****

**Spiritually-Integrated Financial Resiliency Initiative**

March 2014 Update

**Key objectives**

* **Primary goal**: Develop financially-resilient leaders who create and sustain financially-resilient institutions.
* **Systemic focus:** Engage students, alumni, faculty, staff, trustees, and denominational partners in Iliff’s innovative *Authentic Engagement™* (*AE*)program. Grounded in lliff’s pedagogy of theological reflexivity, the *AE* process transforms organizations through values clarification, inclusive relationships, and cultivation of shared mission. *AE* will help Iliff and our partners (1) develop common understandings of the burden of student debt on individuals and the institution and the ways this debt imperils Iliff’s core value of social justice, (2) articulate a set of shared values rooted in Iliff’s mission of social justice for those most affected by the debilitating effects of student debt, (3) develop strategic and practical action plans to reduce debt and increase fundraising at both individual and organizational levels, and (4) engender active social support to alleviate privatized shame and stress around debt.
* **Student/alumni focus:** A pilot group of student and alumni SIFR Scholars will participate in a formation process that includes *AE*, a matching scholarship program, and four courses that help them (1) reflect theologically about financial values and decision-making, (2) cultivate spiritually-grounded strategies and skills for coping with psycho-spiritual-financial stressors, (3) develop fundraising skills, and (4) enhance their financial self-agency.

**Significant activities**

* Established criteria and process for selection of SIFR Scholars for the 2014-2015 academic year.
* Negotiating dates for summer *AE* sessions with members of the Iliff Board of Trustees, staff groups, and our denominational partners in the UMC, UUA, UCC, Episcopal, and Presbyterian traditions.

**Key resources**

* Developed an online self-care course that forms students to be theologically reflexive about spiritual, vocational, physical, emotional, and financial well-being and resiliency. The course uses research on clergy stress, moral stress, compassionate intercultural spiritual care, and the power of habits.
* Developing a philanthropy praxis course that will equip students and alumni with fundraising skills they can use to generate scholarship support that will be matched by Iliff/Lilly funds, and generate funds for the institutions they serve.

**Project Director**

Kelly Arora, PhD

Director – Spiritually-Integrated Financial Resiliency (SIFR) Initiative

Iliff School of Theology

2323 E. Iliff Avenue, Denver CO 80210

[karora@iliff.edu](mailto:karora@iliff.edu)

720-620-9001