



# SOCIETY FOR VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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## The Society's Mission

The Society for Values in Higher Education—a fellowship of educators and other professionals, across disciplines—is committed to teaching, learning, and scholarship that nurture ethical, creative, and informed citizens dedicated to the common good. We work to strengthen integrity, diversity, social justice, and civic responsibility in higher education and the wider society.

## The Goals of the Society

- To draw on many cultural and spiritual traditions in order to reflect critically on contemporary values-based issues facing higher education;
- To promote a rich diversity of perspectives while, at the same time, affirming a supportive organizational integrity within SVHE and all educational institutions;
- To create openings in the walls that separate persons from one another (e.g. political affiliations, religion, professions, disciplines, race, gender, class, age) and that separate the members of the academy from the larger society;
- To encourage interdisciplinary inquiry that integrates practical and intellectual perspectives; and
- To challenge ourselves, our families, and higher education in general to develop whole persons who are prepared to play a constructive role in a rapidly changing world.

## History of the Society

The Society for Values in Higher Education (SVHE) traces its history back to 1923 when Professor Charles Foster Kent of Yale University and his colleagues established a fellowship program to encourage teaching and scholarship of distinction in the field of religion. The Kent Fellows soon founded an organization for continuing professional study and fellowship which broadened over the years to include faculty and college administrators. In 1962, the Danforth Foundation assumed the responsibility for funding the Kent Fellowship program in addition to its own similar Danforth Graduate Fellowship Program, begun in 1952. The alumni of these programs joined together as the Society for Religion in Higher Education. In 1975, the members voted to adopt its present name, The Society for Values in Higher Education. Over the last eighty years, the Society's central office has been located at Yale, Cornell, Columbia, Swarthmore, and Georgetown. It was on the Yale campus for forty-one years. In mid 1996, it moved from Georgetown to its current location at Portland State University in Oregon.

## Publications

The Society publishes, with the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. It also publishes a quarterly newsletter.

## Financial Support

Society activities are supported by annual dues, contributions of members, unrestricted grants and gifts, as well as grants given in support of specific projects and programs. Gifts to the Society are tax deductible.

## Membership

Applications for membership are welcome!

Current holders of the Danforth, Kent, and Charlotte W. Newcombe Fellowships, as well as participants in SVHE's annual Summer Teachers Workshop and the 2008 Institute on Religion in Curriculum and Culture of Higher Education are invited to membership.

## Activities of the Society

Recognizing that intellectual fellowship is the basis of professional and personal development, SVHE encourages reflective scholarship, interdisciplinary studies, meaningful dialogues, and collaborative action among established and aspiring professionals. To achieve its goals, SVHE sponsors the Annual Fellows Meeting each summer. The meeting includes plenary sessions and intense morning seminars on a range of values-oriented topics reflecting the Society's mission and goals. Emphasizing the Society's concern with the integration of personal and professional development, spouses and children are encouraged to attend and participate. This year's annual meeting will be held in July at Elmhurst College in Illinois.

Members of SVHE conceive and carry out national projects, which are sponsored by foundations and government agencies. The results are disseminated through speeches, workshops, and publications. Titles of recently completed, funded projects are: "Values and Decision-Making in Higher Education," "General Education Models," "Institutional Renewal through the Improvement of Teaching," "Ethical Issues in the Management of Public and Private Institutions," "Good Practice in General Education," and "Models for Democracy: Strengthening Higher Education for Civic Responsibility and Social Justice." In 2005 SVHE issued a "Wingspread Declaration on Religion and Public Life: Engaging Higher Education" and followed with a 2008 "Institute on Religion in Curriculum and Culture of Higher Education" involving campus teams from 10 colleges and universities.

SVHE annually sponsors a Summer Workshop for College Teachers. This five-day seminar focuses on pedagogy and professional ethics, and it provides orientation, skill building, and mentoring for individuals engaging in academic professions.

## SVHE Leadership 2008-2009 Officers

• Allen Dunn, President • Janet Edwards, Vice President • Eric Bain-Selbo, Secretary • Dick Harter, Treasurer • Amy Lampazzi, Assistant Treasurer

## SVHE 2008-2009 Board of Directors

Eric Bain-Selbo, Western Kentucky University • Jerry Berberet, Carroll College, Montana • Amy Berger, Heidelberg College • Walter Blass, Warren, NJ • Allen Dunn, University of Tennessee, Knoxville • Janet Edwards, Chapel Hill, NC • Dick Harter, Cambridge, MA • David Hoekema, Calvin College • Hal Jackson, Pomona, CA • Nancy Jones, Rocky Mount, NC • Amy Lampazzi, Houston, TX • Cynthia Magistro, Seton Hill University • Dave Stewart, CSU, Long Beach

## SVHE Staff

Marvin A. Kaiser, Executive Director • Robert A. Spivey, Associate Executive Director • Pamela Montgomery, Business Manager • Miriam Diamond, Coordinator, Religion and Public Life, Renee Devereux, Administrative Assistant

## SVHE Annual Dues

Special introductory dues for new members: \$75 for two years (includes subscription to quarterly newsletter and *Soundings*)

Regular annual dues based on member income:

\$135 – Over \$90K

\$120 – from \$70K to 90K

\$100 – from \$50K to \$70K

\$80 – Under \$50K

\$50 – Unemployed

•Recognition Category

\$1000 – Life Membership

•Institutional Affiliate – Annual Dues

\$500

