



## MENNONITE EDUCATION AGENCY 2016 REPORT TO AREA CONFERENCES

*Greetings from MEA! In this report, you can get a glimpse of some of the work we do in cooperation with five colleges and universities, two seminaries, two Ministerios Hispanos programs, more than two dozen primary and secondary schools in the Mennonite Schools Council (MSC), Mennonite Early Childhood Network (MECN), and others. In 2016-2017, a total of 10,787 students are enrolled at Mennonite institutions (not including Ministerios Hispanos).*

*By providing networking, support, collaboration, resources, professional growth opportunities, scholarships and more, we ensure the opportunity to provide exceptional academics with Anabaptist values. Our distinctives include following Jesus Christ, being peacemakers, intentionally building community, developing dedicated and disciplined learners, serving others, and embracing differences. Some of the particular activities and initiatives of the past year include the following:*

- MEA staff assisted with the search for and **calling of two new presidents** for Mennonite higher education. Eastern Mennonite University (Harrisonburg, Virginia) called Dr. Susan Schultz Huxman, and Hesston College (Kansas) called Dr. Joseph Manickam. Both are beginning their terms in 2017. In addition, MEA continues to work with Goshen College (Indiana) as it seeks a successor to Dr. Jim Brenneman and also is supporting Bethel College (North Newton, Kansas) in its presidential search.
- MEA staff worked with Eastern Mennonite University through the **investigation process** into allegations against former EMU Vice President of Enrollment Luke Hartman and a review of EMU policies related to Title IX and the Clery Act.
- Planning and preparation took place for the March 2017 **Education Leaders Gathering**, “Beyond Buried Treasure,” which is being held in partnership with MHS. This will be the second joint conference for Mennonite Health Assembly and MEA.
- The annual **Hope for the Future** event, co-sponsored by MEA, brings together people of color who are leaders in Mennonite churches and institutions to network and generate change. About 60 people participated in 2016.
- MEA executive director Carlos Romero continues to assist with administration of the **Intercultural Development Inventory**, providing the training for Mennonite college, university and seminary boards and other Mennonite Church USA organizations.
- A monthly calendar of **Prayers for Faith and Learning** is sent out to help people focus their prayers for schools affiliated with MEA.
- MEA expanded its advertising and outreach with a **four-page color insert** in the January 2017 issue of *The Mennonite*, which can be used as an ongoing promotional piece.
- A group of 36 people began training in this year’s **Values-Based Leadership Program** in October. The program, co-sponsored by MEA, has seen more than 500 people take part since it began in 2001.

### **Finally, from all of MEA, we want to say THANK YOU!**

Thank you to members of your conference who are serving on Mennonite educational boards and committees.

And thank you to the 21 Ohio congregations who supported Mennonite education with total giving of \$81,713 from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2016\*.

(\*Giving includes gifts for higher education, MEA, Racial/Ethnic Leadership Education and Hispanic Pastoral Leadership Education.)