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From the Publisher

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Purpose Statement

This publication is by and largely for the academic communities of the twenty-eight colleges and universities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is published by the Vocation and Education unit of the ELCA. The publication has its home at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, which has generously offered leadership and physical and financial support as an institutional sponsor for the publication.

The ELCA has frequently sponsored conferences for faculty and administrators that have addressed the church-college/university partnership. The ELCA has sponsored an annual Vocation of the Lutheran College Conference. The primary purpose of *Intersections* is to enhance and continue such dialogue. It will do so by:

- Lifting up the vocation of Lutheran colleges and universities
- Encouraging thoughtful dialogue about the partnership of colleges and universities with the church
- Offering a forum for concerns and interests of faculty at the intersection of faith, learning, and teaching
- Raising for debate issues about institutional missions, goals, objectives, and learning priorities
- Encouraging critical and productive discussion on our campuses of issues focal to the life of the church
- Serving as a bulletin board for communications among institutions and faculties
- Publishing papers presented at conferences sponsored by the ELCA and its institutions
- Raising the level of awareness among faculty about the Lutheran heritage and connectedness of their institutions, realizing a sense of being part of a larger family with common interests and concerns.

2012 Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference

July 30 – August 1

Augsburg College • Minneapolis, Minnesota

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A Calling to Embrace Creation:

Lutheran Higher Education, Sustainability, and Stewardship

From the Publisher

I grew up in the state of Ohio. This gives me the right to occasionally issue the Ohio disparaging wisecrack, “Everyone has to do time in Ohio sooner or later!”

It is now Bob Haak’s turn to “do time in Ohio,” as he begins his appointment as chief academic officer at Hiram College. He will be missed. No one is more deserving of the opportunity to move into senior academic leadership, but I regret that we will no longer have Bob’s talents and energy in our community. Bob has done yeoman’s work to make “education for vocation” a reality and not just a slogan in ELCA higher education. He has worked tirelessly to integrate the Lutheran concept of vocation into the practices and rhetoric of Augustana College (Illinois) and all of ELCA higher education, especially through his faithful editing of *Intersections* as a tool for promoting our collective conversation about education for vocation.

Sustaining this conversation is vital to a healthy future of *Lutheran* higher education. The concept allows for higher education to occur in a Lutheran key, even if many or most of the people at ELCA-related colleges and universities are not Lutheran themselves. The pages of this journal have helped us all grow in our understanding of the effort. The task of editing *Intersections* now falls to the able gifts of Jason Mahn. I look forward to working with him and moving ahead the conversation about education for vocation. And God bless him as he endures having to work with me!

MARK WILHELM | Program Director for Schools, Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit, ELCA