



ROBERTS
WESLEYAN COLLEGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

A Message from the President *God is Here.*

The year 2020 was a journey that will be etched into our history for years to come. I am so thankful that for Roberts Wesleyan College and Northeastern Seminary it has been a journey that reflects our community's resilience, flexibility and grace. The pandemic has affected every part of our life and work, but our faith that God is here has anchored us and helped us keep uncertainty, fear and anxiety at bay.

Our mission and our work is to graduate women and men who know how to connect their head to their heart, and engage their hands in service to others. Put another way, we are in the deep work of transformation. We are partnering in a high and holy calling to help our students at all levels become a positive influence in the world.

Despite the monumental challenges of the pandemic, we are steadily moving forward with the initiatives outlined in our Strategic Plan and measuring our success according to the goals that have been affirmed by our Board. The new programs, degrees, partnerships and the launch of the Connect the Community Campaign have yielded positive results and bring clarity and direction to our daily decisions.

One of the transformational initiatives completed this past year has been the redesigned core curriculum which updates an integrated liberal arts focus across the curriculum, and earns all undergraduate students a minor in Critical Analysis & Social Engagement. This has been enthusiastically received by our prospective students and families as it is flexible, relevant and individualized.

As we press ahead with the repositioning of our current programs, and the launch of other new initiatives, such as the Occupational Therapy doctoral degree, the Family Nurse Practitioner program, and the Community Institutes housed in the new Golisano Community Engagement Center, we celebrate the strengths of our diverse community of top-rated faculty and staff, who daily do their work with excellence and energy.

Today more than ever we need Roberts and Northeastern graduates speaking into communities with strength and humility. We need our graduates to bring a voice to injustice and compassion to pain. Our graduates can do this because of what they learn inside and outside the classroom.

Thank you for your partnership with us in this work we do.

With Prayer and Optimism,

Dr. Deana L. Porterfield, President

ENROLLMENT AND ACADEMICS SNAPSHOT

Total Students — 1726 | Underrepresented Minorities: 26.6% | Female: 72.69%

Traditional Undergraduates — 939 | Underrepresented Minorities: 29.29% | International: 5.4% | Female: 64.7% | Male: 35.3%

Non-Traditional Adult Undergrads — 273 | Graduate— 509

Bridge to Earning, Living & Learning (BELL) — 12 | English Language Institute — 3

Degrees Granted (2019-20) — Undergraduate: 409 | Graduate: 203

CAMPUS UPDATE

Roberts was honored on the 2020 Great Colleges to Work For® list, presented by Modern Think LLC. We were recognized in five categories and received the “Honor Roll” designation for stand-out universities in its size categories. This was the sixth year that Roberts Wesleyan College received this recognition.

Although events have been conducted in a virtual format during the pandemic, The Connect the Community Campaign has been an effective way to introduce plans for the Golisano Community Engagement Center on the campus. The groundbreaking was May 18, 2021, with completion in fall 2022. The Center will be a hub of connection for students as a student union and the home of the Community Institutes. The Community Institutes provide certificate and competency-based programs customized for specific training needs and serve the community as a distinctive hub of learning. These include Justice and Security, Business Solutions, English Language, Westside Psychological Services and Intellectual and Spiritual Humility institutes.

As part of the roadmap of the Strategic Plan for Roberts Wesleyan College, the focus of new initiatives has been to support the goals of Cultivating Community, Reimagining the Traditional Undergraduate and The Adult & Graduate Experience, and Generating Alternative Revenue Streams. This focused approach has resulted in successful launch of new programs as well as reforming some of the longstanding components of liberal arts education to offer an educational experience that is relevant, accessible and effective in preparing our graduates to work and serve well in their communities. The strategic changes and improvements on campus have created new experiences and opportunities among all our student populations: undergrads, adult and non-traditional students, residents and commuters.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Given the pandemic and the inability to gather together for chapel, the Office of Spiritual Life introduced weekly KickStart videos to share stories of God’s love and His mission for us to engage students. Overall the weekly KickStart initiative helped us to reach the broader community with the love of our Lord in a beautiful way. In Partnership with the Athletic Department we also launched Community Groups. These groups empowered coaches to play an active role in the spiritual formation of their teams. The Office of Spiritual Life also worked with the Office of Diversity and Equity on a Martin Luther King tribute featuring three current students, Herb Alexander (Chief Diversity Officer) and Benjamin Espinoza (AVP for Online Education). The conversation was facilitated by Gerald Coleman (Campus Pastor).

REDHAWKS

The East Coast Conference (ECC) Council of Presidents announced on July 17, 2020 that intercollegiate competition for the fall 2020 season would be suspended due to the continued health and safety concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Student-athletes had the opportunity to train and practice during the fall semester. While the look and feel of the semester was different, the student – athletes did a great job keeping each other safe as training and practices ramped up in phases. Late in the Fall semester, the College made the decision to move forward with winter sports and continue to work on plans for spring sports, as well as exploring the opportunity for fall sports to have some contests in the spring. Competitive play began with Men’s and Women’s Basketball in early January. One of the requirements for returning to play was a regular testing regimen. All student-athletes, coaches, officials, and designated high contact personnel are required to be tested for COVID-19 at least weekly per week per NCAA Sports Science Institute recommendations. Our Health Center, in coordination with our Athletic Trainers, have been conducting the tests and reporting results. Roberts clinched five ECC Championships during the 2020-21 academic year. The college’s women’s basketball, bowling, lacrosse and track and field and men’s track and field were named ECC champions this academic year. Off the playing field, we were the grand prize winner of the NCAA DII Award of Excellence at the National Convention. We were recognized for the Redhawks partnership with Golisano Children’s Hospital that raised over \$10,500 last year. In the classroom, student athletes showed their adaptability and academic achievements. With virtual and hybrid classes, as well as some in person classes, their combined GPA was 3.25. Women’s Soccer lead the way with a team GPA of 3.61.

ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

By the Numbers....

- Fundraising for student scholarships, special programs and capital projects: Over \$6.3M
- Donors: 1920
- Circle Memberships: 406 households
- Undergraduate students receiving financial aid: 100%