



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **European conference about Christian higher education in a pluralistic society**

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**From 20 to 23 April 2009 a European conference about Christian higher education will be held in Biezenmortel, the Netherlands. The conference theme centres on the tension between identity-based education and the diversity of the work field for graduates of Christian institutions. The central issue during the conference is “how can we best close the gap between identity-based education and the pluralistic society?”**

Four Dutch member institutions of IAPCHE, an international association that seeks to promote and support Christian higher education, organize the conference. Delegates of the Protestant Theological University of the Netherlands, the Reformed University of Applied Sciences, Driestar Educatief and Christian University Ede started their preparations for the conference in October 2007. Many found the selected theme to be interesting. “The tension we address during the conference is not just typical for the European situation. We have received many appreciative reactions from around the world. Apparently, we have raised a relevant and challenging issue,” says Henk Jochemsen, European board member of IAPCHE and one of the organizers of the conference.

Many European professionals are on the conference program; they will contribute to several rounds of workshops. In addition, a number of keynote speakers from different European countries will elaborate on the theme. There will also be opportunities for delegates of European institutions to expand their networks and to dialogue about

student and professor exchanges. In this way, the conference consciously seeks to contribute to the area of European higher education.

IAPCHE was founded in 1975 during an international conference in South Africa. Nowadays the organization has its head office in Sioux Center, Iowa, United States. The association has members all over the world with a growing number of members in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Both individuals and institutions are eligible for membership. IAPCHE frequently publishes a newsletter and encourages exchanges between Christian academics by various activities.

People who are interested in the conference are invited to consult <http://www.iapche2009.eu> for more information.