

FETZER INSTITUTE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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A list of institutions attending to date is attached.

**Higher Education Conference to Focus on Integrative Learning and  
Spirituality  
February 22–25, San Francisco  
[www.heartofeducation.org](http://www.heartofeducation.org)**

**SAN FRANCISCO (January 18, 2007)**---An estimated 500 administrators, faculty members, student-life professionals, and chaplains from the broad spectrum of American colleges and universities are registered to attend a February conference on integrative learning and spirituality in higher education.

This significant response from community and state colleges, four-year liberal arts colleges, and comprehensive and research universities, reflects the growing interest in recovering spirituality and meaning in higher education, according to conference organizers.

**“Uncovering the Heart of Higher Education: *Integrative Learning for Compassionate Action in an Interconnected World*,”** will be held February 22 through February 25 at San Francisco’s Nikko Hotel, and is co-sponsored by the Fetzer Institute and California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS).

“The widespread support of the conference affirms the notion that integrative education, including models that connect religion and spirituality to the curricular and co-curricular programs on campus, is very much in the consciousness of higher education,” said CIIS

President Joseph Subbiondo. He added that it is rare in higher education for this range of colleges and universities to gather together to discuss a single issue.

The conference draws together theoretical, pedagogical, and relational teaching perspectives from across the nation that support a more holistic approach to education, one founded on a growing recognition of the need for students to integrate their inner selves and outer vocations. It aims to explore what steps can be taken to make colleges and universities places that awaken the deepest potential in students, faculty, and staff.

“A truly integrative education, one that addresses the whole human being—mind, heart, and spirit—can deeply prepare this and future generations to address the complex needs of a densely interconnected world,” said Mark Nepo, a program officer at the Fetzer Institute.

### **Conference Session Topics**

*Among the varied topics to be discussed in the more than 50 facilitated sessions and keynotes addresses are:*

- the relationship between the curriculum and values
- intellectual, aesthetic, and moral Intelligences
- technical competency and compassionate action
- critical reasoning and contemplative inquiry
- vocation and life purpose
- integration of emotional and academic intelligence
- integrative learning communities
- contemplation, spirituality, and religion in higher education
- cross-cultural competency
- major trends in research

### **Experts in Integrative Higher Education as Featured Speakers**

*Leading scholars in integrative higher education who are scheduled to speak at the conference include:*

- **Parker Palmer:** educational activist and author of numerous books, including *The Courage to Teach* and *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*

• **Alexander and Helen Astin:** co-principal investigators of “The Spiritual Life of College Students,” a 2005 groundbreaking study conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California in Los Angeles.

• **Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela:** associate professor of psychology at the University of Cape Town and a former member of South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission

• **Robert Kegan:** developmental psychologist and author of *The Evolving Self*

• **Diana Chapman Walsh:** president of Wellesley College

### **Partnering Organizations**

Lending their support of this groundbreaking effort as partnering organization are key national higher education organizations: the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the Council of Independent Colleges, the League for Innovation in the Community College, Associated New American Colleges, and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco is also a partnering organization.

### **About the Fetzer Institute ([www.fetzer.org](http://www.fetzer.org))**

The Fetzer Institute develops research and education programs that explore how love and forgiveness can effect transformation and healing for individuals and communities. A private operating foundation in Kalamazoo, Michigan, its mission is to foster awareness of the power of love and forgiveness in the emerging global community.

### **About California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS) ([www.ciis.edu](http://www.ciis.edu))**

Since 1968 CIIS has been a leader in integrative higher education, offering interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, and applied master’s and doctoral studies in psychology, philosophy, religion, cultural anthropology, transformative studies and leadership, integrative health, and the arts, as well as a BA completion program in interdisciplinary studies.

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