



*EMU prepares students to serve
and lead in a global context*

FALL 2020

MOSAIC MENNONITE CONFERENCE

EMU ANNUAL REPORT

Greetings from President Susan Schultz Huxman

2020 Vision

I bring greetings from EMU to our brothers and sisters across the church in 2020—a year like no other!

In January, at our opening convocation, we celebrated a new university vision statement that gives “wings” to our mission and animates our Christian values. We seek to open new pathways of access and achievement to many more students, particularly those at the margins—first generation college students, low income, and racial/ethnic minorities. Increasingly, these students and their families are drawn to EMU for our renowned academic preparation for in-demand careers; our great rates of retention, graduation, and placement; our care and compassion from faculty and staff; and our modeling of an active and engaged Christian faith.

In a polarized world, our educational pathway is an oasis of opportunity for their children, as one first generation parent described her sense of EMU to me. There’s just one problem: many of these talented prospective students can’t afford us right now, even with the financial aid packages we offer. We aim to rectify that with a campaign that puts students first so we can bridge that financial gap and make way for deserving students to experience a transformative Anabaptist-inspired education for a lifetime! I invite you and your congregation to [join me and the EMU community in this worthy mission](#).

The relentless and mystifying COVID-19 pandemic that slammed into our lives in mid-March continues to disorient and challenge us. As people of faith, we know the Bible is filled with stories of plagues and pestilence, of death and sickness, disorientation and diaspora. And we also know God’s message to us is filled with hope and comfort in dealing with calamities: “I lift mine eyes unto the hills--from whence cometh my strength? My strength comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.” (Psalm 121)

Indeed, we have lifted our eyes to the blue hills and beyond at EMU these past seven months of COVID-19. Our enrollment and financial positioning are surprisingly strong given all the uncertainties. Our first-year enrollment is up 3% over last year and includes more Mennonite students. And we have one of our strongest academic classes ever, with an average GPA of 3.67. On the budget side, even with the loss of nearly all summer revenue from camps, conferences and in-person courses, and with room and board reimbursements from spring residence hall closures, we still ended our fiscal year on June 30 with a balanced budget—and margin. This marks three years in a row that EMU has generated sizable income in its end-of-year operating budget

With humility and thanksgiving, we remember our Creator’s promise: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Therefore, we will not fear.” (Psalm 46:1-2)

I thank you for your prayers and support.

Harrisonburg, Virginia

www.emu.edu

churchrelations@emu.edu

How can EMU serve you?

Contact the church relations office to schedule the president or a faculty guest speaker:
540-432-4200 or
ChurchRelations@emu.edu

Mosaic Mennonite Conference Connections to EMU

Trustees

Evon Bergey, Charlotte Hunsberger, Stephen Kriss, Chad Lacher, Manuel Nuñez

Undergraduate Students

Eighteen undergraduate students and two graduate students from Mosaic Mennonite Conference were enrolled in the fall 2020 semester.

Giving

Mosaic Mennonite Conference churches gave \$47,994 in matching church grants to their students and over \$500 to the university fund during the year ending June 2020.

- ▶ **Susan Schultz Huxman**, *president*
- ▶ **Kirk Shisler**, *vice president for advancement*
- ▶ **Jasmine Hardesty**, *director of development & planned giving*
- ▶ **Matthew Ruth**, *director of admissions*

Our Vision

We will open new pathways of access and achievement for all students who aspire to grow as unifying leaders equipped with intercultural competence, oriented toward peace and justice, and rooted in an active faith modeled on the life and teachings of Jesus.