



Southwestern University

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National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education to Partner With and Move Headquarters to Southwestern University

NITLE Provides Technological Tools and Resources for Leading Higher Education Institutions

The National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education (NITLE), an initiative that connects teaching, learning and technology at the nation's finest liberal arts colleges, is entering a new phase, uniting with one of its most active and innovative participants.

Ithaka announced today the transition of NITLE's headquarters to Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, including existing grants and operating funds, a move supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This change deepens NITLE's connection to the educational community it serves and positions it for even greater impact on undergraduate education.

NITLE was established in 2001 with funding from The Mellon Foundation to promote the integration of instructional technologies into undergraduate teaching. The initiative serves more than 130 colleges in the United States and has also worked with several universities and organizations internationally. NITLE has operated through a network of centers and regional offices, with staff in nine states working under the direction of a dedicated management team led by Dr. Jo Ellen Parker. Since 2004, NITLE has been "incubated" within Ithaka, a nonprofit organization established in part to help new technology-driven initiatives serving the higher education community to thrive and grow.

"The Mellon Foundation recognizes that Southwestern has contributed very strongly to the development of NITLE by leading earlier efforts to develop new teaching technologies in the Associated Colleges of the South," Philip E. Lewis, vice president of The Mellon Foundation, said. "Southwestern's role has been crucial in consolidating Mellon's support for this fine consortium and has positioned the university to extend its impressive regional leadership across the entire country."

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W. Joseph (Joey) King, Ph.D., a high-tech industry entrepreneur with extensive experience in higher education and technology, has been named the new executive director of NITLE, replacing Dr. Parker, who will assume the position of president of Sweet Briar College in Virginia on July 1. Under Dr. King and Southwestern University, NITLE will maintain its innovative nationwide staffing structure.

Southwestern University is the leading liberal arts college in Texas and among the top nationally, holding one of only 276 Phi Beta Kappa chapters in the nation. Among the first participating institutions in NITLE, Southwestern's history with the technology institute, its leadership, and its location in the center of the country were significant factors in the decision to move NITLE headquarters to the campus, according to Kevin Guthrie, Ithaka president.

“Integrating NITLE with Southwestern University marks a new and exciting chapter in NITLE’s development and positions the organization for a deeper level of collaboration with the college community,” Guthrie said. “Much has been accomplished in developing NITLE’s programs and services, and it is therefore timely to return oversight of NITLE to an institution focused on undergraduate education. There, engagement with the day-to-day work of faculty and students will have a mutually beneficial impact on the organization and its constituents.”

Southwestern hosted one of three NITLE technology centers beginning in 2001 when the Southwestern center was created to serve the Associated Colleges of the South in a program funded by Mellon. Among the first participating institutions in NITLE, Southwestern has since 2004 served as a regional host campus for NITLE staff who design and deliver professional development and networking programs for faculty, technologists, and librarians from all participating campuses.

With 138 participating institutions, NITLE provides programming, digital tools and resources to some of the nation’s most respected colleges and universities, including Bryn Mawr College, Middlebury College, Oberlin College, Sewanee: The University of the South, Vassar College, and Yale University.

Jake B. Schrum, president of Southwestern University, said the move is a win-win for both his institution and for NITLE. “In NITLE's brief history, it has become well known for helping liberal arts colleges utilize technology to teach students. We see a very bright future for NITLE at Southwestern because both organizations are focused on the most important thing: preparing citizens for the 21st century. This transition is another example of the Mellon Foundation's forward-thinking philanthropy in higher education.”

“I am tremendously excited about the future of NITLE,” Dr. King said. “Our goal is to provide participating institutions with technological solutions that might otherwise be unavailable to them, significantly adding to their effectiveness in teaching. Being campus based will allow NITLE to develop best practices and both test and demonstrate them in a real-world learning environment.”

About NITLE

NITLE (pronounced “nightly”) is dedicated to advancing learning through the effective use of digital technologies. Faculty members, librarians, instructional and information technologists, and other staff members from [participating institutions](#) use NITLE’s offerings to promote innovation and enrichment in undergraduate education.

www.nitle.org

About Ithaka

Ithaka is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping the academic community use digital technologies to advance scholarship and teaching in sustainable ways. Ithaka pursues its mission by providing innovative services that benefit higher education, including JSTOR and Portico, and by sharing research and advice with the scholarly community.

www.ithaka.org

About Southwestern University

Southwestern University, located near Austin in Georgetown, Texas, is a selective and independent four-year undergraduate national liberal arts college consisting of The Brown College of Arts and Sciences and The Sarofim School of Fine Arts. It was the first institution of higher learning in Texas, chartered by the Republic of Texas in 1840.

www.southwestern.edu

About Dr. Joey King

Dr. Joey King is currently president of QOOP, based in Mill Valley, Calif., a social commerce network for artists, photographers, authors, and publishers. Prior to joining QOOP, Dr. King was executive director of Connexions at Rice University, a leading open education system with over one million unique visitors per month. He is chairman of the board of Rice University Press. Dr. King holds a B.A. with honors in computer science and experimental psychology from Southwestern University and a Ph.D. in human-computer interaction from the University of Washington.