

LOCAL COLLEGE PARTNERSHIPS



PURPOSE

Raise C4SO churches' awareness of local colleges and universities to see how the Holy Spirit might inspire laity and/or clergy to connect with these campuses and their ministries.

A Rich, Local Mission Field

The college years can be deeply formative in many different areas of life. Students today are desperate to belong, discover their callings and begin their careers, get answers to their big questions, and understand their identity and the world around them. Many of them are also curious about Christianity: who Jesus is, how to read the Bible, how to pray, what Christians think about the pressing issues of our day, and more. Local colleges and universities are a rich, diverse and invigorating mission field—right around the corner!

What is this guide?

C4SO's NextGen ministry team has compiled a list of the two or three colleges and universities closest to all of the 55 churches in our diocese. **View that list [here](#).** (There may be colleges and universities closer to a given church, but, as a general rule, we opted to list those that are accredited and enroll 500 or more students.)

On the list, you'll see three categories of colleges and universities:

- 4-Year Residential
- 2-Year Community, and
- Other (e.g., Technical Schools, Art Schools, etc.)

A handful of colleges and universities have their names highlighted in light red. These institutions have no known Christian ministry on campus, according to this [map](#).



How do I use this list?

1. **Look.** Start by looking at the two or three colleges and universities closest to your church. (Maybe you can think of other campuses. That's okay—you know your ministry context better than we do!)
2. **Pray.** Any good new ministry or ministry partnership starts with prayer. Pray for the students, faculty and staff on your closest campuses during your Sunday service, at an existing prayer gathering, or at a gathering of those interested in local campuses. The Holy Spirit may provide leads or themes.
3. **Ask.** Does our church know anybody who is already connected to these local campuses? Do these local campuses have existing Christian ministries such as InterVarsity, Cru, RUF, Navigators, a Newman Center, or others? Connect with these leaders to ask how you can begin partnering in ministry at this campus.
4. **Act.** You could organize a prayer walk on campus. You could connect with your campus or campus ministry contacts and ask them how things are going and/or how your church could support them. If your church is near one of the campuses with no known ministry (again, highlighted in light red), our friends at InterVarsity are open to discussing the possibility of helping your church start a new ministry there.
5. **Reach Out.** If you are interested in engaging students at a local campus, reach out to Aaron@c4so.org.

Useful Resources

- [“Praying for My Campus”](#) from InterVarsity’s Ministry Playbook
- [“Ministering With Gen Z”](#) from InterVarsity’s Ministry Playbook
- [What Gen Z Really Wants to Know About God](#) by Tanita Tualla Maddox
- [Life Questions Every Student Asks](#) by David Lauber and Gary Burge