



For Such a Time as This

Annual Report
2020

For Such a Time as This

I am so tired of waiting,
Aren't you,
For the world to become good
And beautiful and kind?
Let us take a knife
And cut the world in two —
And see what worms are eating
At the rind.

– *Langston Hughes*

Friends,

In his poem 'Tired,' Langston Hughes invites us to face the roots of our problems in order to build a better, kinder world. 2020 was a year of massive challenges alongside important introspection for both America and IFYC.

In the past year, we grappled with a global pandemic that claimed over 500,000 American lives; took part in an uprising for racial justice after the brutal murder of George Floyd at the hands of police; and witnessed a horrifically divisive presidential election that led to an attack on our democracy on January 6, 2021. While 2020 was difficult for our nation, we believe that IFYC has arrived in 2021 even clearer in our mission: to build an Interfaith America in which all faiths, races, and backgrounds are respected and the well-being of which is recognized as essential to a thriving national future.

In 2020, IFYC [committed](#) to including racial equity as an essential element in our interfaith work. We targeted new audiences with a new online curriculum called "We Are Each Other's" about the role of interfaith leaders in movements for social justice, and offered [grants](#) to foster conversations on the intersection of racial justice and interfaith cooperation within campus communities. IFYC launched a dynamic media platform, [Interfaith America](#), to highlight stories of hope and resources from interfaith communities and campuses, and created a Racial Equity Media Fellowship dedicated to uplifting stories at the intersection of racial equity and interfaith cooperation.

As COVID-19 shut down campuses across the country, IFYC reached out to our partners in higher ed to offer online resources and emotional, spiritual, and financial support to the faculty, administrators, and chaplains who showed extraordinary creativity in the face of one of the worst crises to face higher ed in the past century. Amid the crisis, IFYC was able to successfully release a five-year study of religion in Higher Education called IDEALS (Interfaith Diversity Experiences and Attitudes Longitudinal Survey), that answered the question: to what extent are colleges and universities preparing students to be successful leaders in our society?

As the pandemic caused deaths and economic hardship across the country, IFYC recognized the contributions of interfaith leaders on the frontlines of healthcare, as workers from diverse worldviews came together to risk their lives and save others. IFYC alums served as [hospital chaplains](#), [surgeons](#), and [spiritual caregivers](#), bringing their interfaith skills to their work. People from a range of religious communities volunteered and offered social support services like [food depositories and grocery deliveries](#) to support their communities.

Yes, 2020 was challenging. However, in this report, we want to highlight the stories that came as a result of the tremendous work our staff, interfaith leaders, campus partners, alumni, and interfaith communities have put in over the past year. We hope that they will inspire you as we continue our journey to navigate the changing landscape of our nation, and serve as an invitation to join us in our work.

In gratitude,



Eboo Patel
Founder and President



Brad Henderson
Chair of the Board of Directors

Mission

Our mission is to partner with colleges and universities working to turn religious diversity into a positive force in our society.

Vision

We are working towards an America where people of different faiths, worldviews, and traditions can bridge divides and find common values to build a shared life together. A society where interfaith cooperation is the norm.

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Strategy and Impact

	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020*	
	GOAL	ACTUAL	GOAL	ACTUAL	GOAL	ACTUAL	GOAL	ACTUAL	GOAL	ACTUAL
Model Environments										
“Emerging Campuses”	275	295	325	356	400	397	450	317	500	349
“Established Campuses”	40	35	50	47	65	69	80	195	100	195
Leaders										
Advanced campus leaders trained/engaged	475	830	1,200	1,801	2,000	3,173	2,925	5,070	3,875	5,753
101 campus leaders trained/engaged	150	1,562	850	3,365	1,950	5,538	3,250	7,596	4,750	8,735
Knowledge Base										
Articles, publications, and presentations	35	50	73	107	123	181	180	245	250	326

Please note that metrics in the “Leaders” and “Knowledge Base” are cumulative, year-over-year goals.

