



# 2016 – 17 President's Report

July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

## National Recognition:

- McKendree University remained on the list of top tier Midwest regional universities in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2017 "Best Colleges" edition.
- Innovative application of high impact educational practices earned the University a "College of Distinction" designation for 2016-2017.
- The University was the only Illinois institution among "America's 100 Best College Buys" in 2016-2017 for providing the highest quality education at the lowest cost.
- McKendree University was one of 42 institutions on *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* "Great College to Work For" Honor Roll, recognized for collaborative governance, confidence in senior leadership, job satisfaction and support, professional and career development programs, respect and appreciation, supervisor or department chair relationship, teaching environment, tenure clarity and process, and work-life balance.
- The Phi Eta Sigma national honor society chapter was granted Pyramid status and a Capstone Award—one of only three in the nation—for demonstrating strength, stability and leadership.
- Victory Media designated the University a 2017 "Military Friendly® School" for meeting military students' educational needs and for ensuring their success before and after graduation.
- College Values Online ranked McKendree University among its top 50 best value colleges for an online master's degree in education.
- McKendree Online undergraduate, graduate education and nursing degree programs were listed among the nation's top 100, and the online MBA program was among the top 150, of *U.S. News' "Best Online Programs"* for 2017.
- The University was rated among the 25 "Best Colleges in Illinois" and scored fifth of the 23 "Best Online Colleges in Illinois" by *College Choice*, an independent online publication.

## Notable Highlights:

- In August 2016, McKendree welcomed the largest and most diverse student body in its 189-year history, with first-year and transfer students arriving from 28 states and 20 countries. Eighty percent of first-year students received an academic scholarship and 47 percent graduated in the top fourth of their high school class.
- Mongolian musicians Anda Union performed at the Hett on Sept. 30, 2016, and gave workshops at local schools as part of Arts Midwest World Fest.
- The University held voter registration drives and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge to encourage participation in the electoral process.

- A 10th Anniversary Gala launched the Hettenhausen Center for the Arts' 2016-2017 season on Sept. 23, 2016, with all-star entertainment by opera soprano **Christine Brewer '76**, The Peter Martin Quintet and clarinetist Anat Cohen.
- Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society inducted charter members of the Psi Epsilon chapter on Oct. 2, 2016.
- Swordfishing captain and *The Perfect Storm* author Linda Greenlaw shared "Lessons from the Sea" on Nov. 9, 2016, at the Hett as a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow.
- On Nov. 29, 2016, students, faculty, staff, alumni and other supporters made Annual Fund gifts totaling more than \$100,000 on Giving Tuesday.
- The University welcomed hundreds of impressive high school students and their families to campus for Leadership Scholarship Days on Dec. 3, 2016, and March 4, 2017.
- The McKendree MetroRecPlex in O'Fallon, Ill., opened in January 2017 as the new home of Bearcats hockey, water polo, swimming and diving.
- A variety of speakers informed, inspired and entertained the audience at the Hett's first Idea Lab on March 7, 2017.
- The Board of Trustees welcomed new members **Rebecca (Lindstrom) Wohltman '09**, an attorney with Mathis, Marifian & Richter, Ltd.; **Gregory Mennerick '06**, an associate with Thompson Coburn LLP, on Aug. 13, 2016; and Mark Waltermire, a CPA and retired executive vice president of The Laclede Group, on Feb. 4, 2017.
- McKendree University and Southwestern Illinois College signed a 2+2 articulation agreement to ensure a seamless transfer for students seeking degrees in 11 undergraduate programs.
- New graduate programs added in 2016 were a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice, a Doctor of Nursing Practice in ethical leadership, an Education Specialist degree in superintendent licensure, and a Master of Arts in teaching middle school education.
- New undergraduate majors offered in the fall 2016 semester were biopsychology, public relations studies, middle school education, and special education-elementary dual licensure.
- A new 3+3 law program allows eligible McKendree students to apply to the Saint Louis University School of Law in their junior year.
- The fourth annual Academic Excellence Celebration highlighted the academic research, collaboration and creativity of 444 students on April 27, 2017.
- The 177th commencement exercises were held on May 13, 2017, at the Lebanon, Ill., campus and on June 3, 2017, at the First Christian Church in Elizabethtown, Ky. A total of 827 degrees were conferred—nine doctorates, eight education specialists, 236 master's, 569 bachelor's and five associates—on graduates from 26 states and seven countries.

