



the venture consortium

enhancing the liberal arts curriculum since 1973

our mission

The Venture Consortium, a group of selective, private liberal arts colleges and universities, is dedicated to the development of innovative programs to complement the liberal arts curriculum. Our key objectives include fostering social awareness and a sense of social responsibility among students through experiential learning, and building mutually useful connections between institutions of higher learning and the larger community.

*experiential learning programs
that enable students to
address the challenge
of living a socially
responsible life*

our vision

The members of The Venture Consortium share a commitment to enhancing higher education by encouraging students to inquire thoughtfully into self and society through experiences that are in themselves worthwhile. As educators, we know that experiential learning connected with formal instruction provides students with the best educational synthesis. We promote varied forms and settings for this process, and we encourage students toward activities that are growth-oriented, and significant on personal and social levels. Together we hope to inspire bright young people to dedicate their talents and enthusiasm to endeavors that benefit society, to find new ways for students to apply classroom learning to life, to give college students new models for future educational experiences, and to integrate hands-on working experiences with undergraduate and graduate instruction.

[our member schools]

- Bates College
- Brown University
- College of the Holy Cross
- Franklin & Marshall College
- Sarah Lawrence College
- Swarthmore College
- Syracuse University
- Vassar College
- Wesleyan University

our work

Since 1973, the Venture Consortium has been committed to the intersection of the liberal arts curriculum, experiential learning as a powerful pedagogy, and making commitments to social responsibility. Programs and experiences for students that integrate theory and practice have been at the core of our work.

Historically, we have supported learning during time off from school, developed a curricular program addressing the theory and practice of urban education, and exposed graduating seniors to entry-level job offerings with non-profit organizations across the country. Venture strives to offer unique programs and resources in and opportunities for conversation about these content areas.

Recently, Venture has been reexamining its role in deepening commitments to social responsibility on our campuses. The service-learning movement in higher education has compelled us to engage in a series of conversational initiatives that have resulted in the articulation of many issues of common concern. These recent dialogues have inspired many of us on our campuses to renew our commitment as educators and institutions to the practice of educating students for social responsibility.

The members of the Venture Consortium believe in the process of collaboration as much we do in the end result. Our dialogues are an intentional step in that process. Dynamic interactions between colleagues on our member campuses allow students, faculty, staff, and administrators to exchange views, share ideas, and capitalize on each other's expertise.

For details about our programs and resources that support students, graduates, and educators interested in taking time off, urban education, and public interest work, please contact us or visit our website:

www.theventureconsortium.org