



## 2020 Report to Central District Conference

### BLUFFTON BLUEPRINT:

*A new general education program to prepare students for a future that will be different than anyone can imagine.*

Bluffton University is in its first year of implementing a new general education program designed to prepare students for today's challenges while remaining grounded in the arts and sciences. Through the Bluffton Blueprint, four foundational courses with experiential components woven into the curriculum, students will reflect on specific values and themes to help them discover their greater purpose in life. Taken in a sequence, each course relates to one of Bluffton's enduring values of Discovery, Community, Respect and Service.

#### YEAR 1

First-year students take *Becoming a Scholar*, a class which introduces young people to college-level learning. The course features **The Great Adventure**, a fall break experience mentored by faculty. Surrounded by the vast natural beauty of The Great Smoky Mountains, students reflect on the question **"Who am I?"**

#### YEAR 2

In their sophomore year, Bluffton students take **Learning in Community**. Hands-on community partnerships developed specifically for this class in nearby, Lima, Ohio, allow our students to get an early look at how they can make a difference in their field of study. During this experience students answer the question **"Who am I in community?"**

#### YEAR 3

A pivotal element of a Bluffton education, students often take their **cross-cultural experience** in their junior year of study. These explorations for growth and understanding allow students to reflect on the question **"Who am I in the world?"** as they explore a range of new locations from Appalachia to Israel/Palestine.

#### YEAR 4

A Bluffton education comes full-circle during the final course in the Bluffton Blueprint, **Christian Values in a Global Community**. In this course, students are challenged to answer the same question posed to John the Baptist, **"What then shall we do?"** Students graduate from Bluffton understanding how to use their talents to serve the greater global community.

In addition to the Bluffton Blueprint, students choose courses from a variety of core competencies to complete Bluffton's new general education curriculum.

### Thank you!

Bluffton University currently enrolls ten students from Central District Conference churches. **Lydia Lugibihl, Andrew Renner, Caitlyn Renner, Ben Weaver**, Grace Mennonite; **Nthathi Phetlhu, Therisanyo Phetlhu**, First Mennonite; **Jeffrey Strayer**, Columbus Mennonite; **Deborah Yoder**, Assembly Mennonite; **Phoebe Adams, Grace Zickafoose**, Lima Mennonite. Matching Scholarship support is \$8,000 for 2019-20.

CDC-appointed representatives on Bluffton's Board of Trustees include **Heather Reichenbach**, Eighth Street Mennonite, Goshen, Ind.; **Jane Roeschley**, Mennonite Church of Normal, Normal, Ill.; and **Kerry Strayer**, Columbus Mennonite, Columbus, Ohio.

Find us on the web  
and social media!  
[www.bluffton.edu](http://www.bluffton.edu)

For more information, contact  
**Hans Houshower**  
Vice president for advancement  
[houshowerh@bluffton.edu](mailto:houshowerh@bluffton.edu)