

CIC STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2004-2007

MISSION

The CIC is a consortium of twelve universities committed to advancing academic excellence by sharing resources and promoting and coordinating collaborative activities.

VISION

Through a series of dynamic and evolving collaborations, our universities will continuously increase access to educational and research opportunities; share resources; and address issues critical to the future of the research university.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Through their affiliation in the CIC, the member universities strive to promote academic excellence through voluntary cooperative endeavors that unite and leverage institutional resources (human, financial, and infrastructure), and that provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas, and the sharing and implementation of practical solutions to common problems.

The primary focus is on specific activities where it is clear that economies of scale and influence can be realized through working together. These opportunities are neither constrained nor dictated by trends in higher education, generally. Rather, areas of focus are identified by the Provosts of the member universities who work with the CIC staff to consider and direct opportunities:

- Providing national leadership in higher education, and promoting leadership development
- Strengthening the collective capacity of CIC institutions by combining, leveraging and expanding resources
- Expanding learning opportunities by sharing unique courses and programs, and by supporting access to those traditionally underrepresented in the academy.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

The CIC is, literally, the Provosts of the member universities who serve as the Committee, and to whom the CIC staff report.

The work of the CIC is approached in three ways:

1. The Provosts identify issues to be addressed and direct the CIC staff to implement and coordinate activities or programs in response. These issues are dynamic and arise through focused conversation at the semiannual meetings of the Provosts.
2. The CIC headquarters staff operate, evaluate, and manage a set of core programs (see below), approved by the Provosts, with a focus on programs that cannot be easily coordinated by the member universities individually.
3. The CIC staff support and coordinate peer group discussions and meetings as resources permit. Staff focus efforts on those groups convened at the specific request of the Provosts. Generally speaking, peer groups are self-organizing and operating, though the CIC staff assist with meeting arrangements and email lists, and offer guidance as needed.

CURRENT CIC PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

American Indian Studies Consortium

Consortial licensing of library and information resources

Consortial purchasing of supplies, software, services, and equipment

Coordinated development of and access to library materials (print and digital)

Coordinated study abroad offerings (including AESOP)

Directories of Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) and Minority Ph.D. recipients

Enhancing access to graduate programs (Summer Research Opportunities Program and FreeApp)

Enhancing graduate studies (Traveling Scholar)

Increasing access to less commonly taught languages (FLEP)

Large scale networking initiatives (National Lambda Rail)

Leadership in higher education, including Academic Leadership (ALP) Program, Department Executive Officer (DEO) Program, TechForum, and Diversity Forum

Sharing access to online courses (CourseShare)

ABOUT THE CIC

Founded in 1958, the consortium is governed by the Provosts (Chief Academic Officers) of the member universities¹. The Provosts provide leadership and direction, identify new initiatives, establish policies and priorities, discuss proposed activities, evaluate existing programs, and address collective concerns. The Provosts and (with the endorsement of the Provosts) other campus leaders identify specific areas of emphasis for consortial programs, and allocate financial and human resources as needed to address these areas.

Currently, in addition to the Provosts, the Chief Information Officers, Graduate Deans, Deans of Arts and Sciences, and Purchasing Directors fund and direct CIC-related programs and activities. The University Librarians direct programs related to library resource sharing that are funded by the Provosts.

A central office, located in Champaign, Illinois and supported through assessments and external funding, serves to lead, coordinate, manage, and facilitate the various programs, projects, and activities of the consortium.

CIC programs and activities extend to all aspects of university activity except intercollegiate athletics. These endeavors are organized to augment and complement institutional programs without supplanting them or reducing their individual importance.

For more information on CIC programs, visit www.cic.uiuc.edu.

¹ The CIC member universities are University of Chicago, University of Illinois, Indiana University, University of Iowa, University of Michigan, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, Northwestern University, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University, and University of Wisconsin-Madison.