- The University received a \$4 million gift of property from Locust Village LLC: two apartment buildings on a 10.88-acre site at the McKendree West complex.
- Career Services survey results determined the Class of 2016 career outcomes rate was 95 percent for undergraduates and 99 percent for graduate students.
- The 2017 President's Award for Professional Excellence went to Josie Blasdel, director of undergraduate admission, and **Melissa Meeker '93, M.A.Ed. '06**, associate dean of online programs.
- Dr. Shelly Lemons, an associate professor of history who studies the Dust Bowl era and women's lives during the Oklahoma drought and Great Depression, accepted the 2017 William Norman Grandy Award.

## Faculty, Staff and Alumni Highlights:

- Internationally renowned soprano **Christine Brewer '76** shared her expertise and advice with music and theatre students at a vocal master class on Oct. 11, 2016, at the Hett.
- Outstanding alumni were honored at the annual awards dinner on Oct. 15, 2016. Retired oncology nurse **Janet (Welch) Eckert '89** received the Peter Akers Award for professional success, outstanding service and loyalty. **John Schomaker '80**, a CPA, received the Loyal Service Award. Entering the Academy of Excellence were Matrix Consulting Firm President and photographer **Kevin Lee '80**; St. Clair County (Ill.) Board member **Angela Grossmann-Roewe '98**; and Hardin County (Ky.) nursing administrator **Sharon J. Wright '09**. Science education professor **Chris Cunnings '06**, and public health policy manager **Tony L. Mitchell, Jr., '09**, were selected as Rising Stars.
- Entering the McKendree Bearcat Sports Hall of Fame in 2016 were **Kari (Crnkovich) Crask '96**, women's basketball; **Dave Markwell '73**, alumni coach and professional, men's basketball and baseball; **Jackson Makene Marwa '00**, cross country, track and field; **Hernan Francisco Mosca '03**, men's soccer; and Carl Poelker, former football head coach.
- Dr. Nichole DeWall, associate professor of English, won the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. Five alumni also received the teaching awards on Nov. 13, 2016: **Megan (Buckley) Bayless, MAED '12**, special education, Belle Valley Middle School; **Johnna Wells '84**, physical education, Bernard Long Elementary; **Gary Miller, MAED '07**, second grade, Wingate Elementary; **Sharon Logan '73**, fourth grade, Marine Elementary; and **Melinda (Black) Morgan '06, M.A.Ed. '13**, K-6 language arts, Marissa Elementary.
- An associate political science professor and a noted local alumnus received the 2017 Martin Luther King Jr., Humanitarian Awards on Jan. 26, 2017, for their outstanding work to promote understanding and diversity. Dr. Ann Collins has written two books about 20th century race riots in America and has earned national and local respect for her teaching, writing, research and activism. **Courtney Logan '08**, an attorney and former East St. Louis, Ill., city manager, wrote a book about the struggles and obstacles of his childhood and hopes to inspire young people growing up in similar circumstances.
- Dr. Guy Boysen, an associate professor of psychology who often includes student collaboration in his scholarly research, received the 2017 UMC Exemplary Teacher Award.
- Associate Faculty Awards for Excellence in Teaching went to English instructor Lisa Brennan and **Daphne Behrmann '92**, who teaches MBA courses.

