



CARTHAGE  
COLLEGE

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings from Carthage College. As I write to you, we are just beginning the spring semester. Campus is once again filled with the energy that comes from learning in a residential community.

I have talked to students who are recently returned from China, Costa Rica, Japan, Namibia, Nicaragua, Sweden, and Tanzania. They had life-changing and eye-opening experiences as they encountered cultures different from their own. They also grew in how they see themselves in the world and how they can use their gifts and talents. Hearing their stories is a wonderful reminder of what we are about here at Carthage. As a school rooted in our Lutheran heritage, we are passionate about helping our students to find their vocations.

One way we focus our energy on vocation is through The Aspire Program, our comprehensive new career development initiative. Under the leadership of AVP Lisa Hinkley, career specialists help our students to think not only about what they want their jobs to be, but about what kind of full lives they want to create. The Aspire Center hosts programs to help our students think about life after Carthage, find mentors, and make connections in the communities around us.

There are two other new ways we incorporate vocation into our work. The Network of Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) provides grants and faculty training; we are thrilled that one of our nursing faculty members will attend a seminar this summer titled “Teaching Vocational Exploration.” In addition, the Vocation Learning Community on campus hosts conversations about equipping our students for lifelong discernment. Excitement is growing over our ability to guide Carthaginians to find their way and make a positive impact on the world.

Carthage has several other highlights from the past year to share:

- The Center for Faith and Spirituality (CFS) created Luther's Lunchbox, a supplemental food program for students.
- The CFS partnered with Trinity Lutheran Church in Kenosha to support a seminary intern from The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
- Starting in fall 2020, Carthage will lower tuition by 30 percent.
- After graduating our first class of nursing students in 2019, Carthage is launching an RN-to-BSN program for those looking to further their careers in nursing.
- U.S. News & World Report ranked us No. 1 in our category among Best Colleges for Veterans, along with top-15 placements in teaching, innovation, and value.

God's blessing on your work in your synod this year. May you work together to find your synodical vocations, to do God's Work with Your Hands, together.

Peace,

Pastor Kara Baylor