



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Interfaith Leadership in This American Moment



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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Interfaith Leadership in This American Moment

Dear Friend:

We write to you reflecting on what has felt like one of the most divisive years we have experienced as Americans: a time of prejudiced rhetoric, political division, and even increased hate crimes motivated by religious bias. Whether students or educators, or simply citizens and neighbors, we all live in uncertain times. What’s the best way to respond?

We believe this American moment calls for interfaith leadership. Students trained by IFYC build bridges across religious divides, organizing their diverse peers for the common good. Educators engaged by IFYC ensure that a commitment to interfaith cooperation is integrated as a central outcome of higher education. Your support helps thousands of interfaith leaders at over 400 institutions approach our nation’s challenges in ways that are productive, respectful, and hopeful.

In the past year, IFYC has seen increased demand for its programs as colleges and universities prioritize interfaith cooperation. They turn to us as a trusted partner in building a diverse and indivisible nation.

As more and more campuses rely on us, we are grateful we can count on you. In 2017, IFYC did more than ever before to advance interfaith cooperation in the United States (and stories of those efforts are contained here). Together in 2018, we can do even more.

Thank you for your interfaith leadership.

In gratitude,



Eboo Patel

Founder and President



Brad Henderson

Chair of the Board of Directors



In This American Moment

Campus Communities Come Together

We partner with colleges and universities to help them comprehensively prioritize interfaith cooperation

Interfaith Leaders Step Up

We engage students, educators, and IFYC Alumni to help them make interfaith cooperation the norm

Research Guides Our Work

We are committed to impact, and that means catalyzing a knowledgebase to hone our efforts

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In This American Moment Campus Communities Come Together

From coast to coast, college and university campuses are working with IFYC to model interfaith excellence, advancing interfaith best practices in all parts of campus life. From classrooms to conference rooms, dining halls to residence halls, they are showing us what it looks like when a community positively engages religious diversity.



403
CAMPUSES

partnering with IFYC
to advance interfaith
best practices



94 NEW OR UPDATED
INTERFAITH COURSES
catalyzed by IFYC grants in the
past two years

Story of Impact

The University of St. Thomas Advances Interfaith Cooperation

The University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis has long seen their roots in the Catholic tradition as a call to teach students to think critically, act wisely, and work skillfully to advance the common good. After working with IFYC, the University began to see opportunities to apply these values more broadly and bolster the interfaith work that was already happening in some spaces on campus.

Father Larry Snyder, the Vice President for Mission at St. Thomas, said, “IFYC brought strategic experience to us as we assessed the interfaith reality here and then tried to form a blueprint for our future endeavors. They shared their wisdom by walking with us and encouraging us through the process. I am convinced that the reason that we made progress quickly was thanks to IFYC’s guidance and involvement.”

The progress is impressive. After undertaking three assessments with IFYC – one for educators, one for students, and one that took stock of the institution’s existing portfolio of interfaith efforts – the team at St. Thomas began to see interfaith leadership as a possible core strength of the institution. Campus leadership noted, “The more we collected data, reflected on the connections, and imagined catalyzing a collective consciousness about this mission, the more we saw that developing

interreligious leaders could well be — even should well be — a distinctive strength of St. Thomas.”

Now, the university is creating a Vision Statement for Interfaith Cooperation. They have brought together two existing interfaith centers and moved them to a prominent place on campus where they can be a catalyst for interfaith cooperation. They sponsored a delegation of students to attend IFYC’s Interfaith Leadership Institute and perhaps most significantly, are creating an academic minor in Interreligious Studies and Comparative Theology, supported by a grant from IFYC and The Teagle Foundation.

I am convinced that the reason that we made progress quickly was thanks to IFYC’s guidance and involvement.

In 2016, St. Thomas received a grant from IFYC and The Teagle Foundation to support undergraduate curricular programs in Interfaith Studies that bridge the liberal arts and pre-professional programs. After a year of development, the minor was first offered in the fall of 2017 and will be a series of five courses including “Interreligious Encounter: Introduction to Interreligious Studies” and “Interreligious Leadership in Business Professions.”



Father Larry said, “Our student body is 42 percent Catholic which means that many of our students adhere to different faith traditions. We are responsible for providing opportunities for the spiritual development of all of our students, faculty, and staff. Some expressed fears that this would weaken our Catholic identity, but I have just the opposite conviction. It strengthens our Catholic identity when we respect the truth found in other faiths. This prepares students to engage in a world after graduation that will be pluralistic and sometimes intolerant.”

