Report to Western District Mennonite Conference

April 2019

The 2018-2019 academic year at Bethel College has been a time of reflection, contemplation, and anticipation. With the official inauguration of President Jon Gering in October, we firmly set our sights on the future, while remembering our roots and paying reverence to our past. We thank God for the following (and much more):

* The women and men of our excellent faculty and staff, who give of themselves tirelessly, who teach and instruct carefully, who model Christian character daily, and who keep the campus functional and beautiful.
* Campus ministries opportunities for students, including centering prayer, bible study, chapel services, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and special events such as the 24-hour prayer. Eight wonderful student chaplains help monitor and lead spiritual life activities on campus.
* The Office of Diversity & Inclusion and the Diversity Council continue to work to make the Bethel campus an open and accepting place for all.
* A music department that continues to exemplify the college’s pursuit of excellence. This year both the Concert Choir and the Steel Drum Band were selected to perform at the Kansas Music Educators Association conference. The choir also toured through the southwest and California during spring break.
* An athletic department that focuses as much on developing character as it does on scoring points. The women’s basketball team had a record-breaking year as did the track and field team.
* A visual arts department that continues to bring world-class exhibits to the Regier Galler and Kauffman Museum, as well as excellent student work.
* A forensics program that has sent students to the national forensics tournament for 42 consecutive years.
* Bethel College is the only Kansas private college listed in *Washington Monthly* National Universities-Liberal Arts section for 2018-19.
* Convocation and lecture series which provide opportunities to learn outside an area of study. Rachel Waltner Goossen presented the Menno Simons Lecture Series on “Sexual Identities and Leaders in the Faith.” Safwat Marzouk presented the 2018 Bible Lecture Series on cross-cultural interaction in Genesis and Exodus. The annual STEM Symposium during Fall Fest focused on “Women in Science and Mathematics.”
* Sharing in worship and fellowship outside of the classroom by providing speakers and musicians for local congregations and hosting Lifetime Enrichment gatherings which develop intergenerational connectedness.
* A new Mission, Vision, and Values Statement approved by our board in April 2019 which will guide us as we seek to become a work college that will prepare students for meaningful lives of work and service through faith formation, the liberal arts, and practical experience in career pathways.

In gratitude for the prayers and good wishes, we humbly ask for your continued support, as we seek to build, for generations to come, upon the foundation that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.