

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

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Junior Joselyn Broadway helped dedicate the James Burr Memorial on October 9. Burr, a white man condemned to hard labor in prison for helping fugitive slaves escape to freedom prior to the Civil War, requested that his mortal remains be buried on the free soil of Wheaton College, and gave President Blanchard \$300 to establish a scholarship. Members of the staff and faculty discovered missing pieces of the obelisk now re-erected in Blanchard Hall, which was recently designated by the National Park Service as a stop on the Underground Railroad.

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 August '13

Nurture Vibrant Christian Community

Extend Affordability

Strengthen Graduate Education

Promote Liberal Arts Excellence

The Higher Learning Commission has granted Wheaton College full accreditation for the maximum period of 10 years until 2023–24. Director of Institutional Research and Academic Support Gary Larson wrote the self-study, prepared us for a successful campus visit, and drafted the response to the review team's report. The *Strategic Priorities Update* received positive mention by the HLC for keeping the campus well-informed and for providing evidence that we are allocating resources for our priorities. President Ryken invites the campus community to utilize the report—which includes many affirmations of the College—for continued improvement. Students, faculty and staff can access the report on the intranet at http://intra.wheaton.edu/academic/ITIR/nca_accreditation.htm.

Nurture Vibrant Christian Community

Five workplace values were recently identified as Teamwork and Collegiality, Unity and Diversity, Listening and Communication, Expertise and Learning, and Stewardship and Accountability. A good example of “Teamwork and Collegiality” is the way all four College divisions collaborated to serve graduate students more effectively. By analyzing the needs of our current and future graduate students, members of the Academic, Student Development, Finance, and Advancement/ Alumni Relations Divisions worked together

to improve infrastructure, create several new positions, and implement new strategies. Collaborators included Paul Chelsen, Dusty Di Santo, Laura Montgomery, Karen Belling, Nick Perrin, Kimberly Medaglia, and former staff members Lon Allison and Steve Kellough. Paul Chelsen says, “Understanding the needs of our graduate students and the scope of what each department offers them was an important part of the restructuring process. Relationships across divisions were also strengthened as a result of the process.” Graduate Admissions Director Dusty Di Santo notes, “The Grad School departments are now aligned to provide strategic support to our students unlike anything before in our 75-year history.”

Extend Affordability

The Class of 2013 established a scholarship for an incoming freshman from Wheaton's BRIDGE program, which prepares first-generation college-bound, low-income, or African-American or Latino high school students for college—a one-time grant of \$10,000 to one student divided over four years. Understanding the need and opportunity to assist BRIDGE graduates, the Senior Administrative Cabinet has directed underutilized financial aid dollars from 2013–2014 to permanently endow the Class of 2013 scholarship, yielding approximately \$34,000 each year.