* FY20 tabulation was curtailed by the COVID-19 pandemic; campuses were not asked to provide tallies given these circumstances, and the numbers reflected here are conservative.



Watch: Eboo Patel, IFYC President and Founder, looks back at IFYC's work throughout 2020

Racial Equity

IFYC committed to racial equity as an essential part of our mission to build an interfaith America. In addition to ongoing internal work, we collaborated with partners in higher education, IFYC alumni, religious leaders and organizations across the nation to create programmatic and storytelling opportunities that focus on the connections between racial equity and interfaith cooperation. Following are a few examples.



We Are Each Other's Curriculum

In response to the pandemic and the racial justice protests after the murder of George Floyd, IFYC launched a campaign titled [We Are Each Other's](#), taking its name from the famed poem by Gwendolyn Brooks. We Are Each Other's includes an online interfaith curriculum with a special focus on interfaith cooperation and civil rights that encourages students, faculty, and staff in higher education to learn about the role of interfaith leadership in movements for civil rights and racial equity. The program also awards Racial Equity & Interfaith Cooperation awards of \$1000 and Educator Curriculum Awards of \$500 to faculty, staff, educators, and IFYC alumni.

Since August 2020...

- \$147K** awarded in Racial Equity Awards to 147 staff, faculty, administrators, and IFYC alumni.
- 21** new courses were developed and 30 existing courses were adjusted with the help of our Racial Equity Awards.
- 39** Racial Equity Awards went to IFYC Alumni working in public health, higher ed, and community-oriented spaces, where they were applied to research projects as well as virtual book clubs and discussion groups.
- \$29K** awarded in curriculum grants to 49 staff, faculty, and administrators on 46 campuses across the country as well as 9 IFYC alumni.

SPOTLIGHT: We Are Each Other's

Geneva Blackmer

Program Director, Miami University

Priyana Kalita

Student Liaison, Miami University

As Program Director at the Interfaith Center at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, Geneva Blackmer is using the fund for the established Divergent Immigrant Experiences program founded by Student Liaison Priyana Kalita. This initiative aims to highlight the diverse experiences of immigrants and demonstrate the common values of respect, love, and understanding that we all share. The Racial Equity and Interfaith Cooperation Award will be used to make these programs a monthly offering and bring in higher-profile speakers. In fall 2020, they hosted two campus-wide virtual programs with over 400 viewers.

Danielle Brooks

*Assistant Dean of Equity and Inclusion,
Arkansas Tech University*

Danielle Brooks, Assistant Dean of Equity and Inclusion at Arkansas Tech University, is using the fund to transform the standalone Diversified Faith program, an interfaith panel of religiously diverse students, faculty, and staff, into a group of student leaders interested in the intersection of racial equity and interfaith cooperation (Diversified Faith Fellows). They will also utilize the We Are Each Other's curriculum modules to guide the Diversified Faith Fellows design and will implement racial equity and interfaith cooperation programming in spring of 2021.

Interfaith America Racial Equity Media Fellowship

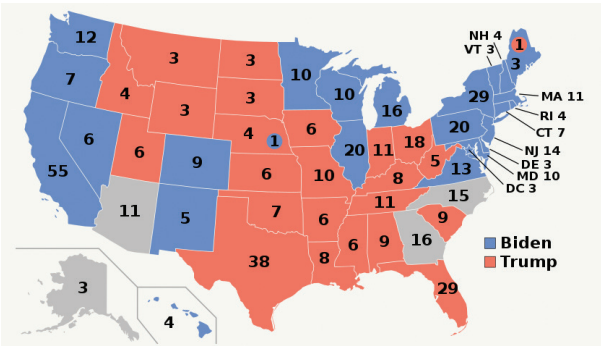
Our commitment to racial equity includes the promise to elevate the thought leadership, art, experience, and work of Black, indigenous, and other voices of color. The Interfaith America Racial Equity Media Fellows are activists, artists, and thought leaders who engage in racial equity work within higher education and American public life. Starting from their unique vantage points, the Fellows offer reflections and report on the intersection of civic religious pluralism and the movement for Black lives and racial equity by creating compelling media pieces for Interfaith America.

