



ROBERTS
WESLEYAN COLLEGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The celebrations of our Sesquicentennial during 2016 were exciting and rejuvenating to all of us at Roberts Wesleyan College and Northeastern Seminary. We are still overflowing with gratitude for the joys and the blessings of the Lord! Our theme for the year, *Building on Hope*, comes from knowing the work we are doing is making a difference in the lives of our students, faculty, staff and the greater community.

We have much to celebrate: We have launched 8 new academic programs and are moving forward with approvals for 7 more. Our Redhawk Athletes are setting records and earning distinctions in the NCAA Division II. In the last year we have achieved 18 recognitions or listings in state and national published rankings for higher education, including 2017 Best Value Christian Colleges & Universities (Ranked 50th). Our enrollment in all areas is healthy and trending in a positive direction and the Seminary is pushing to launch our first fully online program this fall in Transformational Leadership.

More important than these accomplishments, however, are the “conversations that matter” that we are having on our campus. Like those of our founder, these conversations arise from a perspective of faith in response to the topics and challenges of the day. We have been actively and publicly responding to our governor’s budget proposal, which poses a threat to us and other independent colleges. We are engaging in conversations around the experiences of all students on Christian college campuses, including those from more diverse and marginalized communities. We have led a focused effort to achieve *God-honoring diversity* in our faculty, staff and student body by considering new hiring practices, positions and focused initiatives. These conversations are not easy but are needed in order to continue to appropriately reflect the Image of God on our campus and in our work, and in order to help our students learn to live in an ever changing world. And we are continuing our board conversation with the faculty and staff around *Institutional Identity*, remaining anchored in our faith yet engaged in the world.

We are grateful to God our Father for His blessings and for the good discipline that shapes us and causes us to become better. By His grace we can say that this is the best year in the history of Roberts Wesleyan College and Northeastern Seminary!

“For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 3:9-11

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Deana L. Porterfield, President

LEGACY 150 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Nearly \$14M has been raised for the Crothers Science & Nursing Center; over \$6M to the Roberts Wesleyan Annual Fund; \$1.6M for the Northeastern Seminary Annual Fund; \$17.6 M for Roberts Endowment and \$4.3M for Northeastern Endowment. With over \$43M raised to date, we have already exceeded the \$42M goal and continue to focus on growing our gifts through the final day of the campaign on June 30, 2017.

150
YEARS

ENROLLMENT AND ACADEMICS SNAPSHOT

Total Students — 1708 | Ethnic Minorities: 28.7% | Female: 72.1%

Traditional Undergraduates — 1025 | Minority Ethnicities: 25.4% | International: 5.1% | Female: 66% | Male: 44%

Non-Traditional Adult Undergrads — 291 | **Graduate** — 382

Bridge to Earning, Living & Learning (BELL) — 12 | **English Language Institute** — 12

Degrees Granted (2015-16)

- Traditional Undergraduate: 266
- Nontraditional Undergraduate: 172
- Traditional Masters: 94
- Nontraditional Masters: 127
- BELL: 5

8 New programs (2015-2016)

- English to Speakers of Other Languages
- Psy.D. — Clinical/School Psychology
- Health Administration (online)
- Homeland Security & Applied Intelligence
- Sports Management & Marketing
- Social Work degree completion at TTI
- Exercise Science
- Media

SESQUICENTENNIAL

Homecoming 2016 was our biggest and most spectacular yet with over 2,500 people joining us as we celebrated our 150th anniversary, showcasing our history and the influential relationships that continue to impact our community today. Benjamin Titus Roberts was there “in person” (aka Paul Patton, professor at Spring Arbor University) and participated in talks focusing on B.T. Roberts’ legacy and the relevance for today. There was a special 150th Anniversary Concert on Friday night that featured alumni musicians and soloists, along with a *Legacy Luncheon* which hosted current and former board members spanning five presidencies, and welcomed back all living presidents and spouses. In September we had the Earnest Christianity Conference and Academic Day that featured premiere writers and speakers on B.T. Roberts’ theology and mission; a collection of essays was also published. Our 150th year ended with a very special Christmas Gala concert and reception, which raised over \$15,000 for music student scholarships.

REDHAWKS

The College now has 19 NCAA DII teams. Roberts Wesleyan College added women’s bowling in the fall 2016 and is the only college in the Rochester area to offer women’s bowling as an intercollegiate sport. Swimming will become an intercollegiate sport beginning in fall 2017. The women’s and men’s team will use the college’s swimming pool in the Voller Athletic Center for practices and dual meets. It will also compete in larger regional invitational meets.

Roberts Wesleyan College was named as a finalist for the 2017 Division II Award of Excellence for “The Game”. This nomination recognizes positive campus and community engagement events hosted during the past year. “The Game” was a collaborative performance that featured the men’s and women’s basketball teams who put on a choreographed routine to a score performed by the wind ensemble.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Progress continues on the strategic plan across the campus at both the College and Seminary. The College Strategic Map focuses on *Engaged Campus Community*, *Innovative Growth* and *Transformational Partnerships*. The Seminary Strategic Map will *Embody Diversity*, *Accentuate Relevance* and *Extend Impact*. Together both strategies will move forward the missions of the College and Seminary, allowing us to reach a greater number of students and impact this world through our graduates.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Spiritual life at Roberts gives students opportunities to grow in the faith and put their faith into practice through worship, service, and participating in ministry. We have hired a part-time Director of Chapel Music to give musical and spiritual leadership to our worship teams. This has taken our music teams to the next level. In addition, we have added a prayer team and a scripture reading team to engage students in the planning and participation in chapel services. This year we began our Discovery program, a series of three events for our first year and sophomore students designed to help them explore God’s calling, purposes, and directions for their lives. The Discovery Desserts and Dinners, and the Sophomore Retreat have been meaningful to many who have participated. Our pilot programs will be refreshed this spring so they are ready for full implementation in the fall. Spiritual Emphasis week in the fall highlighted Bishop David Roller of the Free Methodist Church with a week focused upon “Finding Your Story in God’s Story.” This spring our Spiritual Emphasis week focused upon our athletes. Josh Sonoga, Regional Director of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, spoke in chapel throughout the week, hosted a breakfast with our coaches, and had extended sessions with eleven of our sports teams. Mission trips this year include a Habitat for Humanity group going to South Carolina in February and a May trip to Ireland to help regional workers with after school programs and camping ministry. Our Roberts Enactus team continues with their commitments in Guatemala.