

March 2019

Dear Friends:

This year at Augsburg University was a period of preparation and planning for the commemoration of our 150-year history in 2019-2020. As we honor our past, we lean into the work we are called to do for an even better and more inclusive future.

In November 2018, Augsburg Campus Ministry and the Christensen Center for Vocation hosted partners from the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities (NECU) regarding interfaith engagement including Thiel, Lenior Rhyne, and Wittenberg. This is one example of how Augsburg is recognized as a national leader for interfaith leadership.

Augsburg remains dedicated to an equitable and inclusive education. We named a full-time chief diversity officer this year. Meanwhile, the most extensive study of the undergraduate experience of diversity and inclusion in Augsburg classrooms to-date is underway. Our students of color now total 47 percent of undergraduate day students and made up the majority of the first-year class. There is much work underway, and we are grateful for the many student voices and perspectives helping shape Augsburg's response to the very real issues of discrimination in our world.

Our students are actively engaging in the world off campus as well. One group of students was featured in television news segments while at a Minneapolis encampment for the homeless. They distributed jackets, blankets, children's toys, and hot lunch to families in need. Last fall, the second River Semester class of 15 students spent 100 days canoeing the Mississippi while studying literature, history, politics, the environment, and documenting their trip via social media.

Augsburg faculty members, too, are receiving well-deserved acclaim. Assistant Professor of Music Composition Reinaldo Moya was a recipient of a \$15,000 Charles Ives Fellowship from The American Academy of Arts and Letters. Mathematics professor Suzanne Dorée received the Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics by the Mathematical Association of America.

We are firmly committed to our core values of social justice, serving our neighbor, and delivering an education faithful to our Lutheran roots and relevant to the needs of our changing world. We are thankful for the many ways in which you support our mission, and for your prayers.

Yours in faith and service,

Dr. Paul C. Pribbenow, Ph.D.
President

The Rev. Sonja Hagander
University Pastor and Director of Ministries