SPOTLIGHT: Media Fellowship



Mi Sheberach: A Healing Prayer for Us All

Rabbi Sandra Lawson, Inaugural Director of Racial Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Reconstructing Judaism, shares a healing prayer for America in light of the pandemic and the movement for racial justice.



Our Divided States

Kanika Magee, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at Howard University, writes about how in our expression and opening of inclusive space, we have closed a door and ensured there is little to no room left for the “others.”



If We Want to Teach to the Moment, Convenient Narratives Won't Do

Musa al-Gharbi, sociologist, writes that the role of higher education at this crucial sociopolitical time should be to help students understand the present moment by looking at how their behaviors and the behaviors of people “like them” fit into the picture.



Whiteness Killed the Witness

Nathan Stanton, pastor, church planter, and artist, writes about how the marginalized are being crucified daily by racist policies put forth by white supremacists and how that creates a dangerous spiritual imbalance.



What Does Abolition Look Like in the Classroom?

Amina Mohamed, an elementary school teacher in NYC, explores how we can continue reimagining a better world for each other while simultaneously grieving the disproportionate loss of Black people in America.



I'm Grateful the “Death” Card Does not Mean Death

Aaron Talley, writer, activist, and educator, writes about the true meaning of the “death” card in Tarot—rebirth and how it helps him remain optimistic.

“

IFYC’s Interfaith America Racial Equity Media Fellows offered diverse viewpoints, deep reflection and necessary insight into the interplay of racial justice and interfaith cooperation. Their words of wisdom and challenge are the sacred materials our nation needs to build towards a just and equitable future.

Paul Brandeis Raushenbush
Senior Advisor for Public Affairs and Innovation

The Interfaith Diversity Experiences and Attitudes Longitudinal Survey (IDEALS)

The Interfaith Diversity Experiences and Attitudes Longitudinal Survey (IDEALS) is a research project that seeks to understand undergraduate encounters with religious and worldview diversity on a national scale. It is the first study of its kind to address U.S. college students' engagement with these issues in such an expansive and nuanced manner. The IDEALS research has been funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Fetzer Institute, Julian Grace Foundation, and The Sarowitz Family Fund.

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In 2020, IFYC designed and published the third and final national IDEALS report, [Bridging Religious Divides through Higher Education](#), highlighting top-level findings on the interfaith experiences of students across four years of college. Findings in this culminating IDEALS report help to answer a fundamental question: To what extent is the collegiate experience preparing students to be successful leaders in our religiously diverse society?



[Watch](#)
[IDEALS in the Current Context: A Conversation with Higher Education Influential Voices](#)

[Read](#)
[Why College Students Should Care About Religious Literacy](#)
[Huffington Post: Students' Positive Views Of Liberals Increased During College Years, Study Finds](#)

- TAKEAWAY #1**
Students need to practice to hone their interfaith skills.
- TAKEAWAY #2**
Interfaith friendships have tremendous power to build students' interfaith skills & reduce prejudice.
- TAKEAWAY #3**
Leaders must do more to improve the campus climate for religious minority students.
- TAKEAWAY #4**
Increasing worldview knowledge can pave the way for interfaith understanding.
- TAKEAWAY #5**
More should be done to nurture students' appreciation for political differences.



Bridge-building on College Campuses

IFYC is actively building partnerships to bridge America's deepest divides in a time of great uncertainty. Whether building surprising partnerships between progressive and conservative campuses or building curricula designed for evangelical Christians, IFYC firmly believes that the skills of interfaith leadership are an essential part of the bridge-builder's toolkit. In addition to our work in higher education, IFYC is also an active contributor to a growing field of bridge-building institutions. These philanthropic and civic entities are committed to bringing Americans together across ideological and religious divides to heal and strengthen our nation.

