



SUMMER 2023

Impact Report

NAE | National Association of

Evangelicals

The Next Generation of Christian Leaders

Equipped for Public Service



Since 1956, about 80 Christian college students from around the country have come to Washington, D.C., for a week-long, immersive experience examining faith, civic engagement and public policy. This annual event includes inspiring talks from speakers who represent a variety of perspectives and firsthand advocacy experience as students meet with their representatives on Capitol Hill. During the week, students are equipped to be part of a new generation of faithful advocates who are motivated by love for others and sustained by the hope they have in Christ.

The Christian Student Leadership Conference (CSLC) is one of the premier ways that the National Association of Evangelicals invests in the next generation of Christian leaders. Because of the NAE's trusted voice and strong relationships, the CSLC provides college students with access to some of the leading scholars, thought leaders and lawmakers from both sides of the aisle. This one-of-a-kind experience helps shape their career and vocational plans.

Shirley Mullen, president emerita of Houghton University, attests to the impact of the CSLC in her own life as a college student in the mid-1970s: "The CSLC is one of the most powerful things the NAE does. It changed my view of what Christians can do and gave me a broader sense of how Christians are involved in society."

At the NAE, we believe that the gospel should transform every aspect of our world, but it takes all of us — from every generation — to see that happen. **The CSLC is an opportunity for young people to connect their faith with the most pressing issues of our day. It is a unique laboratory for students to think through big ideas and proposals for social, political and economic change as a follower of Jesus.**

The Christian Student Leadership Conference cuts through the noise of charged political discourse and the polarized atmosphere in society. Although caricatures and stereotypes of politicians abound and the temptation toward cynicism is strong, the CSLC serves as a powerful alternative by bringing students close to not only the issues, but also to the people who represent various positions.

Emily Zuidema, a 2023 CSLC student from Dordt University, shares: "I appreciated being able to see professionals who are leaders in their work. They provided tangible examples of how I could make an impact someday, as well as currently as a student."

Steve Clements is a professor and dean at Asbury University. He first encountered CSLC as an undergraduate student in 1983 and has been bringing Asbury students to the conference for the past 20 years.

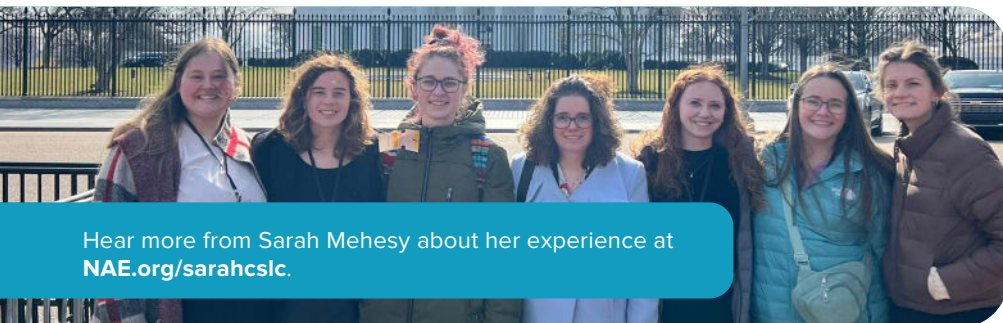
Steve shares that one of the most valuable aspects of the experience is the way that non-partisan advocacy is modeled. This approach encourages students to focus on understanding various issues from a faith perspective first rather than through the lens of a particular political party platform.

In reflecting on his experience bringing more than 200 students to the CSLC, Steve is heartened by how the conference emphasizes students' own agency to address challenges in society. Through the CSLC, Steve has seen the NAE empower students to take responsibility to be part of the solution in their communities and nationally.

“Many of my students over the years have told me that CSLC is one of the most formative experiences of their college career,” he said.

Thanks to the generous support of partners just like you, the National Association of Evangelicals will continue to engage the next generation for greater gospel impact through initiatives like the CSLC. Your investment has made a transformational impact on the lives of our future pastors, scholars, business executives, lawmakers and many more.

As Sarah Mehesy, a Lancaster Bible College student, testifies, “The Christian Student Leadership Conference was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I would highly recommend to anyone regardless of career aspirations.”



Hear more from Sarah Mehesy about her experience at [NAE.org/sarahcslc](https://nae.org/sarahcslc).



Keeping the Next Generation at the Forefront

We are in the midst of a cultural and moral convulsion. There is a competition for truth and a confusion around identity. The next generation is looking for clarity on these issues. **At the National Association of Evangelicals, we empower Christian leaders with the awareness, skill and courage to prioritize and invest in future generations.**

James Choung, vice president at InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, spent years researching what each generation values and identified their central gospel question. This framework has significant implications for ministry leaders, and we have introduced James and his findings to thousands of leaders through multiple NAE events and resources.

Recently the NAE convened evangelical leaders to learn from Kara Powell of the Fuller Youth Institute about TEN x 10, a campaign to disciple 10 million teenagers in the next 10 years, and about best practices for reaching young adults with the gospel.

Nick Hall, chief evangelist of PULSE and NAE board member, continually challenges fellow Christian leaders to prioritize Gen Z with time, talent, treasure and risk. On the last point, Nick stated it plainly at our Flourish conference: “If they can’t hurt you, then you aren’t invested in them.”

May we all take this challenge to heart and work together for greater gospel impact.

Thank You!

It is with profound gratitude that I say “thank you” for your partnership. Your prayers and generosity enable our work to flourish, so that Jesus Christ and his good news can be presented to every generation.

Together, we can be an *Influence for Good* and a winsome voice for the transformational gospel.



Walter Kim

WALTER KIM
President

Your generous support has enabled us to:



Lead a half-day spiritual formation session for **800 officers** at The Salvation Army national conference.



Share a real-time **video report** from Nick Hall and Dr. Timothy Tennent about how God is moving among Gen Z on Asbury University's campus.



Present a **whole-life gospel perspective** on multiple webinars, panels and in-person events with both Christian and non-Christian audiences.



Facilitate a transformational experience at Greenwood Rising to learn about the Tulsa Race Massacre and how the Church can pursue **racial justice and reconciliation**.



Train **200+ people** in biblically-based advocacy for poor and vulnerable populations.



Successfully advocate for passage of the **Pregnant Workers Fairness Act**, enhancing protections against discrimination of pregnancy in the workforce.



Organize a tour of Crossover Impact, an initiative modeled on Christian Community Development principles, for around **50 evangelical leaders**.



Host a conversation with Dr. Christina Edmondson about how we can enter into longstanding solidarity with the Nashville community and all those impacted by **gun violence**.

Subscribe to NAE's YouTube channel to follow timely webinars and video conversations.



Prayer Requests

PRAY for followers of Jesus throughout our country to be godly ambassadors of the gospel, bearing the fruit of the Spirit in the hope to which we have been called (Ephesians 1:18).

PRAY for all those who minister to and serve children, teens and young adults — that they would be effective in bearing witness to Jesus, who answers the deepest longings of the human heart at every age and stage of life.

PRAY for young people to have courage in sharing their faith with others, wisdom in navigating difficult conversations and support to nurture their mental health.

PRAY for alumni of the Christian Student Leadership Conference to be encouraged by their experience and to be salt and light in their various vocations.

PRAY for pastors and leaders to have clarity and courage as they lead through complex and sometimes messy situations that threaten the unity we have in Christ.