CIL Welcomes New Executive Director Vanessa Laird

Since 2006, the Center for Integrative Leadership (CIL) has been a pioneer in examining and advancing highly effective cross-sector leadership to tackle the most challenging issues of our time. With the direct involvement of the Carlson School of Management, the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs, the School of Public Health, and the College of Education and Human Development, it serves as an important function within the University of Minnesota.

Last year, following four years of service, Executive Director Laura Bloomberg announced she was stepping down from her role with CIL to accept a position as associate dean and faculty member at the Humphrey School. Following an extensive search, we are pleased to announce that Vanessa Laird has been named the new Executive Director of CIL.

With experience spanning private, public, and academic institutions, Vanessa is ideally positioned to carry forward CIL’s mission of integrating knowledge and talent from across sectors in leading for the common good. She has served as general counsel for Optum, vice president and senior legal counsel for Medtronic, attorney-adviser international in the Legal Adviser's Office at the U.S. Department of State, international affairs fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations, and faculty member of the Faculty of Laws at the University of Sheffield in England.

We are confident that under Vanessa’s direction, CIL will bring together the many skills and perspectives found across the University as well as in business, government, and legal communities to develop and explore the potential of cross-sector leadership.

Please join us in welcoming Vanessa to the University of Minnesota.

Eric Schwartz
Dean, Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Sri Zaheer
Dean, Carlson School of Management
Elmer L. Andersen Chair in Global Corporate Social Responsibility

Jean K. Quam
Social Business Involves Integrative Leadership

What do Ben Franklin, Jeff Ochs, and the Center for Integrative Leadership have in common? All are recognized practitioners of leadership across business, government, and civil society sectors in pursuit of the common good. See more...

CIL Selected to Host Young African Leaders Initiative Summer 2014

"Africa’s future belongs to its young people. We need young Africans who are standing up and making things happen not only in their own countries but around the world."
- President Barack Obama

The University of MN, and the Center for Integrative Leadership (CIL) specifically, was selected as one of ten US Colleges and Universities to host a cohort of 25 young leaders from Africa next Summer for an intensive leadership development program. CIL is currently planning an exciting leadership training and skill-building program that will include mentoring, networking, and internships, as well as a Presidential Summit in Washington DC, to give participants access to government, civic, and business leaders in their field.

The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) of the Obama Administration, is a long-term effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders and strengthen partnerships between the United States and Africa. This wide-ranging effort has been led by the White House and the U.S. Department of State in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Peace Corps.

Stay tuned as we plan for the visit of the young African leaders next summer. We hope you will have an opportunity to meet them!
Do Unions Promote Members' Electoral Office Holding?
Evidence from Correlates of State Legislatures' Occupational Shares
Aaron J. Sojourner, Assistant Professor Dept. of Work and Organizations, Carlson School of Management

Friday, March 28, 2014, 11:30am-1:00pm, 123 Science Teaching & Student Services Bldg, East Bank, A light lunch and drinks will be provided

Participation is free of charge, but registration is requested by clicking the register link above. Space is limited so register early. Controversies over the promise and perils of union political influence have erupted around the U.S. This study develops the first evidence on the degree to which labor unions develop members' political leadership in the broader community by studying the relationship between state legislators' occupations and the unionization rates of occupations across U.S. states.

The fraction of legislators of a given occupation in a state increases with the occupation's rate of unionization in that state compared to the fraction of legislators of the same occupation in other states with lower unionization rates. This pattern shows up to varying degrees among the three public-sector and one private-sector occupations considered: K-12 teachers, police officers, firefighters, and construction workers.

While much research has described the role of unions in influencing economic outcomes and in politics through lobbying, campaign contributions, and voter mobilization, this work adds a new perspective on the role of unions in society. They promote elected political leadership by individuals from working- and middle-class jobs. Arguments over the social value of this role of unions are explored. Click here to RSVP.

Center Staff

Our administrative assistant, Angela Stehr, has moved to another department at the University. We will be posting a job description for a new staff position soon. We thank Angie for her time invested in the Center, and wish her well in the future.

Bruce Schneier, April 14, Location TBD

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly and CIL are co-sponsoring a talk on leadership with Bruce Schneier, an internationally renowned security technologist, called a "security guru" by The Economist. He is the author of 12 books -- including Liars and Outliers: Enabling the Trust Society Needs to Thrive -- as well as hundreds of articles, essays, and academic papers. His influential newsletter "Crypto-Gram" and his blog "Schneier on Security" are read by over 250,000 people.

He has testified before Congress, is a frequent guest on television and radio, has served on several government committees, and is regularly quoted in the press. Schneier is a fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School, a program fellow at the New America Foundation's Open Technology Institute, a board member of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, an Advisory Board Member of the Electronic Privacy Information Center, and the Chief Technology
Officer at Co3 Systems, Inc. He plans to talk about the tension between Open Governance and Privacy, and his new book, Carry On. Register here.


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