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Higher Education, Justice, and the Church

Social Justice at Home in the Education Community

By Margaret Farley

Persons from every area of Jesuit higher education gather this month for an annual conference on commitment to justice. We are challenged by the title of this year's conference: "On Fire at the Frontiers." We focus on social justice from the vantage point of encounters with others, "contact points," insofar as the many dimensions of our work bring us to "engage with someone, something, or someplace else." Social justice, after all, refers to justice in relation to others—whether

as individuals or as groups, families, nations, churches, or institutions of higher learning. It encompasses systems, strategies, interpersonal and social goals and norms, struggles for mutual acceptance, hope for a common good, and clear-sighted development of criteria for what counts as justice in blending our lives together in the real world. In this conference about frontiers, concepts of social justice must attend to and in some way cross over borders of culture,

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