Partnership with The Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU)

The Council for Christian Colleges and Universities and Interfaith Youth Core believe that distinct religious identities can and should serve as a [bridge](#), not a barrier. Evangelical Christians are often hesitant to participate in interfaith activities because they think they will be asked to dilute their faith commitments, but we know that interfaith efforts only succeed when people's religious identities are respected. IFYC was grateful to partner with CCCU to develop a curriculum that invites Evangelical students to explore the Christian foundation for interfaith bridge-building, learn about other religious traditions, and gain skills to lead social service projects with diverse religious communities.

SPOTLIGHT: Christian Leadership in a Multifaith World

Through generous support from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, CCCU and IFYC are developing an online curriculum titled "Christian Leadership in a Multifaith World" that explores the Christian foundation for interfaith engagement, builds students' religious literacy, and equips students to lead bridge-building activities in their communities. The curriculum offers a series of online activities that are intended to be incorporated into existing courses or co-curricular leadership programs on CCCU campuses. CCCU and IFYC are offering grants to individual faculty and staff on CCCU campuses to use the pilot curriculum with their students in 2021 and offer CCCU and IFYC feedback on ways to strengthen the program for the future.



▶ **Watch:** [Christian Leadership in a Multifaith World](#)

"College campuses that are majority Christian continue to hold appeal for many young adults who desire to live and learn alongside others who share their faith commitment. While this

provides many great experiences, what is often overlooked is the opportunity to learn from, and be in relationship with, those from varying faith traditions. The "Christian Leadership in a Multifaith World" curriculum seeks to bridge this gap in a student's development. Designed specifically for implementation on majority Christian campuses, the curriculum will equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to be able to engage and connect with religious diversity in meaningful ways. As a faculty member at Bethel this work is essential to me so I can better equip students to live out our Christian calling to 'love thy neighbor.'"

*Amy Poppinga, Assoc Prof of History
Bethel University (MN)*

Institute on Teaching and Learning for Campus-Wide Interfaith Excellence (IIE)

Designed in partnership with the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), the [Institute on Teaching and Learning for Campus-wide Interfaith Excellence](#) aims to prepare college and university leaders to transform their campuses into model environments for interfaith cooperation. Intended for administrators, faculty and staff at both public and private colleges and universities, campuses are invited to bring teams of five people from a diverse set of campus positions to the Institute. Teams must include at least one senior academic officer and one faculty member, ensuring broad-based educational reform on campus. The initiative has been generously funded by the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations and Lilly Endowment Inc.

Keuka College | Gordon College | Nazareth College | Viterbo University | Villanova University | University of Miami | Middlebury College | University of Denver | Pacific Lutheran University | Concordia College, Moorhead | Elon University | Calvin University | Doane University | Saint Louis University | Bethune-Cookman University | Eastern Mennonite University | University of Charlotte | Washington & Jefferson College | Brigham Young University-Idaho | Washington University in St. Louis | Saint Mary's University of Minnesota | Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University | Saint Mary's College of California | Nebraska Wesleyan University | Loyola Marymount University | Duquesne University | University of Portland | Saint Olaf College | Capital University | Ursinus College | Rollins College

▶ **Watch:** [Janett I. Cordovés, Director of Higher Education Partnerships exploring the importance of the IIE](#)



Courageous Pluralism

Launched with support by the Fetzer Institute and the Charles Koch Foundation, the Courageous Pluralism project was designed to bridge religious and political divides in higher education. The initiative pairs traditionally conservative and traditionally progressive campuses, offering grants to participating schools. As each campus works toward interfaith capacity-building within their own environment, they concurrently build a sustained partnership with an ideologically divergent institution to narrow divisions more broadly. As a result, people who would have never thought to ideate together are now together actively creating curricula and programs that meaningfully—and courageously—build pluralism.

