
CENTRAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE CHURCH USA
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY REPORT
Spring 2020

2019-20 snapshot – For the 2019-20 academic year, 386 students represent 32 U.S. states and territories and 25 countries. The college welcomed 192 new students in August, up eight from the previous year, swinging the new student number back in a positive direction. The domestic student population includes 51% from Kansas and 35% from other states and territories. Domestic minority students are 25% of the population. International students comprise 14% of the population. Mennonite students represent 19% of the campus' more than 25 Christian denominations and global faith traditions.

New in 2019-20

- A bachelor of science degree in aviation-professional pilot. With the aviation industry facing a world-wide pilot shortage, Hesston College responded by offering more robust pilot training in its 49-year-old program. This year, the program is flying 47 students, including 15 first-year students and four juniors part of the first bachelor's degree class.
- Vision 2025 is the institutional plan that will add four-year degree programs in select in-demand programs that not only provide a strong foundation, but also upper-level curriculum linked to industry partners. Nursing and aviation are current bachelor degree programs, with research and development underway for possibilities in business and engineering.
- Hesston College welcomed its first cohort of students in a new Intensive English Language Program in the fall. The semester-long program allows the college to offer more services and support for English language learners. Other new programs: Honors Degree Program, Quiz Bowl team and transcultural bridge year experiences.

Center for Anabaptist Leadership and Learning – Hesston College's Center for Anabaptist Leadership and Learning (CALL) will launch in Fall 2020. CALL is a new ministry program geared towards pastors and other adult learners who desire more training as church leaders. It will be a hybrid of online and in-person learning that seeks to equip leaders for ministry and discipleship in daily life as ambassadors of Jesus Christ. CALL will operate with a variety of educational experiences. The primary experience will be a hybrid online certificate in missional leadership, well-suited for those interested in church leadership education and for pastors with advanced degrees interested in further missional training. The program also offers Weekend College, a short-term non-credit educational opportunity geared towards congregational or other group learning. Weekend College focuses on specific topics, such as Hesston's famous Biblical Literature course, Five-fold Church Leadership or peacemaking and justice. For more information, go to hesston.edu/call.

Capital campaign – During the fall 2019 semester, Hesston College completed construction of three projects part of the \$6.5 million Be Greater capital campaign. Elements included the addition of the nearly 10,000 square foot Bonnie Sowers Nursing Center, a gym renovation of the Yost Center athletic facilities, as well as additions of a building entrance and lobby and fitness center/weight training facility, and a new on-campus Bess Mullet Softball Field. 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 facilities were dedicated during Homecoming, Sept. 27 to 29.

Peacing It Together – Hesston College recently partnered with internationally-acclaimed baritone, Tony Brown, on a program called Peacing It Together, that uses music and the spoken word to spread the messages of peace and social justice. Resourced primarily by Brown and Hesston College students, the programming uses individual's stories to build increased understanding between diverse people, cultures and faith traditions. Learn more at hesston.edu/peacing-it-together.

Congregational student aid – Hesston College offers a match grant for scholarships provided by student churches. During the 2018-19 year, 48 churches contributed \$74,792 in student scholarships to 60 recipients. Hesston College matched a total of \$53,785. The average church aid per student was \$1,247 while the average church-and-college aid per student was \$2,143. **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.

2019-20 campus theme verse – The parable of the mustard seed. Mark 4:30-32, NIV

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

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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