

REPORT

WINTER 2014



From the President

Anticipation! "Through the Spirit's omnipotence, Jesus comes through the gospel into human hearts, into your hearts and mine. And yes, he will come again in all glory and majesty, with angels once more heralding the arrival. Now life on the pilgrimage is filled with purposeful anticipation. We can't wait to see the Savior, who comes to change this lowly body, to transform it to be like him. By God's grace we have a life with a powerful purpose. By God's grace we are instruments of the Spirit every time we reach out with the gospel in word and deed. We live with a quiet but constant excitement: Jesus is coming! He is coming soon. May the Christ Child empower each of us to help souls look ahead, with comfort and confidence and cheer.



Leadership in Ministry - Across WELS

MLC is listening: MLC President Mark Zarling, Vice President Mike Otterstatter, and many other MLC representatives are attending conferences around WELS to report for MLC and, more important, to listen to your questions and concerns. We have heard about interest in early childhood ministry, excitement about the introduction of a special education major, thankfulness for our Mandarin offerings, concern about rising student debt, and questions about men and women professors at MLC related to the application of the biblical principles, to name a few. We value these opportunities to visit your districts and to report our findings for further consideration.

Lifelong education - by the numbers: At the time of this report, 122 graduate students are pursuing a Master of Science in Education degree through MLC. By emphasis, they are enrolled in educational technology – 13, instruction – 39, leadership – 43, and special education – 27. Looking ahead, the May 2014 MS Ed graduating class should be the largest ever. Continuing Education reported an unduplicated fall 2013 enrollment of 245, which represents a 42% increase over the fall 2012 semester.

Steady progress in New Teacher Induction: New Teacher Induction (NTI), which includes mentoring, training seminars for beginning teachers, and mentor observations, continues to focus on growing its partnerships with the WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools and the New Teacher Center in Santa Cruz CA. NTI is presently working in five districts (Southeast, Western, and Northern Wisconsin; Minnesota; and South Atlantic) and recently welcomed the Nebraska and South Central districts. At the time of this report, 37 trained teachers are actively mentoring and 15 more are being trained. Fifty-one first-year teachers and 26 second-year teachers have trained mentors. The goal for NTI is to have as many of our May 2014 graduates assigned a mentor as possible. For more information on NTI, contact Professor Jon Schaefer schaefjm@mlc-wels.edu.

Hosting future Knights on campus: Our Focus on Ministry weekends have been scheduled around larger events on campus such as Homecoming, fall musical, and our second annual Tip-Off Tournament. In total this semester we will have welcomed over 500 high school students and chaperones for the Focus on Ministry weekends. Our in-house research shows that approximately 50% of seniors who visit during Focus on Ministry weekends enroll the next year at MLC. Thank you to everyone who encourages our young people to consider serving in the public ministry. If you are interested in a campus visit or more enrollment information, contact our Admissions Office at 507-354-8221 ext. 280.

THE MLC REPORT



Leadership in Ministry - On and Off Campus

Tuition Freedom Day at MLC: Surveys show the ever-rising cost of college is one of the top financial concerns of American families. Students who attend Martin Luther College are no different. In 2013, 84% of our graduates incurred an average of \$21, 997 in student loan indebtedness. Students pay approximately 57% of the total cost of their ministry training. The remaining 43% comes from MLC's synod subsidy/congregational mission offerings (20%), donor-funded scholarships and grants (16%), and government grants (7%). In appreciation of these gifts, MLC is hosting its annual "Tuition Freedom Day." This is the first day on which the average student has met all his or her financial obligations for the cost of college. Tuition for the rest of the year will be paid for by the synod, donors, and the government. This year that day is January 29. Please join the MLC family in expressing gratitude to the thousands of Christian brothers and sisters who generously support our ministry. Visit our website for more details on Tuition Freedom Day.

Enrollment figures: The Lord has blessed MLC with stable opening enrollments over the last six years, with fluctuations limited to less than one percent each year. Our official fall opening enrollment for 2013-2014 was 714 students on campus. Other colleges include graduate, continuing ed, and part-time students in their enrollments. Using that formula, MLC's unduplicated first-semester enrollment was 965 students. Our unofficial semester two opening enrollment is 696, up slightly from 2013. Application numbers look strong for the fall of 2014 as well. We are reinforcing a goal first established with area Lutheran high schools (ALHS) in February 2007—to enroll 10% of ALHS grads every year. We are grateful for continued recruitment efforts from all ALHS and prep schools.

Auxiliary online donations: MLC Ladies' Auxiliary has adopted an ambitious slate of projects this year totaling over \$17,000. These projects fund non-budgeted materials for many different departments, including scholarships, outreach programs, classroom materials, and music equipment. A new program of the Auxiliary is called "Befriend an MLC Student." This program matches students with individuals and congregations who provide encouragement in the form of cards, emails, or visits during the school year. Email mlcinfo@mlc-wels.edu for more details. Another exciting opportunity for Auxiliary supporters is the ability to donate online. From the "Give to MLC" link on our website, donations to the Auxiliary can be selected from the drop-down menu on the donation page. For more information, contact our Mission Advancement Office: 507.354.8221 ext. 295.

New Early Childhood Learning Center a reality: Many Homecoming visitors attended the dedication of the new state-of-the-art Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) Sunday, October 27. With 59 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers enrolled and 18 student teaching slots filled, the ECLC is an important part of MLC's early childhood education program. "With the growing program at MLC, more students needed places to student teach," said Professor Jennifer Mehlberg, the ECLC director. "The new center allows for that. There are also opportunities for students to come and observe the children to apply what they're learning in their courses." We are also excited to report that the *Let the Children Come* campaign has received sufficient gifts and commitments to fund the construction of the ECLC. We thank our Lord for our partnership with the Ministry of Christian Giving and for opening the hearts of so many to support early childhood education which continues to bring more and more children to the knowledge of our Savior Jesus.

Let the Children Come gift report

Total Gifts and Commitments Received: \$3,738,000

Toward the New Building: \$3,544,000

Toward Scholarships/Program: \$ 194,000



If you have questions related to this report or other matters related to our ministry at Martin Luther College, contact us at mlcinfo@mlc-wels.edu.