



Campus Compact

# News

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## University Presidents from Iowa and San Diego Join Campus Compact National Board

Two nationally-recognized university presidents have been named to the Board of Campus Compact: Mary E. Lyons, PhD, president of the University of San Diego and Sally Mason, PhD, president of The University of Iowa.

**Boston, MA** — Two nationally-recognized university presidents have been named to the Board of Campus Compact — a nonprofit coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents representing some 6 million students — who are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education.

The two new Board members are Mary E. Lyons, PhD, president of the University of San Diego, and Sally Mason, PhD, president of The University of Iowa. They join a distinguished group of leaders from across the country representing all segments of higher education as well as the philanthropic and business communities. The Board guides the organization in its mission of deepening higher education's ability to improve community life and educate students for civic and social responsibility.

"We are thrilled to have these dedicated leaders join our Board," notes Campus Compact president Maureen F. Curley. "Each has a strong background in leading organizations and in creating sustainable structures for strengthening communities. Moreover, each one holds a firm belief in community engagement and the power of student learning through civic engagement. Their positive accomplishments and experience bring inspiration and practical knowledge to the table."

### **Sally Mason - University of Iowa**

In August 2007, Sally Mason became the 20th president of The University of Iowa (UI). She holds a full professorship with tenure in the department of biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. In her first two years at the UI, President Mason began a sustainable university initiative, making sustainability a central priority of all aspects of the University enterprise—its operations, its academic mission, and its greater responsibilities to society.

The daughter of an immigrant family and the first child to attend college, President Mason received her BA in zoology from the University of Kentucky in 1972, her MS from Purdue University in 1974, and her PhD in cellular, molecular, and developmental biology from the University of Arizona in 1978. She subsequently spent two years at Indiana University in Bloomington doing postdoctoral research before joining the University of Kansas in 1981.

At Kansas, Mason served as a full professor in the department of molecular biosciences, and was appointed dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1995. A strong advocate of undergraduate education, she has received awards for outstanding undergraduate advising and teaching, including a prestigious Kemper Teaching

Fellowship. Mason subsequently served as provost of Purdue University from 2001-2007, at Purdue's West Lafayette campus and four affiliated branch campuses throughout Indiana.

President Mason has served as president of both the PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research and the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences. She has also served as chair of the advisory committee to the National Science Foundation Directorate for Education and Human Resources and the executive committee of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC), now the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), chief academic officers group.

She was appointed by the President of the United States to the National Medal of Science selection committee for two terms from 2006-2011. In 2008-2009, President Mason co-chaired the Task Force on National Energy Policy and Midwestern Competitiveness of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Its report, *Embracing the Future: The Midwest and a New National Energy Policy*, was published in June 2009 and had an immediate impact on the national debate over how climate change legislation will impact Midwestern economic competitiveness.

### **Mary E. Lyons, PhD - University of San Diego**

Mary E. Lyons, PhD, became the president of the University of San Diego in July 2003. During her extensive career in education, Dr. Lyons has enjoyed rich and varied experiences as a teacher, professor, and administrator. Before her present appointment, Dr. Lyons served as the president of the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, MN. Prior to this, she served as the president of the California Maritime Academy, a campus of the California State University in Vallejo, CA. With this appointment, she was commissioned as a Rear Admiral in the U.S. Maritime Service. Previously, she was the academic dean and professor of rhetoric and homiletics at the Franciscan School of Theology, Graduate Theological Union, in Berkeley, CA.

A fifth generation Californian, Dr. Lyons spent her childhood traveling with her military family, living throughout the United States and in Eritrea, Africa. She received her BA degree from Sonoma State University; her MA in English from San Jose State University; and her PhD in rhetoric from the University of California, Berkeley. During her 25-year career as a U.S. Naval Reserve Officer, she held a variety of assignments, including an active duty position teaching at the Naval Training Center in San Diego and two appointments as Commanding Officer of Naval Reserve units. She retired in 1996 as a Captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

Dr. Lyons has been recognized for leadership and service by numerous associations, including the Educator Distinguished Service Award from the National Defense Transportation Association, the University of San Francisco Medallion for scholarly achievement and community service, and the Distinguished Alumni Award from Sonoma State University. She also received a Doctorate of Humane Letters from The College of New Rochelle.

Among her current Board appointments are: Association of Independent Catholic Colleges and Universities, Council of Presidents for the Association of Governing Boards, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, California Campus Compact, National Campus Compact and St. Joseph Health System.

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### **About Campus Compact**

Campus Compact is a nonprofit coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents—representing some 6 million students—who are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education. As the only national association dedicated to this mission, Campus Compact is a leader in building community engagement into campus and academic life. For more information, visit <http://www.compact.org/>.