At IFYC we are working with hundreds of campuses like the University of St. Thomas to cultivate environments conducive to interfaith cooperation, train interfaith leaders, and advance the field of interfaith studies. Together, we are making interfaith cooperation a norm in America.

Infusing New Resources into Campus Efforts

In the wake of the 2016 U.S. presidential election, IFYC saw an increase in requests for our work from campuses across the country. In response, IFYC mobilized more than half a million dollars of new resources, infusing campus interfaith efforts with the support required to address newly prominent divides in American society. Over the course of 2017, IFYC made a series of investments including Campus Innovation Grants, funds for faculty to embed interfaith cooperation in the curriculum, and expanded capacity to train 200 more students than initially planned. Beyond campus, we supported IFYC Alumni with microgrants to host grassroots gatherings across the country and around the globe. The impact is already being felt as interfaith leaders find new ways of building bridges in a divisive time.

In This American Moment

Interfaith Leaders Step Up

Inspired by their own faiths, traditions, and worldviews, interfaith leaders work to bring people of diverse backgrounds together for the common good. Whether delivered online or in person, IFYC trainings help students and educators do just that.



1,300 IFYC ALUMNI
changing the conversation about religious diversity

1,174 STUDENTS
trained by IFYC, in person and online

1,600 EDUCATORS
supported by IFYC, in person and online



Story of Impact

IFYC Alumnus Shapes National K-12 Social Studies Curricula

At IFYC, we train leaders to make interfaith cooperation the norm in their personal, professional, and civic lives. Sometimes that can mean something small but important like being an ally to a coworker who practices a minority religion. Other times that can mean something big like helping millions of students learn appreciative knowledge about diverse faiths, worldviews, and traditions – which is the work IFYC Alumnus Benjamin Marcus is doing.

Ben first came to an Interfaith Leadership Institute when he was a student at Brown University where he was pursuing a degree in religious studies. Five years later, he is the Religious Literacy Specialist at the Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute, and this year he led the effort to include study about religious diversity in new social studies guidelines for K-12 public school classrooms.

The new guidelines, released in June by the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), state “that knowledge about religions is not only a characteristic of an educated person but is necessary for effective and engaged citizenship in an interconnected and diverse nation and

world.” States use the NCSS guidelines to set mandated social studies standards for primary and secondary school courses, meaning they affect curriculum across the country.

It is the first time a national education body has endorsed guidelines of this type and the landmark shift was shepherded by Ben. In fact, his efforts began when he received an IFYC Germanacos Fellowship, an award designed to catalyze IFYC Alums’ interfaith solutions to social issues. He leveraged that funding, in collaboration with teachers in the Chicagoland area, to co-convene a group of educators who set out to shift social studies curricula across the United States.

This year that goal was realized.

We were successful in our undertaking in large part because of the training I received from IFYC

“I was honored and humbled to serve as the chair of the writing committee for the Religious Studies Companion Document, a first-of-its-kind national framework for social



IFYC Alumnus Benjamin Marcus is shifting national guidelines to help ensure millions of students are educated about religious diversity.

studies educators,” Ben said. “We were successful in our undertaking in large part because of the training I received from IFYC: throughout this highly collaborative, politically sensitive project, our diverse cohort was able to identify and build on a common vision for academically rigorous, constitutionally appropriate religious studies education in our schools. It would not have been possible without the support of IFYC, which sponsored key moments in my undergraduate and graduate religious studies training.”

IFYC’s impact begins on campus but does not stop there. By 2020, there will be more than 3,000 IFYC alumni like Ben, acting as interfaith leaders in ways big and small.

Interfaith Leadership Institute trains more leaders than ever

With more than 350 students and educators representing 109 colleges and universities, IFYC’s 2017 Interfaith Leadership Institute (ILI) was the largest on record. This year saw the rollout of new learning tracks that enabled students to tailor their experience and focus on topics like “Tackling Challenging Conversations,” “Storytelling for Interfaith Leadership,” and “Interfaith Cooperation after Graduation.” Educators also participated in new sets of trainings focused on maximizing their impact, with topics like strategic planning and hosting interfaith workshops. Upon their return to campus, participants were supported in their bridge building efforts by IFYC staff, a suite of online resources, new grant opportunities, and the relationships they built at the ILI with peers from across the country.



In This American Moment

Research Guides Our Work

IFYC partners with scholars from coast to coast to develop a knowledgebase to undergird interfaith leadership efforts. From national studies to new resources and publications, IFYC is contributing novel insights and actionable ideas to the effort to build bridges in a divisive time.



