**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ILIFF RECEIVES GRANT TO PROMOTE DIALOGUES ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES**

DENVER, CO. – Iliff School of Theology is among the nine geographically and theologically diverse seminaries that will begin to integrate science into their core curricula as new participants in the Science for Seminaries project, an ongoing initiative of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Organized by the AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) program in partnership with the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), the five-year initiative aims to prepare future faith leaders to engage their congregants in dialogues on science and technology issues. In all, AAAS will select 32 seminaries to carry out 18-month projects, building on a successful three-year pilot project that included 10 schools and ended in 2017.

“Science and technology impact every aspect of modern life,” said DoSER Program Director Jennifer Wiseman. “Given that most Americans identify with a religious tradition and often consider the value and impacts of science and technology through that lens, AAAS and ATS determined that equipping clergy with better science connections has broad societal benefits.”

Iliff faculty will use the grant to widen the scope of the school’s recently founded Artificial Intelligence (AI) Institute (<https://ai.iliff.edu/>), which will hold its first event in May, says Professor Ted Vial, Iliff’s Harvey Potthoff Professor of Theology and Modern Western Religious Thought.

Vial plans to revamp his Introduction to Theology course to include questions raised by AI about theological anthropology, what it means to be human, and more. “Until now, the AI Institute has been data scientists and faculty working independently,” Vial said. “This grant is the opportunity to get it into the DNA of the curriculum.”

In addition to Vial, Iliff’s Assistant Professor of Religion and Social Justice, Jennifer Leath, is incorporating physics into her Ethical Analysis and Advocacy class.

“The class will incorporate ideas of quantum physics when analyzing complex, hybrid identities in a post-Newtonian world, especially as a lot of research in identity work centers around the concept of time,” said Leath.

Read the full announcement by AAAS here - <https://www.aaas.org/news/aaas-program-expand-science-engagement-diverse-group-seminaries>

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About AAAS

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world’s largest general scientific society and publisher of the [*Science*](http://www.sciencemag.org)family of journals. AAAS was founded in 1848 and includes 261 affiliated societies and academies of science, serving millions of individuals. *Science* has the largest paid circulation of any peer-reviewed general science journal in the world, with an estimated total readership of 1 million. The nonprofit [AAAS](http://www.aaas.org) is open to all and fulfills its mission to “advance science and serve society” through initiatives in science policy, international programs, science education, public engagement, and more. Building upon its mission, AAAS established the Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) program in 1995 to facilitate communication between scientific and religious communities. For the latest information and news about AAAS DoSER and the Science for Seminaries Project, visit [AAAS.org/DoSER](https://www.aaas.org/doser) and [ScienceforSeminaries.org](https://www.scienceforseminaries.org/).