

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

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The 2012-2013 Wheaton College school year opens with the pursuit of four strategic priorities, the culmination of a campus-wide collaboration that began over a year ago with the President's "Green Paper."

Look for a monthly update from the President's Office on incremental positive steps generated by many of your colleagues to advance our mission. As you consider how your own work at the College relates to these strategic priorities, I hope you will take time to celebrate our progress.

In Christ's service,
Philip G. Ryken, *President*

Globalize a Wheaton Education

- Dr. Laura Montgomery, the Dean for Global and Experiential Learning, has appointed 19 representatives from all four College divisions to a Strategic Planning Committee. At their September retreat the GEL Council will lay the foundation for a 3-5 year action plan to increase learning opportunities for students, enhance faculty development, and enroll international students and scholars.
- Even before the Strategic Priorities were announced, a donor made possible two full annual Alvaro Nieves Endowed Scholarships (room and board) for Latino students, and the faculty voted to assume the cost of their tuition. Professor Nieves taught Sociology at Wheaton from 1983-2010.

Deepen Ethnic Diversity

- Wheaton welcomes two BRIDGE graduates to the Class of 2016 (Building Roads to Intellectual Diversity and Great Education). Magdalena Valdivia from Elgin is the first person in her family to attend college, and Jeremiah Burgos is from Chicago. In its fifth year, BRIDGE is a college-prep program conceived of six years ago by Veronica Ponce-Navarrete '08 in her sophomore year. It reaches out to Chicagoland students who are low-income, or first generation college-bound, or African-American, or Latino.
- Nearly 250 student leaders focused on "The Messy Work of Unity" at their annual leadership training week at HoneyRock. They learned about the need to resist the temptation to limit people to a single, stereotyped story, and then reflected on their own cultural heritage and experiences.

Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

- Faculty learned at the Fall Banquet that they will receive a credit card to use for professional development, including journal subscriptions, software, and travel. *This grant will support my membership in professional organizations, provide resources to purchase books, and allow me to attend a conference for which I would have had to use personal funds. Thanks for this unexpected grant!* Dr. Paul Egeland, Associate Professor, Education Department
- A proposal has been presented to the faculty by the Gen Ed Revision Committee and the faculty spent two days discussing it before the school year began. Ongoing prayer is needed for these eight faculty members who have been tasked with leading the conversation about revision—for clarity, wisdom, and unity.

Enhance Music and the Performing Arts

- Dr. Michael Wilder, Dean of Music, Arts and Communication, is collaborating with his faculty and College architect Bruce Koenigsberg to identify the new facility best suited for Wheaton's music program. The full project team will draw on expertise from within Dean Wilder's division, from around campus, and from other national and international projects in music education and the performing arts.