## Student Highlights:

- The 2016 Student Lincoln Laureate for excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities was **Acadia Reynolds '17**, of New Orleans, La., an education major with a keen interest in social justice issues on campus and in the community.
- The Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award honored **Diana Nevárez Ramirez '17**, of El Paso, Texas, a sociology major, ethnic studies minor. She helped lead the University's Define American chapter and was a Change Ambassador.
- Speech team members ended their season in spring 2017 with two Missouri state championships: sophomore **Andrew Wagner** in informative speaking and junior **Emma Webster** in communication analysis. The speech and debate team won 26 awards at five national tournaments in spring 2017.
- Sophomores **Clayton Stalling** and **Jacob Wilson** traveled to Japan in June 2017 with Dr. Stephen Hagan, associate professor of sociology, as guests of Technos International College in Tokyo.
- Psychology major **Jessica Lirios '17** was honored by Campus Compact as 2017 Newman Civic Fellow for her service, leadership and commitment to social change.
- The spirit squad brought home three trophies from the National Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championship held in Daytona Beach, Fla., April 6-8, 2017.
- Biopsychology major **Ronald Drummond '17** and psychology majors **Megan Killian '17**, **Keanna Knox**, **Emily Thompson**, **Ashley Weissert '17** and **Mae Wells '17** presented their original research at the 44th annual ILLOWA Undergraduate Research Psychology Conference.

- **Maximilian Aviles '17**, an international relations major and Spanish minor, was one of only 20 students in the U.S. to receive a highly prestigious Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Service Fellowship, which provides graduate school funding to prepare for a career in the State Department. He also received the University's 2017 Technos Prize for academic achievement and international understanding.
- **Lia Murphy '17** and **Paul Baker '17** received "Spirit of McKendree" Awards for academic excellence, character and community mindedness at the Louisville and Radcliff, Ky., campuses, respectively.

