

# REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

2015-16

STEVEN C. BAHLS

September 2016

## GENEROSITY CHANGES LIVES

We offer our grateful thanks to Augustana's alumni and friends who gifted more than \$10.8 million in philanthropy to support, sustain and enrich the distinctive Augustana College experience this past year.

More than \$6.6 million in gifts from alumni are a testimony to the transformative power of an Augustana education and the confidence alumni have in Augustana College as their alma mater. Our parents, friends and corporate support joined in gifting \$4.2 million in resources to fulfill the college mission.

Together, Augustana donors provided \$2.5 million to the Augustana Fund for vital support for annual scholarships, to equip faculty with the best teaching resources and to bring innovative programs that link learning outcomes both in and out of the classroom. Additions of more than \$4.3 million to the endowment created "forever" scholarships, faculty positions and program funds to sustain educational opportunities for the many generations to come. And gifts in support of campus building projects and academic programs brought \$4 million to make every Augustana student's experience exceptional.

This report shares highlights from the 2015-16 college year and illustrates what we do when we join together to ensure the transformative Augustana experience continues to prepare students for rewarding lives of leadership and service.

## FACULTY CHOOSE SEMESTER CALENDAR

The college has operated on a trimester schedule since 1992, one of a handful of Illinois colleges to do so. This past spring Augustana faculty voted to move from a trimester calendar to a semester calendar. The Board of Trustees will vote on the recommendation in October. Moving to semesters is expected to create some financial and work-related efficiencies, offer new educational opportunities for our students, help increase student retention and make it easier for students to transfer to Augustana from other colleges. If approved by trustees, this transition will require at least three years of planning, with fall 2019 being the earliest date for a switch to semesters.

## KEEPING FIVE FAITH COMMITMENTS CURRENT

Created in 2004, Augustana's *Five Faith Commitments* is a statement that clarifies the college's mission and values. The statement has been referred to by Rev. Mark Hanson, then the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), as a model for spelling out precisely what it means to be a college related to the ELCA. This past academic year, a group of faculty, administrators, pastors and friends of the college were appointed by President Bahls to take another look at the *Five Faith Commitments*. Members of the group were grateful for the significant initiatives that have been spurred by the statement in the past years. And they made revisions to keep the *Five Faith Commitments* current and life-giving: [www.augustana.edu/fivefaiths](http://www.augustana.edu/fivefaiths).

## GIVING BY THE NUMBERS

- Total # of Presidents Society individual and corporate members: **811**
- Total \$ from Presidents Society members: more than **\$8 million**
- Total # of Augustana Founders members: **600** (including 69 new members)

## LEARNING COMMONS AND STUDENT SUCCESS

To help every student develop more successful habits, both for college and later in life, Augustana created the Learning Commons. This **new center for student academic support services** is centrally located on the fourth floor of The Gerber Center for Student Life. The Learning Commons includes the Reading/Writing Center, English as a Second Language services and an extensive network of other academic services and programs, including about 90 peer tutors in all subject areas. **CORE (Careers, Opportunities, Research and Exploration)** was a major investment in Augustana's strategic plan in 2014 to reenvision and expand student support and enrichment services to dramatically improve both the learning experiences and prospects for graduates in terms of employment or postgraduate work. The integration of the Learning Commons is essentially a doubling down on that investment. Visit [www.augustana.edu/topscores](http://www.augustana.edu/topscores) for students' CORE success stories.

## 168 STUDENTS RECEIVE ACCESS TO EXCELLENCE AWARDS

In 2014, President Bahls attended a White House summit on expanding college opportunity. At this summit, 85 colleges and universities across the country pledged to help more low-income students attend and succeed in college. To fulfill this promise, Augustana established donor-funded Access to Excellence awards to assist proven high-achieving students when traditional financial aid is not enough. Access to Excellence awards reduce these students' annual financial need by between \$2,500 and \$5,000. In the fall of 2015, 168 Augustana students received Access to Excellence awards totaling \$668,715.

