

# CENTERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

---

The Centers of the University were established to promote the ideals of different academic departments to deal with issues. Each Center is headed by a Director, who also serves the University as a faculty member or in other capacities.

Below is a list of the Centers along with their purpose statements and directors.

## Ryan Center for Biblical Studies

Director: Ray F. Van Neste

Assistant Director: J. Michael Garrett

The Center exists to promote thoughtful and disciplined reading, study, interpretation, and application of the Bible in the church throughout the world. The Center houses a model library for the study of the Scriptures, which is open to the public. The Center also hosts an annual Bible conference.

## Center for Business and Economic Development

Director: Jason Garrett

The purpose of the Business and Economic Development Center is to engage the community and students of the McAfee School of Business in activities that promote the development of business leaders to fulfill their purpose in Christ and society. This engagement includes student-led projects in the West Tennessee community and an annual speaker series dedicated to the intersection of business and faith.

## Thomas R. Rosebrough Center for

## Educational Practice

Director: Eric D. Marvin

The Thomas R. Rosebrough Center for Educational Practice aims to promote and recognize excellence in education from preschool through higher education. The manner in which the Rosebrough Center for Educational Practice defines its work can be found within the context and mission of Union University and the School of Education. The Center aims to bring attention to the work and interests of the School of Education, its faculty, staff, students, and alumni across

Union's three campuses located in Jackson, Germantown, and Hendersonville, Tennessee. The mission of the Center is to promote excellence in education in ways that reflect Union University's four core values (i.e., Excellence-Driven, Christ-Centered, People-Focused, and Future Directed), the conceptual framework of Union's School of Education (i.e., A Teacher-Student Dynamic of Sensitivity, Reflection and Faith), and Transformational Teaching (e.g., Educators need to be effective scholars, practitioners, and relaters.).

The Thomas R. Rosebrough Center for Educational Practice promotes and recognizes excellence in education by:

- Publishing news articles about the work of faculty, students and alumni at Union University's School of Education.
- Publishing white papers, book reviews, and practical academic thought pieces on educational topics.
- Distributing Focus on Education, a podcast that brings attention to quality in education.
- Communicating and hosting educational events.
- Awarding quality education at the preschool through higher education levels.

## Center for Population Health and Rural Medicine (PHaRM)

Director: Sean King

The purpose of the Center for Population Health and Rural Medicine is to provide clinical experiences, research, continuing

and simulation education.

## Center for Faculty Development

Associate Director: Nancy Thomas

The mission of the Center for Faculty Development is to encourage faculty in:

- (a) Effective and innovative teaching;
- (b) Pursuit of scholarship and professional growth;
- (c) Connecting the Christian faith and the concepts, applications, or methods of their academic discipline;
- (d) Designing courses that encourage character development in their students.

The Center conducts the new faculty orientation program (Union Beginnings), the new faculty mentoring program and continual training for all faculty (In the Academy). The Center also sponsors the Newell Innovative Teaching Awards and a variety of teaching/learning grants. The Center hosts an annual integration of faith and learning Collegium on Christ, Knowledge, and Wisdom for faculty to discuss ways of thinking Christianly about the concepts, methods, and applications of their disciplines and how their courses form Christian character.

## Center for Just and Caring Communities

Director: Mary Anne Poe

Fellows: Theresa Blakley and Nita Mehr

The Center is based upon the premise that just and caring communities are created and sustained by transformational relationships. Reciprocal and interactive connections between individuals, families, groups, communities, and society at large exist to either strengthen or violate healthy relationships within these systems. The Center exists to conduct research and to promote strategies that uplift, restore, and transform these relationships with a special emphasis on vulnerable persons and communities.

## Center for Politics and Religion

The Center for Politics and Religion is meant to provide a forum for teaching, research, and discussion about the intersection between politics and religion. The Center sponsors conferences, promotes research, and encourages students to "think Christianly" about how their faith should affect their politics by analyzing the role of religion in America and the world. The Center aims not only to prepare Union students to impact the political world winsomely and effectively for Christ, but also to represent Union in the larger conversation about faith and politics taking place among fellow believers and non-believers alike.

## Edward P. Hammons Center for