community empowerment, and racial healing in the city.

Trinity Christian College (IL) will create a permanent on-campus exhibit and a publicly accessible digital archive that will provide a lasting record of the achievements and struggles related to belonging at Trinity. The exhibit will highlight the efforts of individuals and groups who have worked to claim their place within the college, while also shedding light on the methods used to marginalize members of this academic community in the past. The project will also include a series of five events that bring together community members from across Trinity Christian College's history. These events will provide a forum for discussing the relevance of the college's history to the present, helping us to apply those lessons in creating a more accessible and inclusive community in the future.

University of Mount Union (OH) seeks to reclaim and reframe the saga of inclusive education envisioned by its founder, who established the college as a progressive institution for all. While that vision has persisted in practice, the university has experienced a shift in its sense of identity over decades of growth and change. To address this, we will create a living archive (featuring interviews, documents, reflections, and historical context) that illustrates how the founder's vision continues to shape the present and inform the future. The archive will include contributions from various stakeholders, including current students, alumni, staff, administrators, faculty members, and community members. It will serve as a valuable resource for classroom use, the development of strategic plans and programs, and various research and applied purposes.

Wiley University (TX) is a place of rich historical tradition and legacy. This project will add a new chapter to the institution's saga through a year-long reflection on its past and a year-long implementation of its future direction. Through conversations, public programming, storytelling, and critical dialogue, Wiley will reframe its institutional saga, highlighting its HBCU heritage, its United Methodist affiliation, and its historic academic legacy. The project will reshape the saga to resonate with both current and future contexts, emphasizing its enduring relevance and highlighting why its ongoing saga matters today and in years to come.