

**AILACTE - Association of Independent Liberal Arts Colleges for Teacher Education
2018 Annual Meeting and Conference**

Deadline for submissions: November 26, 2017

Submit proposals electronically to info@ailacte.org

2018 AILACTE Annual Meeting and Conference Request for Proposals

I. Theme: Renewing Our Commitment to Principles of Independent Liberal Arts Preparation

For two decades educators at all levels have been subject to a panoply of reform policies intended to improve student achievement: No Child Left Behind in 2001, Race to the Top Grants in 2009, Every Student Succeeds Act in 2015. Along with federal policy, states have been active in generating new rules covering everything from teacher preparation and licensure to teacher evaluation and tenure. One goal underlying these policies is to ensure graduates are “college and career ready.” Although college and career are important, the principles underlying education extend well beyond vocational preparation.

From the earliest days of the Republic, education was viewed as a means for preserving and promoting the Nation’s most cherished ideas, as exemplified by the Massachusetts constitution, one of the oldest constitutions in the world:

Wisdom, and knowledge, as well as virtue, diffused generally among... the people, being necessary for the preservation of their rights and liberties; and as these depend on spreading the opportunities and advantages of education... to... inculcate the principles of humanity and general benevolence, public and private charity, industry and frugality, honesty and punctuality in their dealings; sincerity, good humor, and all social affections, and generous sentiments among the people... (1780).

Preserving and promoting wisdom, knowledge, and virtue, along with benevolence, honesty, and sincerity, are a few of the ideas used to justify education across different eras.

During the first Constitutional convention, Thomas Jefferson wrote that “above all things I hope the education of the common people will be attended to... for the preservation of... liberty.” While the first anti-slavery political party was forming in the United States, Horace Mann said that “there is no security for a republic but in morality and intelligence... unless these qualities pervade... not only will republican institutions vanish from amongst us, but the words prosperity and happiness will become obsolete.” In the modern era, while the United States and the Soviet Union were testing nuclear weapons, the authors of a *Nation at Risk* acknowledged that “a high level of shared education is essential to a free, democratic society and to the fostering of a common culture, especially in a country that prides itself on pluralism and individual freedom.”

These examples show that principles, not uncertainty, fear, or disunity, are the source for devising and supporting an exceptional system of education. Principles transcend turmoil and obstacles. They inspire people to change, persist, and achieve. When systems degrade or prove themselves insufficient for dealing with problems, educators should rely on principles for direction.

The Association of Independent Liberal Arts Colleges for Teacher Education is composed of institutions that adhere to principles, from Albion College in Michigan, which prepares graduates to be “active citizens, and future leaders” to Xavier University in Ohio, which prepares graduates to become people of “reflection, integrity and achievement.” AILACTE institutions urge their teacher candidates to ground themselves in the ideals of our society. Consequently, AILACTE is an association of institutions that believe in the power of ideas to direct pedagogical excellence. Many of the principles central to AILACTE are exemplified in the Qualities of Excellence:

Moral and Ethical Dimensions of the Learning Community

Partnerships

Liberal Arts

Global Awareness and Action

This year the AILACTE Executive Committee invites members to renew their commitment *to* and reflect *on* these guiding principles by submitting proposals to the Annual Meeting and Conference. Members are encouraged to submit proposals aligned with one of AILACTE's Qualities of Excellence to show how institutions are *Renewing Their Commitment to Principles of Independent Liberal Arts Preparation*

II. Formats

The AILACTE Annual Meeting and Conference offers three types of session formats: 30- or 60-minute breakout, round table, and poster.

Breakout sessions include presentation of abbreviated papers, projects, and other academic work, followed by brief comments, questions, and discussion. Presentations begin with an outline of major points, such as purpose, problem, major findings, conclusion, and recommendations. The amount of time devoted to elaborating points will vary among presenters, though time will be allotted for interacting with participants near the conclusion of the session. Presenters should prepare handouts summarizing content, along with planned questions for facilitation of discussion.

Note, each session is provided with a screen, table, and extension cord. Presenters must provide their own projectors. Internet access may be unavailable during sessions. Presenters should download necessary presentation materials to their computers or other devices before the session.

Roundtable sessions allow maximum interaction between participants through brief presentation and extended discussion. Presenters should prepare 15 handouts, which summarize the presentation and include contact information, for distribution to discussants. Presenters should begin sessions with a description of session material followed by explanation of key points. Presenters then facilitate discussion with discussants using prepared talking points and questions for a total of 30 minutes.

Poster sessions combine graphic display of materials with the opportunity for individualized, informal discussion of the project or work. Poster sessions begin with attendees viewing posters, then moves into brief oral presentations to participants, followed by discussion. Presenters should be available for the entire session. Presenters should also prepare 10 handouts, which summarize the presentation and include contact information, for distribution to participants. Both the poster and handout should be self-explanatory.

Note, posters are put into place by presenters 15 minutes before the session. Tri-fold boards will be available for preparing posters. Participants may begin affixing posters, or presentation materials to tri-fold boards several hours before the session. Tri-folds are 36 in tall by 48 in wide. Side panels are 12 inches and the center panel is 24 inches. Some fasteners will be available. Participants should ensure they have sufficient supplies for preparing their posters.

III. Contents

The proposal should be typed in 12-point font, double spaced, with 1 inch margins throughout

Cover page that includes the following information

Title of 18 words or fewer

Abstract for the conference program of 40 words or fewer

Format (breakout, roundtable, or poster) listed in order of preference

Lead presenter(s) name, title, institution, mailing address, telephone, and email

Co-presenter(s) name, title, institution, mailing address, telephone, and email

Summary that includes the following information and is 2 to 3 pages (page count excludes reference list and figures and tables, if any); exclude information that identifies presenter(s) from this section to ensure blind review

Topic: state the topic, which may be a problem, question, investigation, etc., and provide context

Framework: summarize perspectives, theory, and/or literature fundamental to the topic

Investigation: summarize method, technique, mode of inquiry, data, evidence, materials, etc.

Result: describe the consequence, effect, or outcome

Significance: describe the importance of the topic, investigation, and/or result

Participation: describe one or more goals of the presentation with respect to participation and attendees; summarize strategies that will be used to ensure participation and achieve goals

IV. Criteria

Format	Follows directions shown in the <i>Request for Proposals</i>	Does not follow directions shown in the <i>Request for Proposals</i>	
Writing	Uses graceful language that skillfully communicates meaning to readers with clarity and fluency, and is virtually error-free	Uses straightforward language that generally conveys meaning to readers; the paper has few errors	Uses language that sometimes impedes meaning because of errors, or errors in usage
Organization	Presents information in a framework that is easily comprehended, with all parts in the proper place and cohering to each other	Presents information in a framework that is comprehensible, with placement of parts to produce coherence	Does not present information in a framework that is comprehensible; misplacement of parts, with little coherence
Relevance	Includes a subject that is closely connected to preparation of educators and/or to the theme	Includes a subject that is closely connected to preparation of educators	Includes a subject that is scarcely connected to preparation of educators
Participation	Includes one or more goals with respect to participants and strategies for achieving goals; suggests attention to including participants	Includes one or more goals with respect to participants and strategies for achieving goals	Excludes goals and strategies for including participants

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