Proposal for NetVUE Regional Conference at AdventHealth University

Title: "Vocation and Whole Person Education in a Transactional Age"

Host Institution: AdventHealth University (AHU), Orlando, Florida

Proposed Dates: December 3-5, 2026 (Thursday evening through Saturday noon)

Theme and Purpose: AdventHealth University proposes to host a NetVUE regional gathering focused on exploring the future of higher education at the intersection of Whole Person Education and vocational formation. In a time of rapid technological change, this event will invite educators to reflect on how we can prepare students not just for careers, but for meaningful lives of service, purpose, and resilience.

Rooted in AHU's commitment to faith-informed, holistic education, the gathering will highlight practices that integrate vocational exploration with whole-person development. The gathering will engage faculty, administrators, and mission leaders from a wide range of colleges and universities. Through shared learning, peer dialogue, and collaboration, participants will consider how institutions can nurture belonging, wellbeing, fulfillment, and purpose in students and educators alike.

This event also supports AHU's ongoing efforts to expand partnerships, strengthen mentoring, and contribute meaningfully to the wider conversation on whole person education in higher education.

Guiding Questions:

- How can we prepare students to discern purpose and calling amid rapid social and technological change?
- What practices promote whole-person development in AI-enhanced learning environments?
- How can educators model and mentor vocation-centered discernment in the digital age?
- What frameworks support integration of WPE and vocation in both traditional and tech-forward educational settings?
- How do we retain values, identity, and spiritual growth in increasingly virtual and automated learning contexts?

Plenary Speaker(s):

Plenary Speaker will be determined in collaboration with the NetVUE leadership team.

External guest from NetVUE partner institution — Cross-Tradition Perspectives on Formation and Vocation

Panel of institutional leaders from regional universities discussing implementation and mission alignment

Schedule Overview:

Thursday, December 4:

- 6:00pm–8:00pm Reception and check-in; informal welcome and interactive storytelling

Friday, December 5:

- 8:00am–9:00am Breakfast and check-in
- 9:00am–9:30am Welcome and opening remarks (featuring AHU President and Mission Integration lead)
- 9:30am–10:30am **Plenary Session I:** "Educating the Whole Person in a Transactional Age" (Plenary Speaker)
- 10:30–11:00 a.m. Break
- 11:00am–11:45am **Small Group Dialogue** and reflection on plenary
- 11:45am–1:00pm Lunch and networking break
- 1:00pm–2:30pm **Breakout Session** (sample topics: AI-enhanced mentoring, spiritual formation in digital contexts, vocational discernment in professional programs)
- 2:30pm–3:00pm Break
- 3:00pm–4:00pm **Plenary Panel:** Perspectives on Wholistic Development in Academia (NetVUE Partner Institutions Leaders)
- 4:00pm–5:00pm **NetVUE Collaborative Workshop**: Strengthening NetVUE Collaboration and Resources Sharing. (NetVUE Representatives)
- 5:00pm–6:00pm Dinner
- 6:30pm Optional Contemplative Vespers Experience

Saturday, December 6:

- 8:00am–9:00am Breakfast and community building
- 9:00am–10:00am **Plenary Session II:** "Sustaining a Culture of Vocation and Whole Person Education" (Plenary Speaker)
- 10:00am–10:30am Table group discussion and synthesis
- 10:30am–10:45 Break
- 10:45pm–11:30am **Collaborative Planning Session**: Cross-institutional sharing, next steps, and commitments.
- 11:30am–12:00pm Closing reflections and lunches to go

Location and Accommodations: All events will take place on the AHU campus, centrally located in Orlando, FL. Accommodations will be reserved at the Hilton Garden Inn Orlando Downtown. Transportation from Orlando International Airport (MCO) will be available.

Target Audience: Faculty, administrators, student life professionals, chaplains, and academic leaders from NetVUE member institutions, especially those involved in mission integration, vocation initiatives, or holistic student success programming.

Institutional Context: AHU is a healthcare-focused, faith-affirming university affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church and part of the AdventHealth system. Through its WPE framework AHU fosters integrated development across intellectual, social, spiritual, psychological, and physical domains. This conference builds on AHU's 2023-2026 strategic initiatives and NetVUE-supported grants.

Expected Outcomes

Participants will leave the gathering with:

- Practical tools and strategies for embedding vocational exploration and whole-person education into curricular and co-curricular contexts
- New models for faculty and staff formation, mentoring, and whole-person educator development
- Insights into aligning institutional strategy with the values of purpose, belonging, wellbeing, and fulfillment
- A strengthened network of collaborators committed to holistic, purpose-centered education across diverse institutions
- A shared resource (e.g., proceedings, toolkit, or edited volume) to support ongoing learning and implementation
- A foundation for a sustainable community of practice to continue the conversation and collaboration beyond the event

Extras & Local Experience:

- Discounted Walt Disney World® Resort Tickets: Registered participants will have access to specially priced Disney tickets. Redemption details and purchase links will be shared upon registration; quantities may be limited.

Budget and Support:

Expenditures

- Lodging: $150/night × 2 nights × 60 overnight participants = $18,000
- Food (based on 60 participants):
    - Continuous drink service: $1,440
    - Thursday evening reception: $1,550
    - Friday breakfast: $1,430

    - Friday lunch: $1,470
    - Friday dinner: $2,470
    - Saturday breakfast: $1,430
    - Saturday box lunch: $1,050
    - Food Total = $10,840
- Transportation (local shuttle service): $400
- Plenary Speakers Honoraria: $2,000
- Speaker Travel: $1,000
- Breakout Presenters/Workshop Advisors (8 × $250): $2,000

Total Estimated Expenses = $34,240

AdventHealth University Contribution: $5,000

NetVUE Request: $29,240

Revenue and Contributions

- Participant Fees (Estimated 60 participants across four tiers):
    - Tier 1: $100 – Members staying at the conference hotel
    - Tier 2: $50 – In-town participants not requiring hotel accommodations
    - Tier 3: $100 – Non-members not using the hotel
    - Tier 4: $400 – Non-members using the hotel
- Projected Revenue from Participant Fees: $7,000 (based on conservative estimate of 60 attendees across tiers)

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