SPOTLIGHT:
Spring Arbor University & Oberlin College



In partnership with IFYC and Bridging the Gap, Spring Arbor and Oberlin have offered programming aimed at bridging differences both within their own campuses as well as between the two very ideologically divergent colleges located near one another. The programing includes an all-faculty training session, student leadership trainings, conversations on race, and an anti-Semitism course.

▶ **Watch:** [Spring Arbor and Oberlin College video: BTG 2020: Building Bridges Across Lines of Difference](#)



Academic Initiatives

Institutions of higher education are positioned to play a leadership role in moments of great social change. In response to the pandemic and America's racial reckoning, the landscape of higher education has changed dramatically. IFYC recognized how challenging the year has been for our partners in higher education, including redesigning curricula for virtual classes and adapting hybrid classrooms, as well as integrating greater racial equity conversations with their communities. With the help of our donors, we were able to offer resources to support the continuing engagement of interfaith cooperation in a virtual space and to engage with the intersection between race and interfaith work.



Civic Approach to Teaching Religion in General Education

In early 2020, IFYC convened 20 faculty from 17 higher education institutions to discuss a civic approach to teaching religion in general education. In response to the success of this convention, the Teagle Foundation invited IFYC to apply for a larger grant to support the creation and implementation of interfaith and religious diversity curricula into general education programs. With Teagle's support, IFYC gave grants to three schools to design and implement a general education curriculum that takes a civic approach to teaching about religious diversity and interfaith cooperation. Each campus has begun to create curricula, train faculty, and teach the new content.



Teaching Religious Diversity in Health Fields

With the generous support of [Barry McCabe](#), IFYC launched the Religious Diversity in Health Fields Education Project with a working group of 14 faculty and practitioners from schools across the country. The group generated real-life scenarios in which religious diversity and identity were critical aspects of providing appropriate healthcare. These scenarios are being turned into teachable case studies with discussion guides and supplementary resources to be used in classrooms teaching health curricula across the country by summer 2021.

Steve and Jessica Sarowitz supported IFYC's work in growing interfaith cooperation and the celebration of religious diversity at both the University of Illinois in Chicago (UIC) and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Senior administrators and faculty are working with four professional schools—medicine, nursing, education, and veterinary medicine—to create a curriculum that deals with religious diversity and interfaith cooperation within each professional sector. They plan to expand to more of UIUC's professional programs in the next year. UIC has a team of three committed faculty members who have created new interfaith courses and are revising a required first-year course to be more explicitly interfaith-focused. The team is also working with the medical school to integrate interfaith and religious diversity competencies into their curriculum.



Teaching Interfaith Understanding

Since 2014, the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC,) a network of over 700 independent colleges and universities, and IFYC have partnered to offer interdisciplinary faculty development seminars focused on teaching interfaith understanding. The partnership, generously funded by Lilly Endowment Inc., brings together CIC's experience running faculty development programs and the emerging academic field of interfaith and interreligious studies. The program is supplemented by IFYC's leadership in the field of interfaith understanding in higher education.

In 2020, the Teaching Interfaith Understanding Seminar was postponed due to COVID-19. Here are a few highlights of supplemental programs and events IFYC hosted:

- [Interfaith Studies and Racial Justice](#)
- [Teaching Interfaith Studies Online](#)
- [Racial Justice and Interfaith Cooperation in the Age of Black Lives Matter](#)

“

The pandemic drastically changed the higher education experience this year, but IFYC's amazing campus partners have done incredible work reimagining impactful programming through virtual and in-person spaces. Despite the difficulties, IFYC has continued to learn and apply those learnings to interfaith work on campuses across the country.

Mary Ellen Giess
Vice President of Strategic Initiatives

Interfaith America

Storytelling is an integral part of interfaith cooperation; it helps us understand one another and inspires us to work together for the common good. As our nation collectively grappled with the pandemic, IFYC launched a dynamic media platform called Interfaith America, written by and for the interfaith community, to highlight stories of hope, resilience, and leadership from religiously and racially diverse leaders across the country. Over the past year, the platform has published over 500 articles written by IFYC staff, higher education partners, religious leaders, interfaith experts, alumni, and new partners. Interfaith America has already forged partnerships with the Associated Press, Religion News Service, the Greater Good Science Center, the Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI), and StoryCorps.



