

Goshen College begins 125th anniversary year with focus on servant leadership

Goshen College President Rebecca Stoltzfus opened the 2019-20 academic year with an introduction to Goshen College's quasiquicentennial, or 125th anniversary, and a message about servant leadership, this year's core value focus. President Stoltzfus encouraged students and faculty to discover the potential that they want to develop to help bring about change in both the world and in themselves, with the hopes that our leadership be grounded in goodness and creative non-violence, no matter the scale.

President Stoltzfus introduced the notion of the "seven generations," an Iroquois idea that each of us alive in this time are being shaped by the seven generations who came before us, and we will affect the seven generations who come after us. Following the convocation, students took part in the annual applause tunnel, a 19-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 everyone participated in a student-led cheer and snacks.

Conference connections

This academic year we have 2 students enrolled from 2 Western District Conference congregations. Those churches generously pledged \$2,500 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.

2019-20 Campus ministries theme

This year's Goshen College core value is Servant Leadership from which we get our theme for the year: Serving God, Serving All.

Given our school motto, "Culture for service," students seek to live out this value on a daily basis. Whether this is through volunteering on campus, serving through SST, or participating in community justice, we know that in serving all, we connect to and also serve God.

This causes us to reflect on our own spiritual journey of both serving and being served. Students are ready to respond and act, be that in campus leadership positions, their church communities, or in their dorm on campus. Students are well acquainted with the idea of "pitching in" and helping others when need be. A sense of community, connectedness, and

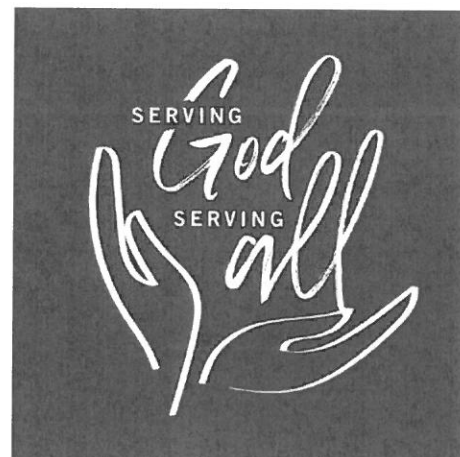
holistic transcendence happens when we serve and act as God's hands and feet on this earth.

But what does it mean to be served? I think this is a more difficult question for us to answer as we live out our spirituality. It's not as easy to ask for help and allow others to be of service to you. We place value in our pride and independence, ready to tout "interdependence" when it comes to other people. When it comes to ourselves, we're not nearly as magnanimous.

There's a shift in students when they realize that in their serving, they will also one day be the ones served. This usually comes with a lot of apologizing, minimizing, and avoidance. But as we all seek to find our way in the world, we come to realize that Christian community is at the heart of service. Some days, we will serve others, other days, we will be the ones in need of service. Realizing this balance can be humbling and serves as a growth experience for many students.

Part of our development as adults and as Christians is pulling ourselves out of the trap of self-centeredness and sufficiency and into the community of helpful believers. This also means finding your "niche" of service; the intersection of the world's needs and your unique passions, gifts, and talents. It is an honor to help students walk the way of faith while bearing these things in mind. It is my hope that this year we endeavor to serve God, and by serving God, serve all.

-Joanne Gallardo, Campus Pastor



For more information, contact Dan Koop Liechty, Director of Alumni Relations & International Student Adviser. Call (574) 535-7002 or e-mail churchrelations@goshen.edu.