



Restorative Justice Network of Catholic Campuses (RJNCC)

Recognizing a natural alignment between the philosophy of restorative justice and the guiding ideals of the Catholic social tradition, the RJNCC encourages Catholic campuses to articulate and cultivate restorative principles and to assist each other in strengthening interest, commitment, and implementation of restorative practices on their campuses.

What is Restorative Justice?

“Restorative justice is a way of responding to wrongdoing and conflict that seeks, above all else, to repair the harm suffered, and to do so by actively involving the affected parties in mutual dialogue and decision-making. The process brings victims, offenders and their supporters together, in a safe and controlled environment, with trained facilitators to talk truthfully about what has happened, the impact it has had on their lives, and what is needed to put things right again and prevent recurrence.

Restorative practices use the restorative justice principles of participation, empathy, problem solving and respectful dialogue to build healthy and equitable relationships between people and to repair relationships when conflict occurs. The term is commonly used in schools (and some workplaces) to describe efforts to create a calm, supportive and cooperative institutional culture where the quality of the relationships between people enables everyone to thrive and succeed together.”

Chris Marshall, Towards a Restorative University

The RJNCC promotes:

- Community-building circles practices in classrooms, residential life, athletics, and student organizations;
- Community-concern circles to improve campus climate, particularly around conflicts regarding race, religion, gender, and the red/blue political divide;
- Restorative responses to student misconduct, including binge drinking, academic dishonesty, bias incidents, sexual misconduct, and intimate partner violence;
- Restorative responses to faculty and staff misconduct and conflict that create a hostile workplace environment;
- Civic engagement, including campus support, internships, and community engaged learning for community-based and prison-based RJ initiatives and in K-12 schools.
- Scholarship on the theory and practice of RJ and the convergence of RJ philosophy and Catholic social thought.

The RJNCC welcomes active involvement of community members on Catholic campuses. Join our RJNCC Google Group for more information at groups.google.com/d/forum/rjncc or contact David Karp at dkarp@skidmore.edu