Key Milestones

March 27, 2020
IFYC **launched** Interfaith America.

April, 2020
We focused on the shift to a virtual world, publishing **12 articles about moving interfaith learning online**, as well as highlighting how folks were celebrating the spring holidays over Zoom. We also published **10 articles from various religious backgrounds** about celebrating in a time of physical distancing.

May, 2020
We highlighted the college seniors who were graduating amidst a global pandemic, publishing **4 powerful articles for the class of 2020**.

June, 2020
Amidst an uprising for racial equity after the killing of George Floyd, we published **9 powerful articles condemning racism** and lifting BIPOC voices.

June of 2020 also brought **PsalmSeason, an 18-week series** created in partnership with Hebrew College, that featured writings from a diverse group of religious leaders, cultural critics, musicians, poets, artists, and activists exploring the Psalms and bringing their power to bear on our lives in this trying time.

October, 2020
We started a partnership with the Associated Press and Religion News Service, allowing us to publish important stories from both news outlets directly onto Interfaith America.

October – November, 2020
We began covering one of the most contentious elections in U.S. history, starting with how various faith sites were being used as polling locations all the way up until what our country would look like post-election. In total, we **published 32 articles from various faith leaders** and IFYC community members during this period.

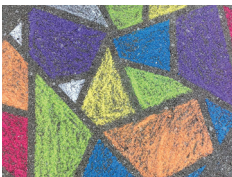
December, 2020
Article count surpasses 350 just 9 short months after the launch of Interfaith America. **Here are the top 5:**



Read: [Building Interfaith America in a time of Covid-19](#) by Eboo Patel



Read: [Hope is a Weapon](#) by Dr. Mary Hinton



Read: [Centering Radical Mercy This Ramadan](#) by Jenan Mohajir



Read: [Why We Named Every Name at Howard Graduation](#) by Kanika Magee



Read: [Ps. 23: A Poetic Interpretation](#) by Marilyn Nelson


Interfaith Leadership

2020 presented unique challenges to our civic life and posed a vital question: What does interfaith leadership look like in our current moment? Throughout the year, IFYC worked with our campus, alumni, and civic partners to develop innovative new practices that responded to the needs of our world and continued to move the field of interfaith leadership forward.



Interfaith Leadership Institute (ILI)

Funded by Lilly Endowment Inc., the [Interfaith Leadership Institute](#) (ILI) is the country's largest gathering of students and educators with a commitment to religious pluralism. Due to COVID-19, IFYC shifted to host its first virtual ILI. 2020 ILI became the largest conference to date, with 647 participants from 100 campuses across the country, representing 38 states. Educators, students, alumni, and staff came together to engage and reflect on how we are individually and collectively navigating our spaces in a pandemic world, and the participants brought with them not just the enthusiasm to connect, but the passion to reflect and act.

 **Read:** [Carr Harkrader, Director of the Interfaith Leadership Institute, reflects on the future of interfaith leadership](#)

2020 ILI Key Facts

- 647** participants from campuses across the country
- 345** students and 302 educators attended.
- 199** campuses joined us—100 were brand new to ILI, and 25 returning campuses hadn't attended in 4 or more years.
- 38** states were represented.
- more than 10%** of the campuses represented historically minority-serving institutions.

2020 ILI Testimonials

Thank you for making this an accessible and well-organized online one-day event. **You have increased my understanding and support** for IFYC and the vital interfaith work ahead for my campus.

Brian Becker
Campus Pastor /
Director of International
Ministries, Point Loma
Nazarene University

Thank you so much for this experience! Now I feel like **I'm not just trying to muddle through this work alone but that I have a community** that has my back and a shared dream!

Viveka Hall-Holt
Student, St. Olaf College

This event reminded me why I do what I do. **Your organization gave me hope for continuing in this work** even when surrounded by alternative circumstances.

