



## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SYNODS

***Wonder is the beginning of wisdom.*** This sentence, adapted from Socrates by one of our students, is our campus theme for this academic year. When she proposed the quote to the committee evaluating suggestions for themes, she said, “The wonders that Carthage encounters every day, including the good-heartedness of our community, the grace and beauty of our campus, and the unlimited possibilities that are set before us, help us to reach the heights of wisdom. Inspired by each other, we discover truth, grow stronger, and serve with more humility.” (The Carthage mission statement is: *Seeking Truth, Building Strength, Inspiring Service—Together.*) Her explanation of Socrates’ statement undergirds our thinking, and it embraces our vocation as a liberal arts college in a Lutheran context.

Carthage is in a position of great strength, and we are reaching ever higher. Here are some highlights of our work:

- Carthage opened last September with an all-time record enrollment of 2,581 full-time undergraduate students.
- Of those full-time students who shared their religious affiliation with us, approximately 20% were Lutheran; about a third were Roman Catholic. The religious diversity is astonishing, with Hindu, Jewish, and Muslim students joining Christians of many different denominations on campus.
- The adult education program is seeing greater numbers of students earn their degrees. In all, some 1,500 adult learners take courses at Carthage each year.
- In August, the College renewed its commitment to its Lutheran heritage by appointing its first full-time church relations officer in a number of years.
- The Reverend Kara Baylor is the College’s new Campus Pastor. She took her post at the beginning of January, and she has been very well received by students, faculty, and staff alike.
- We are good stewards of our resources. The College is on track to end this fiscal year with its 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive balanced budget.
- Thanks to tremendous markets, the endowment fund was at an all-time high of nearly \$76 million as of December 31. Still, this is well below the average of colleges our size, and well below what we desire to truly support student financial aid and innovative academic projects.
- The College will break ground in March 2014 on a \$43 million renovation of its science facilities.
- The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools will visit campus this coming autumn. Internally, assessment and strategic planning endeavors have engaged over 125 faculty and staff members, working in conjunction with the Board of Trustees, which is fashioning its next five- and ten-year strategic plan for the College.
- When it comes to critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication, Carthage seniors are in the top 11 percent nationwide among colleges and universities using the Collegiate Learning Assessment, a national tool administered at institutions across the country to assess their impact on student learning.

- Carthage is ranked sixth nationally for student participation in short-term study abroad by the Institute of International Education (Open Doors 2013 Report).
- Carthage is one of only two liberal arts colleges nationwide to participate in NASA's Systems Engineering Educational Discovery program. NASA began the SEED program six years ago. Carthage is one of just two schools in the country selected to participate in the program all six years.
- Carthage has had eight Fulbright scholars in the past four years.
- The American Institute of Physics recently selected Carthage's Department of Physics and Astronomy for its new study on effective undergraduate physics programs. Carthage is among the best in the country at preparing undergraduate physics students for careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, according to the AIP. Carthage is one of six colleges and universities nationwide selected for the project.

Carthage is proud to be a college of the church, and proud to provide a challenging and rewarding liberal arts education in a Lutheran context. Thank you for your partnership with us!



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