



*EMU prepares students to serve
and lead in a global context*

SPRING 2024

WESTERN DISTRICT MENNONITE CONFERENCE

EMU ANNUAL REPORT

Greetings to our friends from President Huxman at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU)!

We are thankful for your support in prayer, advocacy, financial gifts, and sending us students who are fulfilling their call in all our educational programming. We are fortunate to have an impactful contingent of support from churches, agencies and visionary individuals as represented by our current students, loyal alumni, trustees, faculty and staff who call communities within this conference their home.

The 2023-2024 academic year has given us much, for which we are grateful. Highlights from this year are many, including:

- We have expanded programming and student access in our seminary (EMS) and the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding (CJP) thanks to donor support and major Lily Foundation grants. These combined efforts allow us to hire instructors and advisors, make it easier and more affordable for students, and to launch new programming, such as the continuing education program, Shalom Academy, in early January.
- We have launched our first ever comprehensive philanthropic campaign: “Forward Together, 2023-2028” after a third-party feasibility study indicated that a reservoir of goodwill from our loyal supporters would support a \$40M campaign with joy. This will be our largest campaign for people, programs and facilities.
- We have celebrated a new women’s networking and philanthropic group: “[Royal Women for EMU](#).” At the inaugural kick off, we honored 18 pioneering women from EMS, EMC, and EMU as part of a larger initiative to support diversity, equity and inclusion at EMU.
- The PBS Viewpoint Series with Dennis Quaid has been so impressed with our diversity, equity and inclusion work that they came to record a documentary on our campus in October.

As highlighted in our new strategic plan, “Pathways of Promise,” this is our moment to position EMU as a premier faith-inspired peace and justice university (see our “[Reaffirmation of EMU as a Peace and Justice University](#)” on the context of the Palestine-Israel atrocities.)

This is our challenge: to make a radical difference in educating more “bridge-builders” in our world today.

Psalm 119 gives us direction in navigating our polarizing times: “*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*” Our mission sets forth the ultimate “pathway of promise”— to follow Jesus, a pathway of enduring light well-marked as a lamp onto our feet.

In gratitude,

Susan Schultz Huxman, Ph.D.
President, EMU

How can EMU serve you?

Contact the church relations office to schedule the president or a faculty guest speaker:
540-432-4200 or
ChurchRelations@emu.edu

Western District Conference Connections to EMU

Students

Spring semester 2024 has eight undergraduate students from the Western District Mennonite Conference.

Giving

Western District Mennonite Conference churches gave \$15,200 in matching church grants to their students during the year ending June 2023.

- ▶ **Susan Schultz Huxman**,
president
- ▶ **Kirk Shisler**, *vice president for advancement*
- ▶ **Braydon Hoover**, *associate vice president of advancement*
- ▶ **Mary Jensen**, *vice president for enrollment and strategic growth*
- ▶ **Luke Litwiller**, *director of undergrad 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.