



**Rodney Sisco Symposium for Transformational  
Leadership, Diversity & Equity Practices**

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**Planning Guide for Colleges**

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[DATE]

RODNEY SISCO SYMPOSIUM  
P.O. Box 296, North Aurora, IL 60542

## **The Rodney Sisco Symposium for Transformational Leadership, Diversity & Equity Practices**

### **Symposium On-Site Leader/Owner & Campus Planning Team**

Once the Hosting University/College is awarded the honor of hosting the Rodney Sisco Symposium, a specific Department, Faculty or Senior Leader shall be assigned ownership to plan and execute the Symposium.

A critical recommendation for the Site Leader/Owner is to create and launch an Onsite Campus Symposium Planning Committee:

Cross Functional Team/Departments Suggested:

- ◆ Student Activities Office
- ◆ Conference Planning
- ◆ Communications/Marketing
- ◆ Public/Community Relations
- ◆ Faculty: Sociology/Anthropology/Theology
- ◆ Finance
- ◆ Student Leaders- Multicultural/Student Government

## **KEY AREAS OF FOCUS**

### **Marketing**

Primary Audience:

- ◆ On campus – students, faculty, staff, adjunct and others

Secondary Audience:

- ◆ Community/Urban Centre – newspapers, local churches, targeted business leaders, organizations, website

### **Photography/Audio Visual Support**

Proceedings from the Symposium are to be captured, archived and used for marketing future events. E.g. Workshop speakers, photos, etc.

### **Attendee Management**

- ◆ Welcome & Registration
- ◆ Attendee Badges
- ◆ Venues/Rooms Marked & Labelled

### **Food & Beverage**

- ◆ Primarily Evening Reception for Community Engagement
- ◆ Speakers' Needs

### **Keynote Speaker & Workshop Speaker(s) Selection Management**

*Criteria for Sisco Symposium Keynote Speakers:*

- Must have a personal confession of faith in Jesus Christ, an understanding of the redemptive work of the Holy Spirit, and a willingness to dialogue with others about these matters humbly.

- Must be considered a/n national or international thought leader in at least 1 -2 of the following issue areas: transformational leadership, racial reconciliation, diversity and equity practices
- Must have a clear understanding and agreement, that within the context of the Sisco Symposium definitions of 'diversity' and or 'diversity and inclusion' are categorically based on Biblical principles which are solely on race, gender, ethnicity, and EXCLUDE any and all allusions to sexual preferences and orientation.

*Keynote Speaker selection is a collaborative effort between the Hosting University/College and the Symposium Directorate. (Coordinated primarily by Site Leader & Symposium Directorate Liaison)*

- ♦ The hosting university/college is welcome to identify and select a Keynote Speaker, providing the Keynote meets the above criteria.
- ♦ The Symposium Directorate has working relationships with several Speaker Bureaus and has developed a living vetted short list of potential national and international thought leaders. This list is not exhaustive.
- ♦ The Symposium Directorate is committed to underwriting the costs\* (honorarium and travel) of the Keynote Speaker.
- ♦ A contract for the Keynote Speaker will need to be signed by the university/college directly if costs\* (honorarium and travel) *exceed* the Symposium Directorate award for that year. However, if costs are equivalent to the award, the Symposium/Directorate may sign the contract directly. Again, collaboration between Host Site Leader & Directorate will be important.

*Additional On/Off Campus Workshop Speaker(s):*

- ♦ Smaller workshops/seminars/panels may be created across campus aligned with symposium theme and speaker to enhance the 2 – day experience. Site Leader may consider Appreciation gift/honoraria for these speakers.

***Evening Community Reception:***

- ◆ This is a critical event in both linking the academy to the community, raising profile and relationships, and hopefully building a pathway for students from the local and regional communities to consider the hosting university/college as a potential choice for a grounded Christian tertiary education.

**Keynote Speaker Hospitality**

- ◆ Keynote Speaker Bio – available to all Conference staff
- ◆ Transportation Arrangements – Air/Train/Car rental
  - If Air – Transportation from Airport & Local transportation while in town/on Campus
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Escort around Campus
- ◆ Food –(check for Allergies)
- ◆ Copy of Speaker Contract – Confidential

**Other On/Off-Campus Speakers' Hospitality**

- ◆ As above, and as deemed necessary by Site Leader

## **Rodney Sisco Diversity Choice Award**

*Created Feb 2019 by the Office of Intercultural Engagement at Wheaton College, this was first awarded to the Sisco Family, honoring them and Rodney’s outstanding work of love, mercy, justice and unity in the Body of Christ. This award will be given each year at Wheaton College to a Faculty or Staff member based on votes from the Student body.*

The Symposium has adopted this Award and will include this award annually at each Symposium, at each university/college. The host university/college will be able to conduct a vote by its student body utilizing a specific rubric to elect a worthy Faculty or Staff member as the recipient of this award. The winner will be announced and received a Trophy and Recognition during the Symposium. The cost for the Trophy will be underwritten by the Symposium Directorate.

*Please note:*

*Symposium Directorate covers costs of:*

- a) Keynote Speaker- (honorarium & travel)*
- b) Rodney Sisco Choice Award - (Trophy at each Symposium)*
- c) Post Symposium Initiatives – (an award or fellowship if deemed appropriate)*

## **DRAFT/TYPICAL PROGRAM OF EVENTS –**

***The campus is free to create their own dynamic while maintaining the criteria for Campus wide exposure, Sr. Leadership engagement, Community impact and Student Leader Intimacy***

### **Day 1**

#### ***Morning***

- ◆ Chapel
- ◆ Executive Leadership – possible luncheon? w/ President & Senior Leaders

#### ***Afternoon***

- ◆ Lectures – where? Hosted by– Sociology/PolySci/Anthropology/Theology

#### ***Dinner/Evening***

- ◆ Working Sessions – Student Roundtable/Forum

### **Day 2**

#### ***Breakfast Workshops***

- ◆ Multicultural Leadership /Subject Matter Experts
- ◆ Strategic Working Session – Multicultural Staff, Student Leaders/Student Development

#### ***Evening***

- ◆ Evening Reception – Community Engagement

## **POST SYMPOSIUM INITIATIVES & PLANNED IMPLEMENTATION**

### **What is this?**

*Symposium Directorate may, at its discretion, award additional funds or resources to support specific initiatives sparked as a result of the Symposium for implementation on that campus.*

*This may also take the form of a fellowship awarded to a Student Leader.*

### **Where to submit**

*Rodney K. Sisco Symposium  
C/O CAFN P.O. Box 296  
North Aurora, IL 60542*

### **When:**

*Within 30 – 60 days of the closure of the Symposium*

### **Potential Grant:**

*TBD*

### **Response Time:**

*Within 30-60 days of receipt of the application*



**DRAFT**

**Rodney Sisco Symposium  
Aug 2019 – Feb 2020  
Host Site Work**

