

## OHIO CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE CHURCH USA REPORT

December 2017

**Starting the year** - Hesston College kicked off the 2017-18 year during Opening Weekend, Aug. 18 to 20, and the first day of classes Aug. 21. New academic and athletic programs added to the college's offerings over the last several year culminated with an enrollment boost for fall 2017. Total student headcount reached 442 in 2017, a 10 percent boost from a headcount of 401 a year prior, and the highest reported enrollment for the college since 2013. The college continues to build on its global community as 56 students – 13 percent as compared to 10 percent the previous year – are international students representing 17 countries. Domestic students represent 29 states.

**Homecoming and Presidential Inauguration** - Hesston College celebrated homecoming and the inauguration of the ninth president, Dr. Joseph A. Manickam, Sept. 22 to 24 with the theme "Grounded in community, globally engaged." The weekend featured events reflecting and celebrating the college's values, experiences and global connections. Highlights from the weekend's programming included a Global Voices music showcase that featured Hesston College ensembles performing works from international students' home countries. During that program, Dave Osborne was honored for directing the international students program since 1986. Alumni, students and guests made up an Interfaith Relationships panel to share reflections on how interfaith relationships on-campus and off-campus have challenged and enriched their lives. The event brought the five living presidents of the college and two former interim presidents together to interact with the campus community and alumni.

**2017 Community Read** - For the sixth year, the community of Hesston, led by Hesston College and Hesston Public Library, invited individuals and groups to take part in a community read during the fall semester. The 2017 book selection was *Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis* by Cynthia Barnett. The book examines a variety of perspectives and makes an argument for a "water ethic" with a call to action that reconnects individuals to their water. Barnett presented about her work in Hesston on Nov. 2.

**AVDS conference "Before the Unthinkable Happens"** - Hesston College's 2018 Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series (AVDS) conference will offer a hands-on process where issues of oppression that can lead to trauma-related incidents are addressed and begin to be dismantled. With the theme "Before the Unthinkable Happens: Confronting our role in injustice," the conference will take place on the Hesston College campus Feb. 23 to 25. The weekend will be resourced by the Kansas Leadership Center to help develop skills to clarify purpose, begin outcome plans and impact the future.

Dr. Drew G.I. Hart from Messiah College will strengthen the biblical theology of justice in order to create faithful disciples and ethical believers. See more information at [hesston.edu/avds](http://hesston.edu/avds).

**Lark Athletics featuring women's cross country** - Both the men's and women's cross country teams competed well during the 2017 season with the women's team, in particular, enjoying much success. The team finished eighth of 16 teams in the Region VI competition and then placed 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 42 teams at Nationals in Fort Dodge, Iowa, on Nov. 11, improving on their 29<sup>th</sup> place finish from 2016. The National meet was the finish line to coach Gerry Sieber's 30 years at Hesston College, as he retired following the close of the season.

**Congregational student aid** – Hesston College offers a match grant for scholarships provided by student churches. During the 2016-17 year, 65 churches contributed \$176,880 in student scholarships to 108 recipients. Hesston College matched a total of \$112,885. The average church aid per student was \$1,637 while the average church-and-college aid per student was \$2,683. **If your congregation is interested in providing a scholarship program to support Mennonite higher education, contact the Church Relations Office at 866-437-7866.**

Read these full stories and more at [www.hesston.edu](http://www.hesston.edu). For questions or more information, contact Dallas Stutzman, director of Alumni and Church Relations toll free at 866-437-7866.

**2017-18 campus theme verse** - If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love...  
1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NIV)

### Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA Statistics and Connections

2017-2018 Academic Year Students – 8

**Congregational Student Aid** – 3 congregations provided \$4,000 in tuition assistance for 5 students as of December 17, 2017.

**Hesston College Board of Directors** – Kelvin Friesen and Jessica Schrock-Ringenberg, Zion Mennonite Church, Archbold, Ohio

**Unified and Designated Giving** – We are grateful for the financial support of conference churches to Mennonite colleges and Mennonite Education Agency through Unified and Designated Giving and for personal contributions given from individuals.

Dr. Joseph A. Manickam, President

Dallas Stutzman, Director of Alumni and Church Relations

Tony Brown and Lindsey Mason, Development Officers

Carly Wyse, Admissions Representative