

## From the President

God's people rejoice that  
**STRENGTH FROM THE SAVIOR SUSTAINS US.**



Strength from Jesus is a gift of his grace that carries us throughout the years and changes of our pilgrimage. It is a constant strength that is promised from the Savior Creator himself. *The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.*

The Holy Spirit through that divine and infinite love renews our strength, the strength to endure. So my dear friends, when the hours are long, people ungrateful, children unruly, and your own heart grumbling, remember we do it for Jesus.

Our lives of witness as public servants, faithful spouses, patient parents, honest neighbors—we do it for Jesus. Not for notice, not for praise, not for paycheck. We live our lives and do it all for Jesus, who gave his all for us. And amazingly, in our weakness others will see the Savior's strength, for strength from the Savior sustains us.

## Many Continuing Their Education at MLC

At the time of this report, 124 graduate students are pursuing a Master of Science in Education degree through MLC. By emphasis, they are enrolled in educational technology – 23, instruction – 40, leadership – 39, and special education – 22. An additional three students are pursuing a Master of Science in Education Administration in the principal emphasis. Graduate Studies course enrollments have seen a significant increase due to a large influx of New Teacher Induction mentors receiving training via graduate-level mentoring courses. Overall, our continuing education numbers remain strong with an unduplicated fall 2015 enrollment of 352. Congregational funding of continuing education at \$1,000 per called worker was reaffirmed by the 2015 synod convention. While the previous convention merely encouraged calling bodies to provide \$1,000 per called worker, the 2015 convention called for specific actions to reach the goal.

## Urban Ministry Prepares in Unique Ways

MLC's Urban Educational Ministry minor was developed with an understanding that urban ministry requires a specialized skill set built not only through course material but also through repeated exposure and experience. The minor's two inaugural courses, Introduction to Urban Educational Ministry and Advanced Teaching and Management Strategies, focus on those specialized skills. Experiential activities in the minor emphasize student teaching in urban settings, immersion trips, early field experiences, and urban summer school experiences. These learning opportunities are made possible through cooperation with a variety of schools and organizations including WLC, BLC, Lighthouse Youth Ministries, and Center for Urban Teaching.



## Enrollment Remains Stable

The Lord has blessed MLC with stable opening enrollments over the last seven years. Our official fall opening enrollment for 2015-2016 was 723 students on campus. We are grateful for continued recruitment efforts, which brought over 500 high school students to our campus for the Focus on Ministry weekends and over 300 students for our third annual Tip-off Tournament. Our mid-year commencement service was held on December 17 where 22 students received degrees. From that pool of graduates, five temporary calls were issued: four education and one staff ministry. Our official second semester opening enrollment is 685 full-time students on campus.

## Teaching with Tech

MLC is preparing students to minister in the ever-changing world of 21<sup>st</sup>-century technology. An exciting new course integral to that preparation is entitled “Teaching with Technology.” This course emphasizes ways to naturally integrate technology into instruction to extend the discovery and learning process. Some of the highlights of this course include . . .

- Training to communicate digitally with parents, students, and congregations.
- Practice in “flipping” classroom instruction.
- Using the capabilities of iPads and Chromebooks to meet the diverse needs of future students.
- Building a personal learning network (PLN) while on campus.

The course will be updated annually as learning technologies change. As the ministry opportunities of our synod change due to technology, our students will be trained to lead the way in their future schools.



## MLC's Low Rates Nationally Recognized

With your support through congregational mission offerings, the establishment of endowments, estate designations, and many direct gifts, Martin Luther College is able to keep educational costs for our students to a reasonable level. In fact, the student costs at MLC are low enough to attract the attention of *Money* magazine, *Washington Monthly*, and most recently *USA Today*. *USA Today* reported: “. . . the costs of getting that [college] education increase every year, far surpassing the college savings of many families. . . . Martin Luther College keeps costs low, with the average yearly cost of the school being \$18,000. [Our total cost this year is actually \$18,920.] Students graduate in an average of 4.4 years bringing the total degree cost to \$78,600. This makes Martin Luther College very underpriced when compared to schools of similar quality.” What *USA Today* doesn’t realize is that our ranking is only possible through the support of WELS and our faithful donors. Thank you!



## MLC Direction Provides Valuable Training

MLC has implemented a financial literacy program for all MLC students entitled MLC Direction. This program provides stronger financial understanding for our students so the transition after college is more productive. MLC Direction will also prepare these future called workers to carry out some of their varied financial responsibilities in our churches and schools. Through online assignments, personal consultation, and group presentations, MLC Direction provides training in budgeting, loan borrowing limits and repayment options, responsible credit card use, retirement, insurance, and other topics. Over 100 seniors were served with personal consultation during the first semester of 2015-2016.

## MLC Day Planned for May 4, 2016

MLC Day will be a day of celebration for our college and all who support our ministry. With an emphasis on communication through social media, MLC Day will allow supporters across the globe to follow our activities online, share our message with friends, pray for our work of service, and give to support that work. **Pray, Share, Give** will be the focus of our second annual event held on May 4. That focus will also be a part of messages shared with MLC online ambassadors—social media followers of MLC interested in spreading the good news of the gospel and the good news of MLC’s role in that proclamation. Watch for more information!

If you have questions related to this report or other matters related to our ministry at Martin Luther College, contact us at [mlcinfo@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:mlcinfo@mlc-wels.edu).

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