

Speakers



BRIAN W. CASEY, PH.D.

PRESIDENT ◦ COLGATE UNIVERSITY

President Casey earned a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and economics at the University of Notre Dame, and then went on to earn a law degree from Stanford University Law School. He joined Davis Polk & Wardwell and practiced law in New York City and London. He then decided to leave the world of law and attended Harvard University, where he earned his PhD in the history of American civilization.

After graduation, Casey spent about four years as assistant provost at Brown University, and in 2005 he returned to Harvard as an associate dean for academic affairs in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. He served in that capacity until DePauw University called and in 2008 he became that school's 19th president, a role he held for seven years before becoming Colgate's president on July 1, 2016.

President Casey has accomplished much in just a few short years, including the construction of five major buildings; two 100-bed residence halls, Jane Pinchin Hall and Burke Hall; a new center for careers and post-graduate study, Benton Hall; and two large academic buildings including a center to house film and media studies, music, and computer science.

President Casey, along with senior administrators, the Board of Trustees, and the University Faculty, has developed a comprehensive vision for Colgate titled The Third-Century Plan, which sets a long-term course for the University. Through The *Third-Century Plan*, Colgate will undertake significant investments in students, faculty, and the campus.



KIMBERLY A. GRIFFIN, PH.D.

DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ◦
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Dr. Kimberly Griffin is Dean and Professor in the College of Education at the University of Maryland. She is an educator, researcher, and leader who aims to activate opportunities for all to thrive. She is driven by education's ability to make an impact in schools and communities and has worked throughout her career to maximize the connection between research and practice. As a higher education researcher, her most recent scholarship focuses on mentorship and increasing diversity and equity in graduate education and the faculty. She is co-author of the 3rd edition of the book, *On Being a Mentor: A Guide for Higher Education Faculty*, and served as the Editor-in-Chief of *The Journal of Diversity in Higher Education* from 2018 - 2022. For the past four years, she has been named one of the 200 most influential education scholars by *Education Week*.



MARJORIE HASS

PRESIDENT • COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

Marjorie Hass became president of the Council of Independent Colleges in 2021, after years of strengthening independent higher education in various leadership roles. From 2017 until her appointment to the CIC presidency, Hass served as president of Rhodes College. During that time, she expanded the college's engagement with the city of Memphis, enhanced inclusive excellence, and led a comprehensive and inclusive strategic planning process, positioning the college for success in the next decade. Previously, Hass served as president of Austin College where she defined a strong vision for the college's future, pairing academic excellence with a commitment to educational access for talented students regardless of financial background, along with a strategic approach to securing the resources needed to achieve that vision. Earlier, she spent more than 16 years as a member of the philosophy faculty and subsequently as provost at Muhlenberg College.

Hass was a member of the CIC Board of Directors from 2012 to 2016. Hass also has been active in the leadership of other prominent higher education associations, serving as a board member of the Association of American Colleges & Universities and as former chair of the board of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. She is the author of *A Leadership Guide for Women in Higher Education*. She was included on the 2024 list published by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* highlighting 40 outstanding women in higher education and was the recipient of ACE's 2024 Donna Shavlik Award, which honors an individual whose leadership demonstrates a sustained commitment to advancing women in higher education. A philosopher by training, Hass earned bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in philosophy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has published widely on the philosophy of language, logic, and feminist philosophy and is an award-winning teacher.



LENA HILL, PH.D.

PROVOST ◦ WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

Lena Hill began serving as Provost in July 2021 after serving as Dean of the College at W&L since 2018. She received her bachelor's from Howard University and her Ph.D. from Yale University, and she completed postdoctoral work at Duke University.

Lena's scholarship and teaching focus on African American literature and visual culture, and she is known internationally as a scholar of Ralph Ellison. In addition to publishing numerous articles and essays, she has published three books. She authored *Visualizing Blackness and the Creation of the African American Literary Tradition* (Cambridge, 2014), co-edited *Invisible Hawkeyes: African Americans at the University of Iowa during the Long Civil Rights Era* (University of Iowa Press, 2016), and co-authored *Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man: A Reference Guide* (Greenwood, 2008). She serves on several boards, including the National Humanities Alliance Board and the Modernist Studies Editorial Board.

At W&L, Lena has prioritized the support and growth of interdisciplinary programs, the recruitment and retention of diverse faculty, and faculty mentoring and development. She is a passionate advocate for the liberal arts curriculum, and as the chief academic officer, she is focused on delivering an academic experience to students that prepares them to flourish after graduating from W&L.



ERIC RUNESTAD, ED.D.

VICE PRESIDENT AND TREASURER ◦ CARLETON COLLEGE

Nebraska native, son of two teachers, brother of a faculty member, married father of two - and all of us are small college, liberal arts graduates. Grew up professionally in small and ambitious nonprofits.

Twenty years in higher education with the last ten as VP for finance and administration, at Luther College (5) and currently Carleton College (5).

BA in Math and Business from Concordia College in Moorhead, MBA from the University of St. Thomas, and Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration from St. Cloud State University. Serving the academic mission through stewardship of fiscal, human and natural resources, supporting the business operations, growing and sustaining excellent teams, communicating clearly, collaborating widely and striving to live out shared values. Outside of work, I enjoy being outside, golfing, hiking, backpacking, fair-weather bike commuting, reading, music and watching soccer, football and basketball.



JUSTIN SIPHER

CONSULTANT, FACILITATOR AND LEADERSHIP COACH

Since 1994, Justin Sipher's career has focused on advancing the analysis, deployment, and integration of technology in service of education. For a significant part of that career his focus also included advancing organizational leadership critical for success. This took place over eighteen years while serving as the senior leader of the technology organizations at SUNY Potsdam (2000-2005), Skidmore College (2005-2012), and St. Lawrence University (2012-2018) where he also had oversight for the library. He has presented, authored and consulted on the strategic impact of technology in Higher Education.

In addition to his individual consulting practice, Justin is currently a Program Leader, Consultant and Leadership Coach with MOR Associates, the premier comprehensive leadership development program serving the higher education IT community. Justin leads comprehensive leadership development programs for higher education institutions of all sizes across the country developing the leadership abilities of their technologists, librarians, and others critical to their success.

He has served on the Boards of EDUCAUSE, NYSERNet.org, ConnectNY and Seminars on Academic Computing. He has also served on the Microsoft Higher Ed Advisory Group and was the Faculty Director of the EDUCAUSE Management Institute.



JAMIE THOMPSON, ED.D.

**DIRECTOR FOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES, STUDENT AFFAIRS ◦
TRINITY UNIVERSITY**

Jamie Thompson was born in Phoenix, Arizona. She attended Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, where she studied finance. Finding a fit in college student development, Thompson acquired an M.S. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Kansas. She completed a Doctorate of Education in Organizational Change and Leadership from the Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California. Thompson's doctoral research focused on students' sense of belonging during COVID-19 and strategies for enhancement. This research combines theoretical understanding with practical application, showcasing a commitment to fostering inclusive communities within educational institutions.

Her career spans extensive experience in student affairs leadership, where she has overseen budgets exceeding \$750K, managed complex campus climate concerns, and coached student leaders to reach their full potential.

Thompson's strength lies in proactive communication and possessing high emotional intelligence, which enables her to navigate nuanced organizational structures effectively. Her deep understanding of higher education structures and policies, particularly within student affairs and academic affairs, allows her to develop innovative solutions to meet students' developmental needs. She has a knack for curriculum and course development, ensuring alignment with evolving educational goals.

Gallup CliftonStrengths Top 5 Talent Themes: Maximizer, Achiever, Discipline, Harmony, Input.