

**Eden Theological Seminary**  
**An Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Future Ministers**

**Project Director**

Stella Schoen  
475 E. Lockwood Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63119  
phone: 314-918-2569  
fax: 314-918-2570  
sschoen@eden.edu

**Project Objectives**

1. Set a ceiling for maximum borrowing
2. Reduce borrowing to that ceiling
3. Maintain borrowing at that ceiling
4. Make keeping borrowing at the ceiling an “all stakeholder priority.”

**Key activities**

1. Data Gathering
  - a. Collect institutional data
  - b. Interview current students and graduates from past five years
  - c. Written On-line survey for current students and alumni out to 35 years
  - d. Interview “shock the conscious” borrowers from past 5 years
2. Present data and conclusions to the board of Trustees
  - a. Determine ceiling
  - b. Determine plan to reduce borrowing
3. Maintain Borrowing level
  - a. Institutionalize data collection and assessment
  - b. Staff training
  - c. Ongoing board oversight
4. Involve all stakeholders
  - a. Faculty/board coordinating committee
  - b. retreat to implement plan
  - c. report findings to church bodies, judicatory leaders, clergy, and lay leaders
  - d. issue call to all churches to be seriously involved in this issue

Eden is partnering with Washington University’s George Warren Brown School of Social Work and its Center for Public Health Research to administer the study. Eden’s staff has with the Washington University colleagues discuss the project goals, determine scope of work and determine a process to define the research questions to be answered. We are working to schedule planning sessions led by WU that will bring key stakeholders (students, faculty, staff, alumni, administration, and judicatory leaders) together to flesh out and prioritize the questions we need answers to and how to best arrive at those answers.