

# CALL FOR PAPERS

THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT AND MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

## **BUSINESS EDUCATION AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITIES: Exploring the Role of Mission-Driven Business Schools**

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME  
NOTRE DAME, INDIANA

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[www.stthomas.edu/becu](http://www.stthomas.edu/becu)

**Introduction:** Business education at Catholic universities is important both to Catholic higher education and to business education in general. There are 231 Catholic colleges and universities in the United States with approximately 150 undergraduate and graduate business programs. As business education occupies an expanded role during the 21<sup>st</sup> century in these universities, the future of Catholic higher education is inseparable from how the Catholic and liberal arts character is appropriated within its business schools, and reciprocally how business schools impact the understanding of its Catholic character. This relationship also has implications for the larger reality of business education and business itself. The 2000 year old reflection on the person, property, work, and community within the Catholic social tradition brings a unique perspective to critical questions engaged by business education. It is also true that business education has much to inform the Catholic social tradition not only because business has become more complex in terms of globalization, finance, marketing and other functional disciplines, but also because advances in contemporary business studies provide new insights important to the contemporary application of principles highlighted in Catholic social thought.

The purpose of the conference is to engage three broad sets of questions so as to better understand the current state of business education at Catholic universities and to explore what a mission-driven Catholic business education could be. They are:

**1. *To examine the nature and status of business education at a Catholic university.*** What does it mean to have a business school within a Catholic university? Is there such a thing as Catholic business education or is 'Catholic' merely a superfluous adjective? Does it make any difference that business education is part of the mission of a Catholic university? What is the current state of Catholic universities in providing mission-driven business education? What are the theological and philosophical foundations that would enrich the mission of such an education? What are the obstacles to fulfilling the Catholic character of business education? In what areas are business schools particularly strong in relation to their mission, that is, what are the positive stories they can tell in providing a distinctive and mission-driven business education (best practices)? What are the fundamental differences between business education at Catholic universities vs. secular universities? What can each learn from the other? What are the future issues business will face and what impact will this have on business education shaped by a Catholic university?

**2. *To provide practical curricular models and ideas that reflect the mission and identity of business education at a Catholic university.*** What are some of the practical ways that the Catholic social tradition and its moral and spiritual insights can engage the way one teaches finance, business law, human

resources, strategy, business ethics, accounting, marketing, economics, etc.? In what ways should faculty and students draw upon theology, philosophy and other liberal arts disciplines when studying business? What does it take to educate business students into a vocation as a business leader, a vocation that is a complex form of calling entailing technical, psychological, social, moral and spiritual dimensions? Are we helping our students discover their vocation, deepen their profession, and discipline their sensitivities to the poor and marginalized? If not, how should Catholic universities and in particular Catholic business schools educate and form students who can promote the common good through business? What are the proper and effective pedagogical methods needed to engage in such an education? How can graduate business programs also fully reflect Catholic insights? Should an MBA education be fundamentally different at a Catholic university? What are the particular challenges in light of pluralistic religious student and faculty backgrounds? Here we particularly welcome examples of conceptualization, pedagogy, research, cases, etc. that have successfully embraced answers to these questions.

**3. To explore the conditions necessary to enable business education at a Catholic University to fulfill its mission.** What kind of faculty development programs are necessary to help faculty understand, identify with and contribute to the mission of the Catholic business school? What recruitment and hiring strategies would support the Catholic mission? What role do centers and institutes play in fostering the mission and identity of business schools in Catholic universities? What kind of research should be done at Catholic business schools in light of its unique mission? What role does the accrediting process have in supporting the mission-driven character of business schools in Catholic universities? What are the differences between the graduate and undergraduate programs in its relationship to these questions? What role does the religious charism (Vincentian, Ignatian, Franciscan, etc.) of schools play in fostering such conditions?

**Background Paper:** Please refer to the conference “Background Papers” for this conference at [www.stthomas.edu/becu](http://www.stthomas.edu/becu)

**Proposal Format:** The selection committee is looking for submissions that engage one or more of these three sets of questions in a wide variety of formats such as papers, roundtable sessions, discussions of foundational texts or conceptualizations, etc. Send a two page single spaced proposal which includes the following: thesis/purpose, outline of paper/roundtable/etc., and a one paragraph biography that includes institutional position and affiliation, recent publications, research interest, practical experience. Only one proposal from an author (or group of authors) will be accepted. Proposals must be original work not previously published or presented.

**Send proposals by October 15, 2007 preferably electronically to:**

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