



2017 Annual Report to the Synods

Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.

Enrollment

Fall 2017 enrollment was 1,527 students from 30 U.S. states and 55 countries. This number included international students and U.S. students of color, who constitute 21 percent, a record number being Hispanic.

Transforming Tomorrow Campaign

Transforming Tomorrow raised a total of \$89.5 million, exceeding the \$75 million goal. The five-year comprehensive campaign resulted in investments across campus, including more than 60 new donor-funded scholarships. More information can be found at www.wartburg.edu/transform.

Focus on the Future

Wartburg engaged more than 150 alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends of the College in an examination of strategic opportunities in today's challenging environment for higher education. There were seven task forces – three focused on academic innovation, two on dimensions of student success, and two on expanding our reach.

Reformation Celebration

Wartburg commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in numerous ways. The following represent some of the highlights:

- Wartburg hosted “Spirited Expression: A Celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation” on Oct. 31, featuring music leadership by Dr. Karen Black, college organist, and the Wartburg Choir and Dr. Lee Nelson, conductor, with remarks by the Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kleinhans, Mike and Marge McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission.
- A documentary “The Wartburg Choir in Germany: Celebrating 500 Years of the Reformation” followed the choir on its May Term tour through several German towns with strong ties to the College and the Reformation.
- The Rev. Louise N. Johnson, president of Wartburg Theological Seminary, received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree during the College's fall Opening Convocation.

Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry

- In October, Wartburg completed the initial phase of a review of Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry, thanks to the generous support of the Siebert Foundation and other donors. On Oct. 31, more than 280 students, faculty, and staff gathered for Table Talks to discuss Wartburg's commitment to faith and learning and the future of Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry. Participants learned about recommendations from the program review and provided feedback:
 - Wartburg could do a better job articulating its identity as a College of the Church. Recommendation: Draft a theological identity statement for the College and ensure that it is used with all new community members to introduce them to the College.
 - The campus religious environment has become more decentralized and tribal. Recommendation: Experiment with different staffing models that distribute ministry leaders throughout campus.
 - Students cite classes as one of their most important opportunities for spiritual discussion and growth. Recommendation: Seek better integration of SLCM's work in the academic curriculum.

Recognition

- The Rev. Dr. Ramona Bouzard, dean of the Chapel and Moehlmann Chaplaincy Chair, announced her retirement as of June 2018, after 24 years of service to the College.
- The Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kleinhans retired from her position as McCoy Chair to serve as dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University.
- Dr. Diane Levy Jacobson, Luther Seminary professor emerita of the Old Testament, was the 2017 Graven Award recipient. The annual award for Christian vocation continues to highlight the powerful and positive effect of a strong sense of Christian vocation as it interfaces with service to community, the church, and the world.
- Dr. August Waltmann '64 received the Wartburg Medal in recognition of his sustained service to the College.

- President Darrel Colson serves on the executive committee of the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities (NECU). He participated in the multi-year process that produced *Rooted and Open: The Common Calling of the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities*, which the Wartburg Board of Regents affirmed at its February 2018 meeting.

Academic Programs

- Wartburg received reaffirmation of its accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.
- The Board of Regents approved a Master of Arts in Music Therapy, which will be the College's first graduate program. This was approved by the Higher Learning Commission and will commence in Fall 2018.
- A \$500,000 grant from The Kern Family Foundation allowed Wartburg College to enter into partnership with Wartburg Theological Seminary to streamline preparation for pastoral ministry for some students. See details on Wartburg College and Wartburg Seminary websites.
- Wartburg is offering a digital ministry class that helps ordained and lay leaders use technology to enhance all aspects of their ministry. The course is offered on campus, with an online option for those not in or near Waverly.

We are blessed to work with optimistic and enthusiastic students committed to leadership and service. Thank you for supporting these young people who bring such rich gifts to our community.

Darrel D. Colson, President