

Vocation and Faculty Development: Reflect and Respond

Karen Nordell Pearson
Interim Provost

The Purposeful Graduate:

Why Colleges Must Talk to Students about Vocation

Tim Clydesdale (2015)

	Faculty Percentage	Staff Percentage
Exploration programs “have positively impacted my own work at [this school].”	86	90
Participation in [exploration programs] has helped me hone my own sense of ‘vocation,’ ‘calling,’ or ‘purpose.’”	75	84
Exploration programs “have deepened my appreciation for the mission of [this school].”	85	93
“The impact of [these exploration programs] will be felt long after the grant money is gone.”	80	87
[Active adviser of students only:] “Engaging concepts like vocation, calling, or purpose has helped me move advising/mentoring conversations into deeper and more important matters.”	86	89

Continuum Scholars

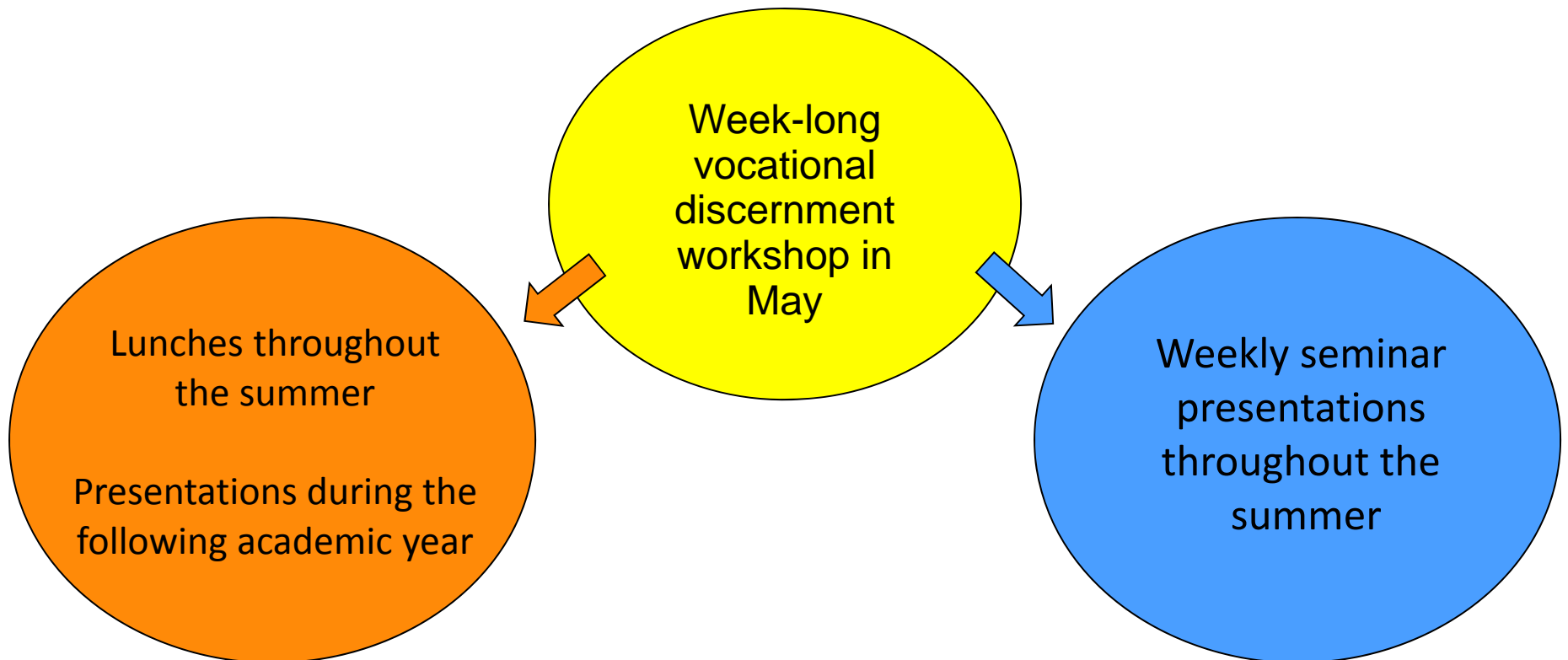
- 2015 – 5 Scholars
- 2016 – 6 Scholars

interdisciplinary, pre-tenure,
summer research

Faith and Scholarship Summer Discussion Series

- 2012 – 2015: 29 Scholars
- 2016 – 7 Scholars

Interdisciplinary, faculty and staff,
Vocational focus 2015 and 2016



Responses from Continuum Scholars

“I joined the Continuum program to better understand how Hope College viewed the role of faculty in living out our Christian mission. While the program certainly offered me some answers on that front, it also led me to some serious reflection about how my Christian identity was impacting my everyday life on campus (as a researcher, teacher, and mentor).”

“Not only did it provide me with time to consider my own vocation and my role at Hope College but it also provided me with tools and vocabulary to discuss these topics more candidly with students. It was a refreshing time spent with colleagues discussing topics that do not often come up in daily conversations.”

Responses from Faith and Scholarship Presenters

“The most meaningful part of the F&S experience was the workshop. Through the selected readings, presentations, and most important, thoughtful conversations with colleagues from around the college, I was able to see the wide range of approaches one could take to vocational discernment.”

“When I was asked to join the Faith and Scholarship series, I was apprehensive. Would it just be another week of things to do? Did I even want to discuss these issues with my peers? I trusted the organizers and signed up. I'm so glad I did. It was one of the best experiences of my professional life at Hope. I walked away with increased and highly personalized understandings of the intersection of faith, vocation and scholarship - as well as a wonderful appreciation for the candor of my colleagues. ”