## ALL IN FOR SENIOR INQUIRY

Building on Augustana's tradition of student-faculty collaborative research, Senior Inquiry continues to thrive at the heart of the college's academic program and strategic plan. Senior Inquiry refers to the expectation that students will produce a culminating project in an inquiry-based curriculum that asks them to synthesize, analyze and reflect on their coursework in the major, their broad college experience and its relationship to the needs of the community. Rather than instituting prescribed requirements, academic departments have developed Senior Inquiry programs for their majors that meet a set of guidelines. By the end of the 2015-16 academic year, all majors incorporated Senior Inquiry.

### New named scholarships, program funds

Eight new endowed scholarships and program funds were created by alumni and friends this past year, providing our students with even more opportunities.

- Ronald B. Anderson '56 and Nancy Wolfe Anderson '56 Scholarship
- Allen J. Bowman and LeRoy A. Swanson Scholarship
- Diane Gustafson Hill Endowed Scholarship
- Zachary and Kristin Larson Scholarship
- Winge Lippert Endowed Scholarship
- Ken '62 and Marilyn Palmer '62 Hofstetter Scholarship
- Vicki L. Sommer Women's and Gender Studies Fund
- Edward W. Thorson Upper Mississippi River Studies Endowment

## WESTERLIN'S MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR FACELIFT

This summer Augustana completed the renovation of the second of three wings of Westerlin Residence Center, the college's largest residence hall with more than 450 students. It's a complete makeover of every room, bathroom and public lounge and includes new floor coverings, built-in amenities and windows, as well as air conditioning. The third Westerlin wing is scheduled for renovation next summer, completing the \$13.5 million project.

## ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN RANKINGS

Five more Augustana student-athletes were honored as Academic All-Americans in 2015-2016, bringing our total to 163. Here's how Augustana currently ranks in number of Academic All-Americans:

- No. 1** CCIW
- No. 1** State of Illinois
- No. 3** Division III
- No. 7** Division I, Division II and Division III

## COLLEGE'S ACCREDITATION REAFFIRMED

The Higher Learning Commission visit team arrived on campus in the fall of 2015 to review the college's ongoing ability to meet the commission's Criteria for Accreditation. These are the standards of quality by which the commission determines whether an institution merits accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation. They are (1) mission, (2) integrity: ethical and responsible conduct, (3) teaching and learning: quality, resources and support, (4) teaching and learning: evaluation and improvement, and (5) resources, planning and institutional effectiveness. In early March, the college reached a significant milestone when it received word that the HLC had reaffirmed its accreditation until 2025-26.

## NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- Augustana students looking to make their mark on the world have another entry in the health field, a **new major in public health** that opens an array of career fields, while drawing on the college's strong tradition in the liberal arts and health sciences. The field of public health, as its name implies, encompasses almost every aspect of a person's well-being, from public policy on genetic testing to public safety issues such as seat belts and contagious diseases. As a result, students can approach it from almost any discipline, using traditional paths like health and biology, or blazing new trails through business and law. And in many cases, students who pursue public health will find not only a growing job market, but also vocational job satisfaction built around community engagement and impact.
- Fresh Films, the non-profit arm of Chicago-based Dreaming Tree Films, Inc., and Augustana signed a partnership in early 2016 to house the **film studio on campus**. A film studio is a rare resource for a liberal arts college to offer undergraduates. Augustana's partnership provides career pathways for students in a variety of areas of study. Headed by Estlin Feigley '93 and Kelli Feigley, Fresh Films offers opportunities for strong academic partnerships. The Feigleys and faculty in communication studies and theatre have begun exploring the possibility of a media production certificate.
- A nationwide shortage of seats in master's programs in communication sciences and disorders (CSD) combined with an expected shortage of speech-language pathologists through 2025 prompted Augustana to begin designing a competitive **4+1 bachelor's-to-master's CSD program**. CSD-bound students will be able to enroll at Augustana with a provisional agreement that they will be guaranteed a seat in the college's master's program upon graduation. Instead of the typical two-year CSD master's program, Augustana students will begin their master's program in the summer after earning their bachelor's, then go through the following summer to earn their master's. The college aims to begin offering CSD master's courses in the fall of 2019.

