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Momentum is building to develop more systematic ways of improving student learning and engagement in the liberal arts and sciences. The Teagle Foundation is glad to be a part of this process, primarily through our support of faculty-led work in the area, but also through our participation in discussions about some of the biggest issues affecting undergraduate education today. We are committed to disseminating the knowledge generated by these efforts and this newsletter is just one of the ways we are doing so.

**Bob Connor**

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In this issue, we are pleased to announce:

- [Over \\$575,000 in new grants in our Outcomes & Assessment, Fresh Thinking and College-Community Connections program](#)
- [Recent Publications, additions to the Teagle Foundation blogs, and new Podcasts](#)
- [Findings from recent meetings](#)

**NEW GRANTS**—The Teagle Foundation recently announced over \$575,000 million in new grants to promote and strengthen liberal education.

- [12 collaborative planning grants in assessment](#), up to \$25,000 each, to fund collaborative projects led by Belmont University, Case Western Reserve University, College of the Holy Cross, Fairfield University, Goucher College, Haverford College, Hendrix College, Rhodes College, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Seattle University, University of Southern California, and Ursinus College.
- \$20,000 will support the [Council for Aid to Education](#) as it convenes a consortium of 40 research universities to forward its Collegiate Learning Assessment project.
- \$75,000 to the [American Academy of Arts and Sciences](#) for its “Template Project” will fund the development of an information structure for the humanities, similar to what has long existed for the sciences.
- \$100,000 will fund a multi-institutional Fresh Thinking Working Group led by [Skidmore College](#) for a project that will test the effectiveness of small group dialogues in enhancing sophomore engagement and learning.

- \$85,000 will fund [college preparatory activities](#) at East Harlem Tutorial Program, Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House, Overcoming Obstacles, and Project Reach Youth.
- Learn more about how the Foundation [develops and implements programs](#).

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS, TEAGLE FOUNDATION BLOGS, PODCASTS

### Grantee Publications

- Under the auspices of a [2006 Teagle Foundation grant](#), the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) researched and produced a guide on the religious engagements of American undergraduates. You can find a complete version of the [guide](#)—crafted as a series of short, self-standing pieces—on the [SSRC website](#). You'll also find links to a web forum of relevant essays, a range of annotated bibliographic materials, and suggestions for other reading.
- The American Council of Learned Societies has produced a White Paper on "[Student Learning and Faculty Research: Connecting Teaching and Scholarship](#)." This and other [White Papers](#) are available on our website.

### Other Recent Publications

- Read Bob Connor's essay, "[Watching Charlotte Climb: Little Steps toward Big Questions](#)," published in Liberal Education, also available on our website.
- See our [Resources page](#) for articles and essays concerned with strengthening liberal education.

### Teagle Blogs

- Just launched is Teagle's blog on the [religious engagements of American undergraduates](#) which is intended to continue the conversation begun by the Social Science Research Council with Teagle's support. To start it off, we ask a group of faculty members and others involved in higher education to tell us how they think about students' religious engagements today. We now invite you to read their entries and to tell us what you think.
- [The liblog](#)—short for "liberal arts web log"—is a forum for authors to share ideas, information, and arguments about liberal education and how it can be strengthened.
- Respond to Roger Benjamin's liblog entry, "[The Risks and Opportunities of Uncertainty about Assessment and Accountability in Higher Education](#)."
- Read other recent entries: "[The Big Questions about Educational Quality](#)"; "[Accountability vs. Assessment of Student Learning](#)"; and "[In a Mean Mood](#)."
- As always, the liblog is updated weekly and welcomes your comments.

- We're interested in knowing about other higher education blogs out there. If there is a blog that you regularly read or has interested you in the past, please let us know. You can email [cdching@teaglefoundation.org](mailto:cdching@teaglefoundation.org) with details.

## Podcasts

- [Leslie Dunn](#) talks with Bob Connor about Vassar College's College-Community Connections project with Sponsors for Educational Opportunity, a New York City based organization that helps young people of color develop throughout high school, college, and their careers.
- [Jonathan VanAntwerpen](#) of the Social Sciences Research Council led the Teagle-supported SSRC Guide on The Religious Engagements of American Undergraduates, mentioned earlier in this newsletter. Listen to a podcast conversation among Mr. Antwerpen, SSRC President Craig Calhoun, and Bob Connor.
- [Judith Eaton](#), President of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, discusses the state of accreditation in higher education with Bob Connor.
- Bob Connor speaks with [Andrew Delbanco](#) of Columbia University on the future of American undergraduate education.
- These and other Teagle [Podcasts](#) are available on our website.

## RECENT TEAGLE MEETINGS

- This past April, the Foundation gathered twenty participants from teaching and learning centers at liberal arts colleges and research universities, foundations, and regional consortia for a day-long Listening in New York City. The purpose of the meeting was to explore how we might use new knowledge about how students learn (especially in cognitive psychology and neuroscience), our improved understand of effective teaching, and better assessment techniques to enhance student engagement and learning. We wanted to determine what, if anything, is happening "on the ground" at college and university campuses in this regard, and if any of this new knowledge has made its way to faculty and the classroom. A [report](#) on the day's meeting is now available on our website.

Visit our website—[www.teaglefoundation.org](http://www.teaglefoundation.org)—for the most up to date news on the Foundation.