

President opens year with message on Global Citizenship

New and returning students from 28 countries and 37 states were welcomed back to campus for the start of the 2018-19 Goshen College school year with a memorable opening convocation in the college's Church-Chapel. President Rebecca J. Stoltzfus spoke about this year's core value focus of global citizenship as the college celebrates 50 years of its nationally-recognized study abroad program, Study-Service Term (SST). During the 1968-69 academic year, Goshen College's first official SST units traveled to Costa Rica, Guadalupe, Jamaica, Honduras, Nicaragua and Haiti.

Dr. Stoltzfus laid out three propositions for being a Christ-centered global citizen: That it entails seeing the world from another's point of view; that global citizens train their minds to see the connections between things; and that global citizens encourage each other to act in the interest of transformative justice. Following the convocation, students took part in the annual applause tunnel, an 18-year tradition with a cheering tunnel formed by faculty and staff, then seniors, juniors, sophomores and finally the first-year students. The procession led out to Schrock Plaza, where, in the tradition of new Goshen College presidents, President Stoltzfus was dunked in the Schrock Plaza fountain by students.

Conference connections

This academic year we have 4 students enrolled from 4 Western District Conference congregations. Those churches generously pledged \$5,500 in congregational student aid for the academic year. The Goshen College Church Aid Matching Grant program provides a dollar-for-dollar match of the first \$1,000 per student and a 1:4 match after that, up to full tuition.

2018-19 Campus ministries theme

This year's Goshen College core value is Global Citizenship - out of which flows our Campus Ministries theme: #InThisTogether. At a very practical level, we are all #InThisTogether. We are a part of a community here at Goshen College - together. Students live in dorms and houses and apartments - together. We interact in classes - together. We gather to eat - together. We congregate for Convocations and Chapels - together. This is the reality of our lives. But the reality doesn't stop there. Our "togetherness" extends beyond our GC community to the communities that support us near and far. Ultimately our "togetherness" extends beyond Goshen, beyond this country, even beyond our human species to include the very earth that sustains us all and all the creatures that inhabit this earth with us. #InThisTogether calls us to own the reality that we are more connected than we sometimes acknowledge, and invites us to honor and value and support each member of our community as a part of a sacred whole.

Embracing our life together as sacred challenges us to be genuinely thoughtful in the ways we interact with each other, inspiring us to live in such a way as to extend our concern beyond ourselves and those closest to us. Our eyes are opened to reveal the ways our behaviors impact the people around us, the environment around us, the world around us. We are drawn to a universal ethic of compassion when we acknowledge that we all come from the same source, all made in the image of God, and all mysteriously connected spiritually, as well as in very practical ways. Our hope is to live into this reality throughout the year at Goshen College as we embrace the profound truth that we are #InThisTogether.

-Joanne Gallardo, Campus Pastor



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