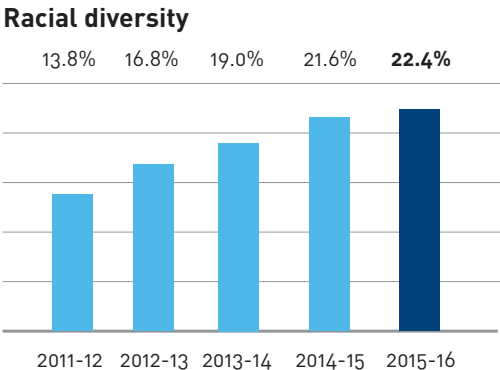
## CLASS OF 2020 CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Besides the United States, the number of countries or entities represented in the Class of 2020:

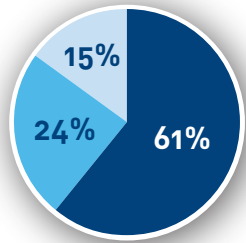
**15** (Brazil, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lebanon, Mali, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Vietnam)

## TOTAL ENROLLMENT

In 2016, Augustana's enrollment is **2,500 students** from diverse social, ethnic, religious, cultural and geographic backgrounds, representing more than two-thirds of the United States and about **20 countries**.



## FISCAL YEAR 2015-16



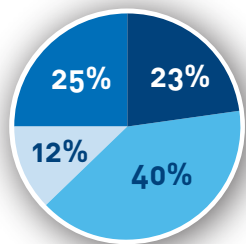
### DONORS MAKE IT HAPPEN

**ALUMNI**  
**\$6.6 million** 61%  
 Viking alumni give to keep their alma mater strong and to express thanks for their own Augustana experience.

**PARENTS/FRIENDS**  
**\$2.6 million** 24%  
 Parents and friends give to support the student experience.

**FOUNDATIONS/CORPORATIONS**  
**\$1.6 million** 15%  
 Foundations and corporations give to enhance facilities and programs, create scholarships and fund student/faculty research.

**TOTAL: \$10.8 million**



### YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

**AUGUSTANA FUND-ANNUAL UNRESTRICTED**  
**\$2.5 million** 23%  
 Gifts to the Augustana Fund create scholarships, equip faculty, provide essential teaching materials and inspire transformative learning.

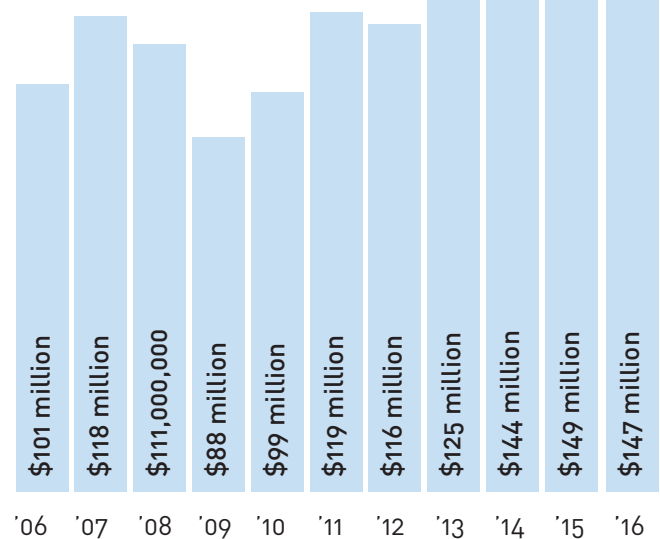
**ENDOWMENT**  
**\$4.3 million** 40%  
 "Forever" gifts to our endowment support scholarships, faculty positions, student experiences and academic programs.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS**  
**\$1.3 million** 12%  
 Gifts to fund capital projects, including the Kim and Donna Brunner Theatre Center, and gifts to support continued fulfillment of campus enhancements, such as The Gerber Center for Student Life, make the Augustana experience even more transformative.

**ANNUAL RESTRICTED**  
**\$2.7 million** 25%  
 Gifts to fund academic programs, athletics and student experiences help students apply what they learn both in and out of the classroom.

**TOTAL: \$10.8 million**

## AUGUSTANA COLLEGE ENDOWMENT VALUE SINCE FISCAL YEAR 2006 MARKET VALUE



## ENDOWMENT COMPARISON SELECTED COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES FISCAL YEAR 2015

