

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

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*Wheaton College serves Jesus Christ and advances His Kingdom through excellence in liberal arts and graduate programs that educate the whole person to build the church and benefit society worldwide.*

## MISSION STATEMENT COMPLETED

In May the College's trustees approved a recommendation from a task force (including trustees, faculty, students, staff, and alumni representatives) that refreshes Wheaton's mission statement, declaring our God-given calling as a Christ-centered college. A rationale for the revision was shared with campus by mail in early August and can be found at [wheaton.edu/About-Wheaton/Mission](http://wheaton.edu/About-Wheaton/Mission).

### Strategic Priorities

#### Globalize a Wheaton Education

#### Deepen Ethnic Diversity

Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

Enhance Music and the Performing Arts

### Complementary Priorities

#### Refresh Wheaton's Mission Statement (Completed)

Nurture Vibrant Christian Community

Extend Affordability

#### Strengthen Graduate Education

### Deepen Ethnic Diversity

We welcome 86 new undergraduate students from 39 world nations, an increase of 18 over last year's number of incoming students living outside the U.S. They come from missionary families, or have spent a significant portion of their lives living outside their host culture. Eighteen are international students from South Korea, the Philippines, China, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, Rwanda, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic. Wheaton will be enriched with 139 multicultural freshmen, including five who have graduated from our BRIDGE program, a high school academic program for college-bound youth from underrepresented urban communities.

While enjoying the glorious Northwoods summer weather at their annual leadership retreat at HoneyRock, 270 student leaders received diversity competency training, learning how to understand and pursue vital elements of Christ-centered unity. Led by Multicultural Development Director Rodney Sisco and Associate Dean Justin Heth, students increased their understanding of diversity issues through inductive self-examination and interaction through small groups and large group instruction and discussion.

### Globalize A Wheaton Education

Professors Gene Green (Biblical and Theological Studies) and Christine Folch (Anthropology) taught a new course on Native American life and culture this summer at the Wheaton College Science Station in the Black Hills. "Conquest and Redemption" was designed around an experiential learning model as students met members of the Lakota tribe and visited their communities. Sophomore Corbin Renkin observes, "We learned really hard truths about genocide and ethnocide in our own country. However, we also experienced grace and forgiveness as Native people welcomed and embraced us, and we saw how the church is today accepting aspects of Native culture in the worship of Christ."

### Strengthen Graduate Education

Each August Wheaton's faculty enjoy a day-long workshop focusing on the coming year at "Faculty Development Day." This year the Graduate School faculty will also meet separately for the first time to reflect with the administration, staff and one another on the past, present and future of the Graduate School. They will join the Undergraduate Faculty—who had spent the morning discussing the proposed revisions for Gen Ed—for fellowship over lunch.

