

# David G. Sylvester

## Biographical Note

<b>Institution:</b>	King's University College at Western University
<b>Position sought:</b>	Director, Institutions
<b>Nominated By:</b>	Nominating Committee
<b>Highest Degree:</b>	PhD (medieval history), Fordham University
<b>Current Position:</b>	Principal, King's College University Associate Professor, Department of History

### Biography

Dr. David Sylvester is the 8<sup>th</sup> Principal of King's University College. Appointed in July 2009, David came to King's from Vancouver after a decade of service as President of Corpus Christi College, and as Principal of St. Mark's College at the University of British Columbia. He was renewed as King's Principal for a second term five-year in 2014.

A social-economic historian, David's area of research focuses on the nature of community in the middle ages, with a particular interest in the culture of medieval port towns related to activities of shipping, trade, fishing, and piracy. He holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. in medieval history from Fordham University, New York City and has taught in the departments of history at the University of British Columbia, Corpus Christi College, and Fordham University. David maintains a tenured appointment as an associate professor in the department of history at King's and continues to publish on the medieval English urban confederacy known as the Cinque Ports.

In 2000, David was appointed the founding President of Corpus Christi College, the Catholic liberal arts college at the University of British Columbia. In 2005, he was also assigned as the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of St. Mark's, the Catholic theological college affiliated with U.B.C. While in British Columbia, David served for six years on the *B.C. Council on Admissions and Transfer* and the provincial *Degree Quality Assessment Board*. He is the past chair of the *Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities of Canada (ACCUC)* and since 2012 he has been the Canadian elected representative to the Board of the two hundred member *Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities* based in Washington, D.C. David continues to serve on the Governance Committee of *Universities Canada*, the Senate of Western University, and the Boston College advisory board to the *Institute for Administrators in Catholic Higher Education*. David is a member of the *Medieval Academy of America*, among other professional associations. He is fluent in English, speaks French and reads Latin.



### **Statement of Intent**

My enthusiasm arises from a personal and professional commitment to the principles of the Federation and my conviction that its leadership in shaping a national dialogue on the promise of an inclusive, civil society is needed now, more than ever.

In addition to my work as an historian, my administrative career has been committed to supporting faculty and students who are working in the humanities and social sciences. I have led the establishment of a liberal arts college, proposed and resourced innovated cross-disciplinary programming and research, and advocated for the humanities in public conversations here in Canada, in the United States and in Asia.

My intent would be simply to assist the Federation, in any and all ways I am able, in advancing its mandate to make society better, through research, teaching and community connection, and to advocate for the social sciences and humanities on my campus and across Canada.

