



*Prepared to serve and
lead in a global context*

SUMMER 2020

CENTRAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE

EMU ANNUAL REPORT

Greetings from President Huxman

Greetings to our many congregational communities across the Church. Here at EMU we take our educational mission seriously: *“to prepare students to serve and lead in a global context” in the spirit of Scripture “to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.”*

Our Enrollment Success: We are off to a great start this spring, with higher enrollment than over the past two years and an 85% retention rate, far above the national average. A larger group of transfer students has helped us to a significantly healthy budget margin. Mennonite students comprise one-quarter of our traditional undergraduate student body. Thank you for sending us students and for church matching grant programs—what a beautiful gift!

Our Fundraising Success: Our advancement team worked effectively to meet ambitious annual giving goals, exceeding 2018 contributions to the University Fund by 4 percent for a total of \$1,720,418. A prestigious CASE fundraising award recognized consistent performance and stewardship. I thank our church partners for contributing to this successful bottom line!

Our Brand Refresh Campaign: After extensive market research with hundreds of stakeholders, we discovered much congruence between what we think about ourselves and what outsiders do. EMU is known for superb academic and job placement but above all else as a caring and supportive campus. We graduate students who are not afraid of conflict, who know how to engage difference responsibly, and who can “serve and lead” teams in their workplace well.

Our new tagline, “Lead Together,” puts students at the center of our work and emphasizes our unique value proposition. It suggests “creative tension” congruent with an Anabaptist “Third Way.” The line takes two unusually paired words, one stressing independence and the other stressing dependence, and shows that “Lead Together” “Learn Together” “Live Together” and all the other things we do together (build, discover, grow, worship, play, achieve, etc.) is healthy, humane, and hugely important to the kind of “success” that truly matters in our highly fractured and polarized world. It’s a tagline well positioned for our times.

In other news: EMU was ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* and the *Wall Street Journal*. The *Sierra Club* rated us as a “Cool School” recognizing EMU’s strong commitment to environmentalism and sustainability ... We are pleased to confer the Distinguished Service Alumni Award at Homecoming and Family Weekend to Wu Wei MDiv ’06, president of all the Christian churches in China... This year several core programs celebrate anniversaries, including the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding, 25 years; the seminary’s Clinical Pastoral Education program, 20 years; and the Center for Interfaith Engagement, 10 years. Check out www.emu.edu/news to learn more about joining the celebrations.

Thank you for your partnership in prayer and support.

How can EMU serve you?

Contact the church relations office to schedule the president or a faculty guest speaker:
540-432-4597 or
ChurchRelations@emu.edu

Connecting to EMU

- ▶ **Susan Schultz Huxman**,
president
- ▶ **Kirk Shisler**, *vice president for advancement*
- ▶ **Jasmine Hardesty**, *director of development & planned giving*
- ▶ **Braydon Hoover**, *director of development & annual giving*
- ▶ **Matthew Ruth**, *director of admissions*

Our Vision

EMU envisions a learning community marked by academic excellence, creative expression, professional competence, and passionate Christian faith, offering healing and hope in our diverse world. To this end, we commit ourselves to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.