“In our silos, we can get things done. But when we step back and reach out and reach across, miracles can happen.” - Amy Edmondson

INTRODUCTION

Since 2012, The Aspen Institute Business & Society Program has been building a national conversation on business, commerce and the liberal arts. The Aspen Undergraduate Consortium is a community of faculty and educators from more than 85 business schools and liberal arts colleges who aim to equip students with the mindset, knowledge and skills required to contribute to a flourishing economy and a strong democracy.

Schools participating in the Consortium each bring their unique intellectual interests and culture to this aspiration. As well, faculty members at Consortium gatherings each contribute knowledge and perspectives specific to their disciplines. All of this leads to a rich exchange of ideas about how individuals, communities, corporations and government interact; about the tension between the practical and the exploratory in the college experience; and about the place of business education in higher education.

FLOURISHING, TOGETHER

Each year, our annual convening is organized around a theme that functions as a call-to-action to participants: namely, if we were to teach this theme in our classrooms and at our institutions, how might we call upon the content and pedagogies of the liberal arts and business education to do so?

This year, our annual convening will be shaped around an essential question: What new collaborations can promote collective flourishing? This question will allow us to look anew at the process and potential of collaborations—between individuals, disciplines, institutions, and generations.

At our June convening, we expect to explore:

- An expanded view of corporate purpose and new language like “shared prosperity” or “inclusive capitalism” point to a more just and sustainable version of capitalism. Getting there requires new collaborations—for example, between businesses and governments, management and labor, shareholders and stakeholders. What does collaboration across the liberal arts and business offer to help us understand and launch new ways of working together?
• We live in times marked by deep divisiveness—and also by new openings for “brave” conversations. How can educators prepare students to reach out and work across differences? How do different disciplines help us understand and develop traits like curiosity, generosity and humility? What pedagogies prepare students to craft an argument, but also to listen and engage with differing views—moving the classroom closer to a “rehearsal space for democracy”?

• How might we think about the future of collaboration in higher education? The public continues to question the relevancy of the liberal arts, the legitimacy of business—and the elitism of both. How can the dynamic pragmatism of business and the creative spirit of the liberal arts contribute to a new future for both? More broadly, what new collaborations within and beyond colleges and universities might we imagine?

This convening and its theme are in part an outcome of an ongoing collaboration, supported by the Teagle Foundation, between Franklin & Marshall, Bucknell University and the University of Pennsylvania—aimed at exploring how liberal arts content, skills, and pedagogies can illuminate the study of business and commerce.

All this sounds amazing, but ....

**How can we register?** Click [here](#) to complete the online form.

**Who attends?** Faculty. Deans. Program Directors. As well as administrators in career services, admissions, and student advising. Since our first convening in 2012, we have been honored to engage over 425 educators in the Consortium. To facilitate real institutional change, we encourage schools to participate in teams—preferably cross-disciplinary and cross-functional. As you put together your teams, please also note our collective aspiration to build a diverse and inclusive dialogue.

**What is the 2020 agenda—and how can our school be featured on the agenda?** Grounded in the theme of “Flourishing, Together,” our 2020 agenda will be finalized in late spring. The agenda will feature interactive sessions focused on innovative teaching, classroom immersions (where faculty “teach” a sample class session), and a handful of contributions from individuals outside of academia. Consortium convenings are highly participatory and feature a robust exchange of curricular and co-curricular ideas. For a good sense of what to expect, see our 2019 agenda at [www.undergraduateconsortium.org](http://www.undergraduateconsortium.org).

Our agenda is populated by examples and initiatives from participating schools that are relevant to our theme. We source these examples from a survey we send to confirmed participants. This survey is sent on a rolling basis, beginning in January and as soon as individual participants are confirmed. Therefore, if your school would like to be featured on the agenda, send us the names of team members from your school as early as possible.

**How is this work supported?** We are so glad you asked! Aspen Undergraduate Consortium convenings are funded primarily through participation fees. Occasional support from corporations and foundations have provided additional funding, underwritten scholarships, and supported activities to disseminate knowledge from convenings.

**What is the participation fee?** The participation fee for a team of up to three members is US $4,750 (with a $1,000 early registration discount, available through January 31, 2020).
We are also happy to offer a solo registration at $1,950. Finally, if your school would like to send a team of more than three, we offer "extra" participant registration at $750 per person. If you would like to pay for additional participants, please contact Zach Moo Young (Zach.MooYoung@aspeninstitute.org).

**What are the dates? When does the meeting start and end?** The official kick off for our 2020 convening is at 4pm ET on Sunday, June 7 (please note the earlier start time, compared to previous years). The close is 3pm ET on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

**What about travel arrangements?** Participants should arrange their own travel, in and out of Philadelphia. Transportation will be provided in between our site locations of Philadelphia, PA and Lancaster, PA.

**Is there a hotel block?** We have reserved a block of rooms at The Logan Philadelphia, Curio Collection by Hilton. If a different hotel will better suit your needs, feel free to arrange your lodging independently.

**Booking Link:** Please note, the entire URL must be copied and pasted for it to work properly.
http://group.curiocollection.com/AspenInstitute
*Group Name:* Aspen Institute
*Arrival Date:* 07-Jun-2020
*Departure Date:* 09-Jun-2020

**Who is the Aspen Institute Business & Society Program?** The Aspen Institute Business & Society Program, founded in 1998, works with business executives and scholars to align business decisions and investments with the long-term health of society—and the planet. At the Business & Society Program we believe how business thinks and acts—how it defines success and which investments it undertakes—are deeply relevant to the health of our society. In fact, we need business at the table to solve our most challenging problems.

Our mission is to build the courage and conviction of business leaders to think long-term and act in the best interests of society. Through dialogue, working groups, networks and fellowship programs we:
*Cultivate Leaders, Create the Conditions for Long-Term Capitalism,* and *Influence Business Education.*

As part of our work in Business Education, we connect pioneering faculty who are taking up critical questions at the business and society interface and we provide these faculty with inspiration, ideas and platforms to deepen and disseminate their work. For more information on the Aspen Institute Business & Society Program, visit our [website](http://group.curiocollection.com/AspenInstitute).

**I have more questions. Who can I contact?** For general inquiries, please reach out to Zach Moo Young at Zach.MooYoung@aspeninstitute.org