2016 Annual Report to the Synods

Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.

Enrollment

Fall 2016 enrollment was 1,482 students. This number included international students and U.S. students of color totaling 21 percent. We look forward to an expanding number of students as we reach forward into the 2020s.

A Successful Transforming Tomorrow Campaign

Wartburg’s $75 million comprehensive campaign ends in May 2017, raising more than $83.4 million to date. A highlight of the campaign is the $8 million McCoy Living and Learning Center dedicated in October 2016. It is named for Mike McCoy, chair of the Wartburg Board of Regents, and his wife, Marge who made a $2 million challenge grant for the project. The McCoys also serve as Campaign co-chairs. The center includes a renovated residence hall, and the addition of a multipurpose classroom, a faculty-in-residence apartment, a student lounge and study spaces.

Academic Programs

- The Wartburg Board of Regents approved a new major in Public Health to commence in Fall 2017.
- Wartburg now partners with Western Illinois University to offer an integrated “4+1” program for students seeking a bachelor’s degree in history at Wartburg and a master’s degree in museum studies from WIU.
- The engineering science program received a $123,300 grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust to create an Innovation Studio.
- Wartburg West, the College’s urban studies program in Denver, Colorado, celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2016. Danielle Harms was named director of outreach and project development.
- The college community prepared for the March 2017 reaccreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission. The College was last accredited in 2006.

Vocation and Faith

- Wartburg received a $17,665 NetVUE Vocation Exploration Renewal Grant. Its focus is expanding and deepening the theological exploration of vocation among the College’s American ethnic students in 2016-17. The grant is headed by Krystal Madlock, director of multicultural student services, T.J. Warren, Pathways associate for vocation and mentoring, and Pastor Ramona Bouzard, dean of the chapel.
- Campus Pastor Brian Beckstrom is leading a research project that explores faith identity and mission at select ELCA colleges. His doctor of ministry work will provide important context for a campus-wide faith identity discernment process in 2017. It also coincides with a program review for the College’s Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry division.
- The 2016 Graven Award, an annual award for vocation and daily life, was awarded to Bruce Weber, Kansas State University head men’s basketball coach, long-time supporter of Lutheran Social Services and Coaches Against Cancer.
- Dr. Stephen and Elaine Main and the Rev. Dr. Larry ’66 and Lois Reyelts ’66 Trachte received Wartburg Medals in recognition of their sustained service to the college.

Recognition

- Wartburg was recognized in the 2016 Sustainable Campus Index, in the areas of water use and rainwater management.
- Wartburg finished in the top 25 of the Learfield Sports Division III Directors’ Cup standings, the 2016 wrestling team won a national championship; women’s basketball advanced to the final four, and 38 student-athletes won NCAA postgraduate fellowship awards.
- The Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kleinhans, the Rev. Dr. Walter Bouzard Jr., and Dr. Karen Black, contributed to Together by Grace: Introducing the Lutherans. Dr. Kleinhans also served as editor to the volume.

We are blessed to work with gifted students who are committed to changing the world. Thank you for encouraging your students to join Wartburg’s historic tradition as they share their gifts to enrich our community of learning.

Dr. Darrel D. Colson, President