34,680
DOWNLOADS
of IFYC online resources in
the 2016–2017 school year



57 ARTICLES, PUBLICATIONS, AND
NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS
about or by the IFYC team



Story of Impact

Collaborative Research Initiative Explores Student Experience

Over the last year, we have seen deep lines of difference surface in many places in our country, including on campuses. In this American moment, it is essential that higher education institutions have information on the best ways to approach differences on campus, and even more importantly, information that is grounded in research.

IFYC’s collaborative research initiative, the Interfaith Diversity Experiences & Attitudes Longitudinal Survey (IDEALS), is providing information campuses need to understand how undergraduate students from across the country engage with religious and non-religious difference while in college. Administered over a four-year period at 122 institutions nationwide—including public and private, large and small, secular and religiously-affiliated—IDEALS is the first study of its kind to investigate U.S. college students’ experiences with worldview diversity in such an expansive and nuanced manner.

In December 2017, IFYC along with research partners at The Ohio State

University and North Carolina State University, released new findings in the report Navigating Pluralism: How Students Approach Religious Difference and Interfaith Engagement in their First Year of College.

IDEALS is the first study of its kind to investigate U.S. college students’ experiences with worldview diversity in such an expansive and nuanced manner

The study reveals that upon entering college, first-year students report that it is important for campuses to provide a welcoming environment for diverse worldviews and offer opportunities for students to engage with peers of different religious and worldview backgrounds. However, after their first year most students find the campus slightly less welcoming to various religious groups than expected. This creates an opportunity for campuses.

Ben Correia-Harker, Director of Assessment and Research at IFYC, said, “One promising trend we’re

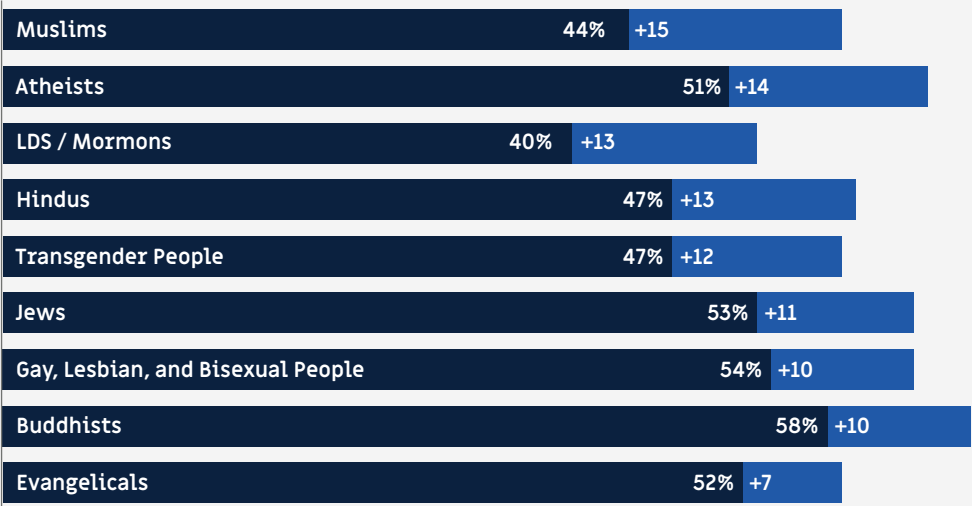
seeing is a growth in appreciative attitudes toward others during the first year of college. We are excited to see such shifts and have begun to identify campus conditions and experiences that educators can leverage to promote interfaith learning. Many of these factors align with IFYC recommended practices such as cultivating a welcoming campus climate for all worldviews, developing close friendships across religious and non-religious perspectives, and learning appreciative knowledge about other worldviews.”

IDEALS researchers will continue to publish findings from the data as the survey continues. The next survey administration will be conducted in 2019 when participating students are in their fourth year of college.

The study is elevating the importance of positive interfaith engagement at colleges and universities and serving as a catalyst for conversation. Already, it is undergirding the work of a growing community of educators and students working to make interfaith cooperation the norm in the United States.

The full report can be found at ifyc.org/firstyear.

Percentage of students who are “Highly Appreciative” of:



IDEALS finds that students’ appreciative attitudes improve towards a variety of groups during their first year on campus. With IFYC’s help, colleges and universities are implementing practices that correlate with these important shifts: a welcoming campus, support for spiritual expression, friendships, and challenging yet productive engagement with diverse peers are all key.

■ Entering first year
■ End of first year

Impact 2020: Impact Indicators

2017 marked the second year of IFYC's current five-year phase, Impact 2020: Supporting Sustainable Impact in Higher Education. Assessment and evaluation are at the heart of our work, and we track metrics carefully, including the topline metrics shown above.