Katrina Pettis
Student, Concordia
College-Moorhead

You all clearly were **thoughtful and purposeful in your planning** which provided a safe space to talk about important work and experiences in the work of interfaith leadership. I appreciate IFYC.

Jessica Ellingson
Director of Campus
Ministry, College of
St. Scholastica




Public Forums for Interfaith Leaders

IFYC has historically focused on in-person gatherings. In 2020, IFYC pivoted to offering new and dynamic discussions online with a wider audience than ever before. IFYC's webinars engaged civic interfaith leaders on matters of national importance, equipped educators working on promising new practices with field experts, and elevated voices at the intersection of interfaith cooperation and racial equity. At least three times each month, the IFYC network came together for intimate interactive sessions as well as large public discussions with prominent voices. In partnership with the people, organizations and associations helping to strengthen America's religiously diverse democracy, IFYC's webinars have grown in number, content, and engagement.


 **Read:** [Building Interfaith America in a time of Covid-19 by Eboo Patel](#)



Sample Webinars From 2020


 **Watch:** [How Interfaith Groups Make Work Better](#)
Leaders of interfaith groups at Salesforce, Accenture, PayPal, and Twitter join the discussion on how establishing intentional spaces and groups for faith, religious identity and spirituality help both workers and their work.

Featuring: Rev. Paul Raushenbush (IFYC), Farah Siddiqui (Salesforce), Dan Eckstein (Accenture), Mike Klose (Twitter), and Becky Pomerleau (PayPal)

 **Watch:** [Black Leaders and the Future of Higher Education](#)

Three higher education leaders join the conversation on the importance of their roles in American civic life, and their vision for higher ed in this volatile cultural moment and beyond.

Featuring: Dr. Eboo Patel (IFYC), Rev. Fred Davie (Union Theological Seminary), President Mary Dana Hinton (Hollins University), and President Lori White (DePauw University)

 **Watch:** [The People's Inauguration: Bridge-building in a Time of Turmoil](#)

Bridge-building is not about agreement or ignoring differences. Rather, it is about how to disagree on important topics with respect and kindness while also finding common ground for understanding and collaboration.

Featuring: Rev. Jen Bailey (Faith Matters Network), Kalia Abiade (Pillars Fund), Mandisa Thomas (Black Nonbelievers), Simran Jeet Singh (YSC Consulting), Brandon Polk (Stand Together)

 **Read:** [Thought Leadership from IFYC Alumni on Interfaith America:](#)

- [Bearing Witness](#)
- [The Eye of the Storm](#)
- [Caring for Our Neighbors](#)
- [Hindu Muslim Bae-Bae](#)



Interfaith Innovation Fellowship

The [Interfaith Innovation Fellowship](#) aims to support the ongoing leadership development and impact of our alumni and is an opportunity for leaders to learn from each other and experts in the field of innovation. For fiscal year 2021, IFYC has decided to expand the fellowship to include additional awards specifically for alumni whose projects explore the intersection of racial equity and interfaith cooperation.

SPOTLIGHT: 2020 Interfaith Innovation Fellows



Alexis Grant (Jewish)
Indianapolis, IN

Alexis Grant is a third-year doctoral student in clinical psychology at Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis,

where she studies health disparities and chronic pain. She completed her bachelor's degree in biology and neuroscience at Davidson College, where she first discovered IFYC and developed a passion for interfaith work. In addition to her studies, Alexis is program facilitator for Indianapolis' first Moishe House, a residential program for young Jewish professionals.

Project Description

Alexis noticed that in Indianapolis, more than any other place she has lived, religious identity is considered a piece of one's public identity. The goal of her project was to equip future mental health professionals with the skills and knowledge needed to treat their religiously diverse clients by (1) raising awareness around the central role of patients' faith backgrounds; (2) teaching skills in religious cultural competency; and (3) encouraging open collaboration among students from various backgrounds working for equity in mental healthcare access and practice. Alexis assembled a SPARC (Spiritual and Religious Competency in Mental Health) team of fellow PhD

students interested in the project. With their help, she found an appropriate training manual, designed a training curriculum, and hosted a six-session virtual workshop that featured a different content-area expert for each session. Eighteen mental health professionals participated in the training sessions.



