

### STUDENT ENROLLMENT

**697 UNDERGRADUATES**

**99% TRADITIONAL-AGE STUDENTS**

**49% MEN 51% WOMEN**

Representing **33** states  
and **6** countries

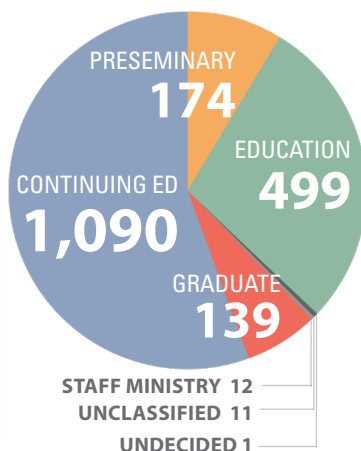
#### FIRST-YEAR STUDENT PROFILE:

**3.62**

Average  
**HS GPA**

**25.1**

Average  
**ACT**



**87 ON-CAMPUS FACULTY**  
(tenured, adjunct, other)

**ENROLLMENT: 1,926**

**12:1 STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO**

### MLC DAY - MAY 6, 2020

While the challenges of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic are global, at MLC we feel especially disappointed for our seniors who've forfeited so much in student teaching, sports, music, drama, fellowship, and spring traditions as well as milestone ceremonies to mark the culmination of their years at MLC!

That's why we're Celebrating Seniors for **MLC Day 2020**! We're using this online social media event **to celebrate the accomplishments and blessings of our graduating seniors with photos, videos, prayers, and messages - continuing through the entire month of May.**



### What can you do?

**Consider contributing a message to the Class of 2020 or to a graduating senior.**

**PRAY** Write a prayer for the Class of 2020, and we'll include it on our MLC Day prayer page. Write a prayer for a specific senior, and we'll include that in our senior pictorial directory.

**SHARE** our posts with your friends and congregational members on social media. Use one of the templates provided on our **MLC Day Resources** page to send a photo or video message of blessing and encouragement for a graduating senior.

**GIVE** generously to our Congregational Partner Grant Program. We are hoping to raise \$100,000 (\$50,000 plus a donor-match of \$50,000), enabling us to award an additional \$1,000 of financial aid to 100 students.

### COMMENCEMENT - MAY 16, 2020

Graduates were provided with Graduation Boxes with the commencement service program, cap, gown, tassel, graduation medallion, and other items from MLC. **We hope our graduates will wear their gowns and watch the livestreamed service on May 16 with their families. Perhaps local congregations could also arrange celebrations at a later date.**

Graduates, families, and friends have also been invited to share their graduation day videos and photos with us so we can include these important moments on our MLC photo gallery. More details, along with Call Day and summer assignments, can be found on the MLC Commencement page: [mlc-wels.edu/events/commencement/](http://mlc-wels.edu/events/commencement/).

## COVID-19 RESPONSES AT MLC

Martin Luther College has been working with an abundance of caution to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our campus family. At the same time, we have been continually monitoring the changing needs of our students, faculty, and staff and the changing guidelines from government agencies. Much has been expected of our students as they immerse themselves in distance learning efforts and patiently work to complete course assignments. Much has been asked of our faculty as they continue our mission of training future gospel servants through alternative/distance methods. Much has been asked of our staff as they continue normal operations amid quarantines, telecommuting and making other adjustments while also striving for an extra measure of cleanliness.

On Wednesday, March 25, the state of Minnesota announced that all Minnesota public school districts and charter schools should implement a Distance Learning Period until at least April 30, 2020 (which was extended on May 23 to the rest of the school year). On Thursday, March 26, the Martin Luther College Administrative Council (AC) evaluated their instructional plans in light of this announcement and the state of Minnesota's "stay at home" executive order. Taking into consideration this directive, the COVID-19 ordinances of other states, and the safety of MLC students, faculty, and staff, the AC extended MLC's alternative/distance learning plans to the end of the Spring 2020 semester.

On April 8 the AC revisited its decisions for year-end plans and decided that the only realistic, safe course of action was to move the 2020 Commencement and Call services to an online format. Additional details of those plans are included in the report. (At the time of this report, two members of the MLC faculty tested positive for COVID-19 and have now recovered.) **The MLC campus continues to be a safe place.**

## CAMPAIGN GIVING UPDATE

Campaign Goal: **\$18M**

**\$1,557,383** Donated or Pledged to ECW

**2,190** Total Gifts

**1,539** Donors



## CAMPAIGN PAUSED

We will pause in our active promotion of ECW until the current uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus has subsided. We thank you for your continued prayers and support for our ministry. To learn more, please visit [mlc-wels.edu/mlc-campaign/](http://mlc-wels.edu/mlc-campaign/).



## ADMISSIONS UPDATE

Our Admissions team's communication with prospective students has been very productive this spring. Because the team cannot travel, they are devoting more time to virtual visits and electronic communication. Admissions Counselor Lori Unke commented, ***"It seems as if the high school students are more comfortable sharing their thoughts from the privacy of their homes than in a noisy office somewhere in their school. This has led to some quality ministry conversations!"***

The team has also had time to be more active on social media—responding to high school posts, acknowledging students' achievements, and reaching out to future Knights and their families. With all this additional guidance and communication provided by the MLC admissions counselors, the status of the enrollment process is actually improved. Director of Admissions Mark Stein provided this update: ***"Applications are ahead of last year, along with admits and deposits. If the trend continues, we should see a larger freshman class interested in considering their future here at MLC.*** The MLC class of 2024 is an exciting group of young people from all over the country and world willing to consider serving!"

## NEW PRESIDENT AT MLC



The Lord has blessed MLC with a smooth transition in administration through Professor Rich Gurgel's acceptance to serve as our college president. In his acceptance letter, he writes, *"It will be a privilege to partner with Martin Luther College in the great task that God has set before us as the WELS College of Ministry. God has used and continues to use what happens on MLC's campus to prepare one generation after another of Christian witnesses to proclaim the gospel of his kingdom in classrooms and congregations and communities around the world. Truly, a city set on a hill cannot be hidden!"*

*"I am grateful for the outpouring of prayers and counsel from so many at Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, and from many others throughout our synod who love both schools. I pray that God will also fulfill his promise of wisdom generously given in this time of transition for both schools."*

- Rev. Rich Gurgel

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

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