

North Central College agrees to acquire Shimer College

May 27, 2016



[North Central College](#) and [Shimer College](#) agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the intention that the Naperville college will acquire and integrate Shimer into its structure, according to a [North Central College news release](#).

North Central College, founded in 1861, is one of 24 member colleges and universities of Associated Colleges of Illinois. Shimer College, founded in 1853, is a liberal arts institution that focuses on the “Great Books” curriculum. Its campus is in Chicago.

“This unique opportunity would add a distinctive academic offering to the North Central campus and provide a location where the Shimer model of education can flourish,” said Dr. Troy D. Hammond, North Central’s president.

According to the news release, the MOU “establishes the parameters for ongoing discussions with the intention of a completed acquisition on or around March 1, 2017.” If successful, North Central will create a “Shimer Great Books School” within North Central’s academic structure effective with the 2017 fall term.

While retaining Shimer’s distinctiveness, its faculty would become North Central College faculty and Shimer students would become North Central College students with access to a full array of co-curricular activities, fine arts and athletics, the release said.

“Shimer is thrilled to have this opportunity to sustain our mission in a new context, continuing to provide an excellent liberal arts education rooted in close reading of primary texts and a discussion-based pedagogy,” said Dr. Susan E. Henking, president of Shimer College. “We look forward to the opportunity to do so at North Central College.”

The agreement is subject to regulatory and accreditation approval, the release added.