



*Prepared to serve and
lead in a global context*

SUMMER 2020

WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE

EMU ANNUAL REPORT

President Susan Schultz Huxman sends warm greetings to the Western District Conference

This pandemic has been disruptive and disorienting, sad and scary on an unprecedented scale. Yet our students, faculty and staff have shown creativity and courage; responsiveness and resilience. From quickly getting all students safely back to their homes, including those studying abroad, to moving all courses and support services online, our campus community has shown an impressive “can-do” spirit. Our students validated this effort by responding to a recent survey with a 94% vote of confidence for the exemplary care they received through the all-on-line, personalized instruction and other key forms of support these last six weeks of the semester.

Now, along with every other college and university across the United States, we have moved nimbly from a rapid response stage to a repurposed virtual platform of learning, to now reimagining scenarios for the Fall. We intend to reopen for in person instruction this Fall, even as we will be ready to adopt any one of several scenarios.

EMU has much to build upon, including our reputation as a caring community of learners, with small classes and professors, mentors and coaches committed to walking with our students and nurturing them personally, socially, intellectually and spiritually. This was an appealing educational model before the pandemic for many students and parents. It may be even more important today.

We continue to commit to new pathways of access and opportunity with our new Emergency Student Compassion Fund and the UFund for Resilience, focused on helping students and our institution to help offset financial difficulties caused by this pandemic. (Visit emu.edu/resilience-funds for more information.)

We have expanded our outreach to offer wider engagement with EMU’s mission and values. The recent push into online learning, and EMU’s own 20 years of experience with online learning, has accelerated innovation in our areas of expertise. Our globally renowned Summer Peacebuilding Institute is now entirely online, and has welcomed more participants who could not get visas or afford to travel. We’ve expanded summer undergraduate offerings and reached into the healthcare and teacher education areas with special offerings related to restorative justice and trauma and resilience.

In this time of contraction and new growth, we invoke Psalms as we prepare, persist and pray together (*Psalms 46: 1-2; 10-11*). We continue to seek ways to be the loving embrace of God to each other and those in need, even at a physical distance. And we give thanks for the sustaining presence of you as well in this community.

How can EMU serve you?

Contact the church relations office to schedule the president or a faculty guest speaker:
540-432-4597 or
ChurchRelations@emu.edu

Western District Conference Connections to EMU

Undergraduate Students

Six undergraduate students from Western District Conference were enrolled in the spring 2020 semester.

Giving

Central Plains Mennonite Conference churches gave \$5,800 in matching church grants during the current fiscal year as of June 1, 2020.

- ▶ **Susan Schultz Huxman**, *president*
- ▶ **Kirk Shisler**, *vice president for advancement*
- ▶ **Jasmine Hardesty**, *director of development & planned giving*
- ▶ **Braydon Hoover**, *director of development & annual giving*
- ▶ **Matthew Ruth**, *director of admissions*

Our Vision

We will open new pathways of access and achievement for all students who aspire to grow as unifying leaders equipped with intercultural competence, oriented toward peace and justice, and rooted in an active faith modeled on the life and teachings of Jesus.