



PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SYNODS AND CONGREGATIONS OF REGION 1 | 2019

A MESSAGE FROM ALLAN BELTON, ACTING PRESIDENT

Greetings to you from your partners in mission at Pacific Lutheran University! It's an exciting time for PLU - we are readying for our next University President, preparing our students to be lifelong learners, and exploring new and exciting ways to pursue our mission locally, nationally, and globally. We do all these things rooted in our Lutheran identity, grounded in the ethics of service, community learning, critical questioning and academic freedom.

This fall we saw our first undergraduate enrollment increase since 2012, assisted by both a 5% increase in first-year students and a 15% increase in transfer students, along with the highest graduate enrollment since 1995, with nearly 400 graduate students. New academic programs this academic year include Innovation Studies, Native American and Indigenous Studies, and courses in Musical Theatre.

An integral piece of our mission is the three-fold concept of Care, for others, for community and for the Earth. As we continue to attract high-achieving students, many of whom are new to the college environment or the first in their family to attend college, we know PLU's student services must continue to evolve. While high schools work to help students be "college ready", we know PLU must be "student ready".

Investing in care for all our students, we launched two exciting initiatives in 2018-19. The Student Care Network was created to promote and support successful academic, social and emotional experiences at PLU. This care network identifies student needs early - whether they be reported by friend, family or faculty - and helps students access the resources they need for success. If you know of a PLU student who may be experiencing challenges, whatever they might be, I encourage you to use the network - www.plu.edu/srr/student-care-network

Care for students also extended to several capital investments this year. In February, we joined together to celebrate and dedicate the Nate Schoening Center for Student Success. Next time you're on campus, come by the Mortvedt Library and check out the main hub of the Student Success network. The Center for Student Success brings together multiple student-facing offices from across campus and places them all in the heart of student activity. The center provides personalized academic and social support systems, along with other resources through a collaborative, student-centered approach - www.plu.edu/student-success

We have also recently completed a full renovation of the Nesvig Center, the new home for the Office of Alumni and Student Connections, the Wild Hope Center for Vocation, and the Office of Congregational

Engagement. These constituent-facing offices are co-located to better equip and engage our students, staff, and faculty and to better meet the needs of our many community and congregational partners. We hold deeply to the Lutheran ideal that vocation is outward-looking, that a life lived in service to our neighbors is truly a life worth living. And we believe that the PLU community extends through our alumni and partner networks, opportunities for vocational discernment, mentoring and internships, and support of all kinds. I encourage you to contact our new Director of Congregational Engagement, Kendall Jeske '08, and to access the resources that PLU has to offer through these offices.

As I look back on my time as interim president, I am especially proud of how PLU has continued to embrace our Lutheran identity and the recent articulations of what that means for our institution. PLU has a few great new resources I invite you to check out, including a variety of videos on Lutheran Higher Education found at www.vimeo.com/pacificlutheran and a podcast series called "Because We Are Lutheran", hosted by our Campus Ministry Office.

Thank you for your steadfast partnership. Because the world needs more Lutes!

PLU PACIFIC
LUTHERAN
UNIVERSITY

Office of Congregational Engagement
www.plu.edu/congregations