**2018-19 –**For the 2018-19 year, Hesston College welcomed 420 students from 28 U.S. states and territories and 21 international countries, including 56 international students (*fall 2018 enrollment)*. Global engagement is a growing focus at Hesston College, and several initiatives are in place to increase the college’s global reach and transcultural opportunities for all students. “Being globally engaged is unquestionably what it means to be faithful followers of Jesus and that’s what we are at Hesston College,” said President Dr. Joseph Manickam.

Commencement was held May 18, with 144 graduates. Included were 39 students receiving Bachelors of Science Nursing degrees.

* 2018 graduate Mackenzie Miller participated in a global experience pilot program. Miller is spending August 2018 to July 2019 in China through a partnership with Mennonite Partners in China that is allowing her to study Mandarin at Nanjing Normal University, serve with a local organization and experience a new culture.
* Hesston developed an Intensive English Program, which allows the college to offer more services and support for English language learners coming to Hesston. The first cohort for the program begins in July.
* A transcultural program director is working to develop global travel opportunities that will allow students to experience different cultures.

**Capital campaign –** Hesston College met its fundraising goal of $5.25 million to secure a $750,000 challenge grant from the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation for the Be Greater capital campaign, and began work in January on facility renovations and additions for the college’s nursing and athletics programs. With about 41 percent of the student population enrolled in the college’s nursing and pre-nursing programs, and 36 percent who are athletes, nursing students and student-athletes comprise the two largest student populations on campus. The construction project will improve and add to facilities within these areas, better accommodate program needs and provide a better student experience. Estimated construction completion is fall 2019.

**Aviation approved for bachelor’s degree program-** In January, Hesston College was granted approval by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), the college’s accrediting agency, for a bachelor’s degree program in aviation-professional pilot. The college will welcome its first four-year degree seeking students in aviation with the start of the 2019-20 school year in August. The bachelor’s degree in aviation is the second baccalaureate program for Hesston College, joining the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, which began in 2015. Hesston will continue to offer the Associate of Applied Arts and Sciences – Professional Pilot degree, giving students options for their educational and professional goals.

**CNA course creates new opportunities for community partners –** For the spring 2019 semester, Hesston College started a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program in a partnership with Hesston High School and consultation with Schowalter Villa retirement community and nursing home. It was easy for the neighboring institutions to recognize the other as a natural partnership opportunity. The high school has student candidates that are often interested in CNA training and job options, while the college offers a highly-respected nursing program in an area rich with care facilities and CNA positions. Everyone was interested in meeting the needs and interests of students in the community.

**Physics faculty and students collaborate on published articles –** Hesston College physics professor, Joel Krehbiel, and physics professor emeritus, Nelson Kilmer, collaborated on two articles, with student collaboration on one, that were published in the January 2019 issue of *The Physics Teacher* journal.

**Congregational student aid** – Hesston College offers a match grant for scholarships provided by student churches. During the 2017-18 year, 52 churches contributed $95,172 in student scholarships to 76 recipients. Hesston College matched a total of $67,761. The average church aid per student was $1,252 while the average church-and-college aid per student was $2,144.  **If your congregation is interested in providing a scholarship program to support Mennonite higher education, contact the Church Relations Office at****866-437-7866****.**

Read these full stories and more at www.[hesston.edu](http://hesston.edu/). For questions or more information, contact Dallas Stutzman, director of Alumni and Church Relations toll free at 866-437-7866.

**2018-19 campus theme verse** – I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. – Isaiah 43:19, NRSV

**Western District Conference of Mennonite Church USA**

**Connections**

**2018-19 Congregational Student Aid –** 7 congregations provided $10,331 in tuition assistance for 9 students as of May 31, 2019.

**Hesston College Board of Directors** –

Barth Hague, Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton, KS

Dr. Joseph A. Manickam, President

Dallas Stutzman, Director of Alumni and Church Relations

Phyllis Weaver, Development Officer

Omar Reyes, Admissions Representative