

2023

## From the Editor : So That We, Too, May Flourish

Colleen Windham-Hughes

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/intersections>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [Religion Commons](#)

---

### Augustana Digital Commons Citation

Windham-Hughes, Colleen (2023) "From the Editor : So That We, Too, May Flourish," *Intersections*: Vol. 2023: No. 58, Article 3.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/intersections/vol2023/iss58/3>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Augustana Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Intersections* by an authorized editor of Augustana Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@augustana.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@augustana.edu).

COLLEEN WINDHAM-HUGHES

FROM THE EDITOR

# So That We, Too, May Flourish



The theme of our summer conference for Vocation in Lutheran Higher Education gave space for participants—staff, faculty, administration—to voice tiredness, longing, and hope. Though students are at the center of all we do, it was a gift to all in attendance to connect the flourishing of

students to the flourishing of all of us who work with them and for them.

Vocation, the centerpiece of Lutheran Higher Education, works best when each person contributes and each person receives. Flourishing is communal as well as personal.

News from our campuses and the wider world is challenging. It affects us in our bodies and our neural pathways, and with differential impact. Dr. Monica Smith gave voice to this in her powerful comments during Plenary Session #3: Reconciliation, Restorative Justice, and the Flourishing of Black, Indigenous, and Other People of Color. “We must gently but firmly speak truth to power in love...How can we flourish if only some are centered and others are at the margins?” In a gathering of DEI officers following the conference Dr. Smith’s words arose again and again to ground Lutheran Higher Education in the call of our collective moment.

Our values—as persons and as institutions—must guide our discernment about what kind of work is most needful in this moment. Flourishing does not happen automatically through inspiring programs or stirring speeches. Instead, conditions for flourishing are planned, supported, and defended by leaders as well as tended, cultivated, and shared by each of us and all of us.

The contributions for this issue grow out of the summer conference theme of flourishing educators (broadly construed to mean persons working in educational institutions). Each piece has truth to tell and values to live out. Center yourself in the flexibility and motion emanating hope of *Us/We*, the cover art by William Hatchet, graduate of Augustana, Rock Island, and join the conversation.

Join us for further reflection on  
**“Vocation and the Flourishing of Educators”**  
by Zoom webinar on  
**Wednesday morning, November 29**  
8 a.m. Pacific / 9 a.m. Mountain /  
10 a.m. Central / 11 a.m. Eastern  
Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/3avvh932>

**Colleen Windham-Hughes, PhD, MDiv**, is Associate Vice President for Mission and Identity at California Lutheran University. Contact Colleen for conversation about this issue or your ideas about upcoming issues: [windhamh@callutheran.edu](mailto:windhamh@callutheran.edu)