



Dear Participants:

As I prepare to assume the presidency of Sweet Briar College in July, nothing could please me more than to send you news of plans for the next stage of NITLE's development.

As of May 19, 2009, NITLE will step out from under the Ithaka umbrella and become an initiative of Southwestern University. Joey King, currently president of QOOP and formerly Executive Director of Connexions and Associate Provost at Rice University, will replace me as NITLE's Executive Director on May 22. In addition to serving as Executive Director of NITLE, Joey will be named Vice President for Innovation at Southwestern.

Southwestern and NITLE are working closely together to ensure that the transition is as seamless as possible. Joey and Southwestern will, I know, continue NITLE's tradition of service to you and your colleagues at America's leading colleges and universities. Very soon you will receive a letter from Southwestern President Jake Schrum with further information about the transition. In addition, both the NITLE and Southwestern web sites will soon be updated with information for NITLE participants.

The programs on NITLE's schedule will be available this summer and fall as announced and participating campuses will continue to receive frequent updates about NITLE's activities and offerings. Michael Nanfito and Vicky Stawiarski, from NITLE's Participant Relations team, and Grace Pang, our Communications Manager, will still be available at their current email addresses and phone numbers to answer your questions. Bryan Alexander, Eric Harper, Eric Jansson, Nancy Millichap, and other NITLE staff look forward to working with you throughout 2009-2010 to develop programs that respond in a timely and strategic way to the most pressing issues on your campuses. And, of course, Joey King will be glad to hear from participants any time at jking@nitle.org and (206) 310-4541.

I would be remiss if I didn't add a word of thanks to Ithaka, NITLE's administrative home since 2004, and to Ithaka President Kevin Guthrie. NITLE is stronger, more flexible, and more extensive in its reach because of the many contributions Ithaka and Kevin have made to its development over the last several years. And of course, NITLE and its participating colleges owe many, many thanks to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for its continuing support, encouragement, and good counsel. Mellon and Ithaka have laid an extremely solid foundation for the future Southwestern will build for NITLE.

Finally, thanks are due to all of you as participants. Your support has enabled NITLE to bring the liberal education community together around emerging issues and innovative opportunities, and your contributions have enriched the discourse from which all participants benefit. It has been my pleasure to work with you and on your behalf.

Very truly yours,
Jo Ellen Parker