

Gettysburg College
Report to Synod Assemblies
2014 Report

Grace, mercy and peace!

Gettysburg College and the ELCA supporting synods to Gettysburg College share a commitment to education and the formation of maturing young adults.

We educate and support maturing young adults by fostering habits of mind and heart that will aid them in making this world better and more just. At Gettysburg, we talk about our graduates becoming citizens of the world, engaged in their professional and personal lives in such ways as to make the communities they live in stronger. The vocation of learning is also a call to integrate leadership, service, academic excellence and wisdom.

The Lutheran Christian community was born in the context of a University. Since its inception, Lutherans have placed a high premium on education. As a highly selective, national liberal arts college, Gettysburg College remains faithful to principles that are in keeping with the heart of this tradition. While doing this Gettysburg College is also committed to increasing diversity and internationalization amongst students, faculty and staff.

Core values that Gettysburg College seeks to instill are:

- The worth and dignity of all people
- Critical thinking, communication skills, sensitivity to the human condition, and a global perspective
- A free and open marketplace of ideas and the exploration of the ethical and spiritual dimensions of life
- A commitment to service
- The residential college as a model community

Gettysburg College encourages students to be self-reflective and to recognize the interconnectedness of learning and life values.

We pride ourselves on the distinctiveness of our dedication and location. A hallmark of a Gettysburg education is the relationship shared between students and faculty both in and outside of the classroom.

At Gettysburg, students may find themselves alongside faculty retracing the roots of the Civil Rights movement, researching the benefits of fish oil with their professor, promoting grassroots development in Nicaragua, or videotaping Viking ruins in the British Isles. They may also find themselves discussing class work (and other weightier matters of life) over dinner at a faculty or staff member's house.

The charter of Gettysburg College states our purpose:

to serve the cause of liberal education in changing times, by providing a community of learning both inside and outside the classroom committed to the discovery, exploration, and evaluation of the ideas and actions of humankind, and to the creative extension of that developing heritage, and the promotion of music, the arts, theater, leadership and volunteerism within the local, regional and global communities.

As we look to the future we witness increasing attention being given to globalization and internationalization by current and future generations of students. These students expect and, quite frankly, need to be at the forefront of cultural and political shifts across the globe.

In a world where present challenges may at times seem daunting, Gettysburg College understands that the best way to secure the future is by preserving integrity and maintaining the highest quality in teaching, learning, research and service.

We share with the synods of the ELCA a commitment to helping maturing young adults integrate faith and learning.

We hope that you will join us in this our common mission by encouraging young people to matriculate with us! Here they will find a home away from home in a community that welcomes and supports them in life and learning as they go about the process of becoming global citizens.

Blessings and peace!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph A. Donnella, II". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

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