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Southwestern U. new home for NITLE

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The National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education, an organization that connects education and technology at liberal arts colleges, is relocating to Southwestern University in Georgetown.

NITLE serves more than 130 universities around the country, providing programming, digital tools and resources. Launched in 2001 with funding from The Andrew Mellon Foundation, NITLE has been housed in recent years at Ithaca, a nonprofit incubator for tech-driven initiatives. The move to Southwestern is a graduation step of sorts for NITLE and deepens its connection to the educational community, the group said.

NITLE has also tapped tech entrepreneur W. Joseph King as its new executive director. King replaces Jo Ellen Parker who has accepted the position of president of Sweet Briar College in Virginia.

Southwestern hosted one of three NITLE technology centers beginning in 2001 when the Southwestern center was created to serve the Associated Colleges of the South in a program funded by Mellon. Among the first participating institutions in NITLE, Southwestern has since 2004 served as a regional host campus for three NITLE staff members.

Rick McKelvey, vice president of Institutional Advancement at Southwestern, said hosting NITLE broadens the university's visibility and will help improve Southwestern's standing as a model for the use technology in education. He said Southwestern plans to operate NITLE as a freestanding institute.

In addition to housing NITLE's headquarters and King as its executive director, Southwestern will receive \$4 million in existing grants and operating funds for NITLE.

"The Mellon Foundation recognizes that Southwestern has contributed very strongly to the development of NITLE by leading earlier efforts to develop new teaching technologies in the Associated Colleges of the South," said Philip Lewis, vice president of The Mellon Foundation. "Southwestern's role has been crucial in consolidating Mellon's support for this fine consortium and has positioned the university to extend its impressive regional leadership across the entire country."

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