	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	GOAL	ACTUAL	GOAL	ACTUAL	GOAL	ACTUAL	GOAL	ACTUAL	GOAL	ACTUAL
MODEL ENVIRONMENTS										
Campuses integrating interfaith best practices	315	330	375	403	465		530		600	
LEADERS										
Advanced campus leaders trained/engaged	475	830	1200	1801	2000		2925		3875	
101 campus leaders trained/engaged	150	1562	850	3365	1950		3250		4750	
KNOWLEDGE BASE										
Articles, publications, and presentations	15	50	73	107	123		180		250	

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

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Giving reflects the 18-month period between August 1, 2016 and January 31, 2018.

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Financial Statements

Statement of financial position for IFYC Fiscal Year 2017, August 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017.

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$4,858,695
Investment	\$2,058,426
Accounts receivable	\$107,875
Grants and contributions receivable	\$4,787,500
Prepaid expenses	\$279,042
Total Current Assets	\$12,091,538

Grants and Contributions Receivable

Property and Equipment - Net

Total Assets	\$18,598,808
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Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$319,347
Accrued payroll	\$122,264
Deferred rent	\$6,697
Other accrued liabilities	\$32,817
Deferred revenue	\$33,662
Total Current Liabilities	\$514,787

Deferred Rent

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$7,005,070
Temporarily restricted	\$10,908,926
Total Net Assets	\$17,913,996
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$18,598,808

Statement of Activities

Revenue Gains and Other Support	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Individual contributions	\$538,906	\$600,000	\$1,138,906
Grants and contributions	\$829,424	\$4,316,000	\$5,145,424
Corporate grants	-	\$500,000	\$500,000
Publications	\$7,091		\$7,091
Seminars and workshops	\$56,285		\$56,285
University Revenue	\$224,611		\$224,611
Interest and dividends	\$8,802		\$8,802
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments	\$2,832		\$2,832
Donated services and facilities	\$11,884		\$11,884
Other revenue	\$15,851		\$15,851
Survey revenue	\$9,000		\$9,000
Honorariums	\$358,721		\$358,721
Net assets released from restrictions	\$6,473,446	(\$6,473,446)	
Total revenues, gains, and other support	\$8,536,853	(\$1,057,446)	\$7,479,407
Expenses			
Program services			
Campus partnerships	\$1,329,113		\$1,329,113
Leadership	\$1,935,946		\$1,935,946
Communication	\$1,772,885		\$1,772,885
Management and general	\$791,485		\$791,485
Fundraising	\$640,708		\$640,708
Total expenses	\$6,470,137		\$6,470,137
Change in Net Assets	\$2,066,716	(\$1,057,446)	\$1,009,270
Net Assets			
Beginning of year	\$4,938,354	\$11,966,372	\$16,904,726
End of year	\$7,005,070	\$10,908,926	\$17,913,996

In Memoriam



Brendan Randall

(1966 - 2017)

A Life Well Lived: A Pathfinder in the Search for American Pluralism

The IFYC team mourns the death of our dear colleague and friend, Brendan Randall, Senior Consultant on IFYC’s Campus Engagement team.

With Brendan’s death we lose a tremendous figure in the work to advance pluralism in the United States. Brendan was both an accomplished scholar and active practitioner, helping to further the understanding of pluralism through teaching, writing, and engaging hundreds of campuses.

Since joining the team in 2015, Brendan had a profound impact on our collective work and the hearts of everyone who was blessed to know and work with him. Drawing on his previous extensive experience with the Pluralism Project at Harvard University, Brendan brought a depth of intellectual rigor and personal passion to his work. On campus visits and team retreats, Brendan enlarged both the hearts and minds of his colleagues with his esoteric wisdom, gregarious laugh, and abundant care and enthusiasm for all those around him.

Brendan’s desire to learn was boundless. While spearheading IFYC’s on-campus consultation program, Brendan continued work on his dissertation for a Doctor of Education degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, anticipated in 2018. He also held a law degree from the University of Minnesota as well as a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard University.

We will miss Brendan’s wealth of wisdom, quick wit, and commitment to the IFYC mission. We extend our sympathies to his wife, Cathleen, and all of his surviving family and friends. Brendan’s values and drive live on in our ongoing work together.

Our values are not simply words on a page, they represent our core commitments. They are at the center of our work each and every day.

We are serious about our mission.

We are all interfaith leaders.

We achieve as a team.

We engage diversity in pursuit of pluralism.

We steward relationships and resources with conviction.

We pursue excellence with grit, grace, and energy — and we have fun doing it!