Casey Jones (Christian)
Santa Barbara, CA

Casey Jones is a fellow with Jubilee Year Los Angeles, an Episcopal Service Corps program, and serves as a full-time volunteer in homeless services in West Los Angeles through the St. Joseph Center. He is a graduate of Morehouse College. As a devout Christian in the Episcopal (Anglican) tradition, Casey's interfaith hero is the Reverend Pauli Murray, a fellow Episcopalian whose vision of democratic freedom in the United States during the fifties and sixties was ahead of its time. He serves his faith community as the Campus Missioner at Saint Michael's University Church, helping to develop campus and community partnerships with the church.

Project Description

As a graduate student in religious studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) and Campus Missioner at Saint Michael's University Church, Casey transformed an unused and unwelcoming section of land at St. Michael's into a community garden, including an outdoor interfaith chapel and classroom. The Isla Vista community where the church is located has a significant houseless population and has many low-income residents. In addition to his St. Michael's community, Casey partnered with the UCSB Sustainability Office, the UCSB Thomas Merton (Catholic) House, Methodist, Muslim, and Jewish student groups, and individuals from the community. Despite having to relocate to Los Angeles, Casey coordinated and oversaw the construction of the garden spaces. Now, with the infrastructure in place, he and his partners are planning for the next planting season and the distribution of their gardens' bounty. Casey is also establishing an interfaith collaborative that will continue to meet in the new space and explore the relationship between food, faith, and the ways in which we engage our environment for the common good.

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Giving reflects the 18-month period between August 1, 2018 and January 31, 2020.

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Financial Statements

Statement of financial position for IFYC Fiscal Year 2020, August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2020.

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$12,794,798
Investments	7,824,703
Accounts receivable	94,094
Grants and contributions receivable	2,731,684
Prepaid expenses	280,169
Total Current Assets	23,587,403
Grants and Contributions Receivable	2,371,684
Property and Equipment - Net	185,279
Total Assets	\$26,504,366

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities

Cash and cash equivalents	\$45,976
Accrued payroll	168,495
Deferred rent	30,426
Other accrued liabilities	39,444
Deferred revenue	23,699
Total Current Liabilities	551,023
Deferred Rent	102,851
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	13,938,431
Temporarily restricted	11,474,692
Total Net Assets	25,413,123
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$26,504,366

Statement of Activities

Revenue Gains and Other Support

Individual contributions	\$6,459,049	\$3,005,000	\$9,474,049
Grants and contributions	977,277	6,889,500	7,866,777
Corporate Grants	-	-	-
Publications	12,429	-	12,429
Seminars and workshops	45,517	-	45,517
University revenue	78,750	-	78,750
Interest and dividends	103,667	-	103,667
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments	71,422	-	71,422
Donated services and facilities	22,901	-	22,901
Other revenue	14,806	-	14,806
Survey revenue	-	-	-
Honorariums	197,150	-	197,150
Net assets released from restrictions	6,425,173	(6,425,173)	-
Total revenues, gains, and other support	\$14,425,641	(\$3,469,327)	\$17,894,968

Expenses

Program services			
Campus partnerships	1,025,543	-	1,025,543
Leadership	2,093,686	-	2,093,686
Communication	2,876,736	-	2,876,736
Support services			
Management and general	1,202,446	-	1,202,446
Fundraising	782,025	-	782,025
Total expenses	7,493,226	-	7,493,226

Change in Net Assets	6,445,205	3,469,327	9,914,532
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Net Assets

Beginning of year	7,493,226	8,005,365	15,498,591
End of year	\$13,938,431	\$11,474,692	\$25,413,123

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and traditions can build a
shared life together.

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