
CENTRAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE CHURCH USA REPORT
March 2019

Starting 2018-19 – Hesston College kicked off the 2018-19 year with Opening Weekend Aug. 17 to 19 and the first day of classes Aug. 20. The student body represents 28 U.S. states and territories and 21 international countries, and includes 56 international students. Global engagement is a growing focus at Hesston College with several initiatives in place to increase the college’s global reach and transcultural opportunities for all students. “Being globally engaged is unquestionably what it means to be faithful followers of Jesus and that’s what we are at Hesston College,” said President Dr. Joseph Manickam. “We can’t sit unto ourselves, in our own bubble. Hesston College has something to offer the world, and we are being beckoned to engage widely. It’s the missional mandate of following Jesus.”

- 2018 graduate Mackenzie Miller is the participant in a global experience pilot program. Miller is spending the year in China through a partnership with Mennonite Partners in China that is allowing her to study Mandarin at Nanjing Normal University, serve with a local organization and experience a new culture.
- Hesston is developing an Intensive English Program, which would allow the college to offer more services and support for English language learners coming to Hesston.
- A transcultural program director is working to develop global travel opportunities that will allow students to experience different cultures.

Capital campaign – Hesston College met its fundraising goal of \$5.25 million to secure a \$750,000 challenge grant from the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation for the Be Greater capital campaign, which will provide facility renovations and additions for the college’s nursing and athletics programs. With about 41 percent of the student population enrolled in the college’s nursing and pre-nursing programs, and 36 percent who are athletes, nursing students and student-athletes comprise the two largest student populations on campus. The campaign will improve and add to facilities within these areas, as the current spaces are not sufficient to accommodate program needs and inhibit the full student experience. Ground breaking started December 2018, with completion in September 2019.

AVDS conference “Growing More Like Jesus from the Outside In” - Hesston College’s 2019 Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series (AVDS) conference explored “Growing More Like Jesus from the Outside In: Transforming Heart and Mind,” February 1 to 3. Partnering with Mark Scandrette, internationally-recognized expert in Christian spirituality and founder of ReIMAGINE: A Center for Integral Christian Practice, the conference offered a time of spiritual formation grounded in community and full of healing and hope in our everyday lives. Conference information can be found at hesston.edu/avds.

Aviation program establishes industry partnership - In an effort to provide a variety of continuing education and career opportunities to students, Hesston College Aviation recently established a partnership with SkyWest Airlines, a passenger airline company that operates in partnership with Delta Airlines, United Airlines and Alaska Airlines. As an official SkyWest Airlines Partner School, students from Hesston’s aviation program will gain a more streamlined and efficient pathway to transition into a flying career at SkyWest through the Pilot Pathway Program.

Congregational student aid – Hesston College offers a match grant for scholarships provided by student churches. During the 2017-18 year, 52 churches contributed \$95,172 in student scholarships to 76 recipients. Hesston College matched a total of \$67,761. The average church aid per student was \$1,252 while the average church-and-college aid per student was \$2,144. **If your congregation is interested in providing a scholarship program to support Mennonite higher education, contact the Church Relations Office at 866-437-7866.**

Read these full stories and more at www.hesston.edu. For questions or more information, contact Dallas Stutzman, director of Alumni and Church Relations toll free at 866-437-7866.

2018-19 campus theme verse – I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. – Isaiah 43:19, NRSV

**Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA
Statistics and Connections**

2018-19 Academic Year Students – 1

Congregational Student Aid – 1 congregation provided \$1,000 in tuition assistance for 1 student as of March 15, 2019.

Unified and Designated Giving – We are grateful for the financial support of conference churches to Mennonite colleges and Mennonite Education Agency through Unified and Designated Giving and for personal contributions given from individuals.

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