The Leadership and Multi-Faith Program (LAMP)

A collaboration of the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Institute of Technology and The Candler School of Theology at Emory University

Background. The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at the Georgia Institute of Technology and the Candler School of Theology at Emory University are collaborating on a new initiative, the Leadership and Multi-Faith Program (LAMP). It is focused on the complexities of life, work, and leadership in a world where many faith traditions converge dynamically in geopolitical space, whether our encounters are local, regional, or global. The Candler School brings to this initiative expertise in Christian encounters with multi-faith religious traditions. The Ivan Allen College brings expertise in robust cross-disciplinary and cross-arena engagement. Both bring longstanding commitments to excellence in research, education, and community service with the shared goal of interrogating critical elements related to the intersections of faith, leadership, and civic engagement.

Through this collaboration, we will focus on: 1) providing a more coherent mechanism for enhancing the leadership skills and cultural experiences of students at both institutions; 2) developing innovative undergraduate and graduate courses and curricula designed to offer students a deeper understanding of the major faith traditions in local and global scope and, in support of their development as leaders/future leaders, frameworks for well-informed personal and professional decision-making that are ethically and socially conscious, and culturally and historically well-grounded; 3) developing innovative analytical, methodological, and operational approaches that support peace and cooperation in cross-community engagement, with particular attention to the development of operational tools to connect research and education to strategic action; and 4) organizing various types of public programming deliberately designed to engage multiple stakeholders in developing a deeper understanding of others and to share strategies for positive interactions.

Kickoff Public Event. The kickoff for this initiative is a public event, a half-day symposium. It is envisioned as the first of three symposia (Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016) focused on the intersections of faith, leadership, and civic action. Each symposium will identify a specific lens through which to interrogate challenges and opportunities at these intersections. Symposium #1 centers on "compassion." It will take place on the Georgia Tech campus at the Academy of Medicine on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, from 2:00 - 8:00 p.m. The effort is to have a
substantive, well-informed, robust, “issues and opportunities” oriented dialogue that brings together participants with expertise, insights, and experience from several sectors—including academic, faith, health organizations, arts organizations, non-profit organizations, etc.. The expectation is that this dialogue will produce a matrix of suggestions for strategic actions going forward—with possible implications for research, education, and community/civic engagement.

The keynote address for Symposium #1 will be presented by Dr. William H. Foege, epidemiologist, author of *House on Fire: The Fight to Eradicate Smallpox*, and 2012 awardee of both Ivan Allen College’s Allen Prize for Social Courage and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. To further energize thinking about what it means to actively, positively, and productively interrogate this intersection—i.e., (com)passion, faith, leadership—as a multi-stakeholders enterprise, we will also have two additional components: 1) The theatre company Theatrical Outfit will dramatize the intersections by presenting a scene from the play *Silent Sky*, engaging the audience through the arts. 2) We will have two panels to focus and shape robust dialogue. The panelists in each of the two groups will draw forward impressions and insights from preceding activities but also share expertise and experiences based on the challenges, opportunities, and complexities of their own work in order to engage each other and the audience in a vibrant interrogation of the impacts and consequences of these topics. We will take into account perspectives such as: personal/group identities; the histories, preferences, and practices of various faith traditions; the implications of ethical and social responsibility and cultural awareness; available evidence of passion/compassion as effective action; etc.

Panelists include: Tom Key, Artistic Director, Theatrical Outfit; Elizabeth Corrie, Director, Youth Theological Initiative, Candler School of Theology, Emory University; Yehezkel Landau, Associate Professor of Interfaith Relations, Hartford Seminary; Ellen Ott Marshall, Contemporary Christian Ethics, Candler School of Theology, Emory University; John Klink, President, International Catholic Migration Commission; Rosetta E. Ross, Professor of Religion, Spelman College; Consuelo L. Campbell, Associate Director, Mental Health Initiative—Liberia, The Carter Center; Jeremy Cole, Managing Director, Southeast Region, U.S. Fund for UNICEF.

**Expected Outcomes.** The expectation is that this symposium series will have two critical outcomes. It will serve to gather stakeholders from various arenas across the metropolitan area and beyond to address in strategically focused and coherent ways some of the most pressing issues of contemporary life—the challenges and opportunities of leadership and cross-community engagement in a multi-faith world. In addition, it will play a critical role in setting and grounding the subsequent agenda for LAMP activities going forward in terms of developing a matrix of strategic actions—in research, education, and cross-community civic engagement.

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