## Athletic Highlights:

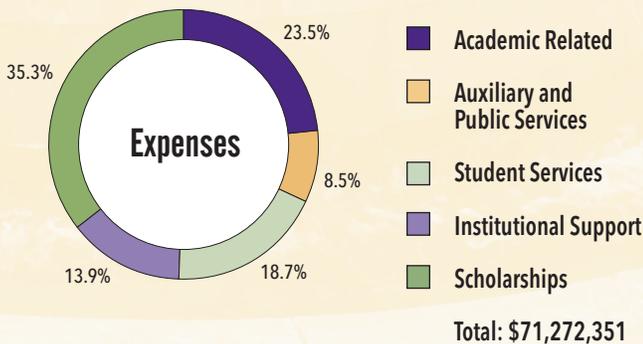
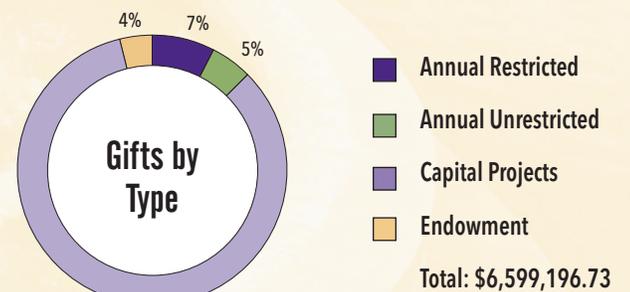
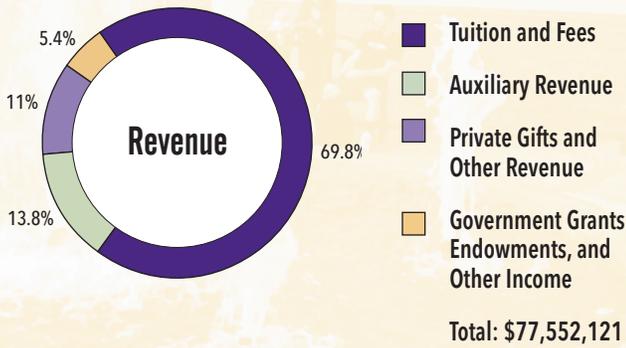
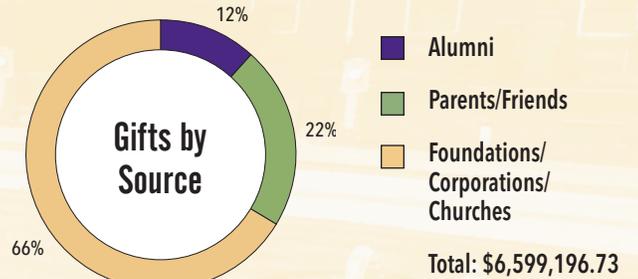
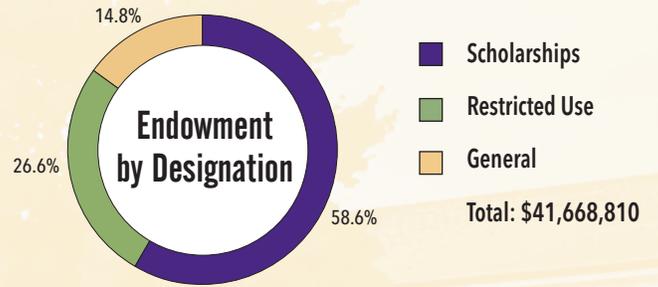
- Sophomore **Sydnee Carroll** was the GLVC Offensive Player of the Year and National Soccer Coaches Association of America's second-team All-American.
- Bearcats All-American football defensive end **Lucky Baar '17** was the Division II Conference Commissioner's Association (D2CAA) Ron Lenz Defensive Player of the Year, D2CAA Super Region 4 Defensive Player of the Year and Associated Press Little All-American first-team honoree. Linebacker **A.J. Wentland '17** was the GLVC Defensive Player of the Year and D2CAA second-team All-American.
- Defending its 2016 national title, the men's bowling team swept its way into the finals of the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Men's Intercollegiate Championship before dropping a close best-of-five Baker match to Webber International University. Junior **Greg Young** made the National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association All-America first team. **Armando Godoy '17** qualified for the USBC Intercollegiate Singles Championships and freshman **Bryan Hahlen** made Junior Team USA.
- Sophomore track and field All-American **Demontez McCray** was the GLVC Indoor & Outdoor Track Athlete of the Year and the 200-meter runner-up at the 2017 NCAA Division II Indoor Championships, with a personal best time of 21.18 seconds.
- On the women's track and field team, sophomore All-American **Quincy McSweeney** finished eighth in the 800-meter at the NCAA Indoor Championships and fifth in the 800-meter at the NCAA Outdoor Championships.
- Junior **Kevin Witcik** won the Elite 90 Award at the NCAA Outdoor Championships. The biology major carried a cumulative 3.993 grade-point average, the highest among all of the athletes that competed at nationals.
- Sophomore goalie **Andrew Best** was the Mid-America D2 Collegiate Hockey Association (MACHA) Goalie of the Year. He represented MACHA at the American Collegiate Hockey Association Division II All-Star Challenge, along with **Ryan Sizer '17** and **Steve Csanyi '17**, sophomore **Ty Watt**, and freshmen **Levi Armstrong** and **Dominic Naas**.
- Junior **Keenai Sampson** made program history by winning the NCAA Division II Midwest/Central Regional in men's golf with a 199 (17-under par) finish. The win earned him a berth to the 2017 NCAA Division II Men's Golf Championships, where he tied for 20th place.
- For the second straight year, the bass fishing program finished in the top five of the final Association of Collegiate Anglers School of the Year standings.
- Six men's swimmers qualified for the NCAA Division II Swimming and Diving Nationals in March. Sophomore All-American **Daniel Buijs** led the team with a sixth-place finish in the 200-yard backstroke.
- The women's swimming and diving team was a College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America Scholar All-America team. In the fall semester, the team posted a combined grade point average of 3.66, tied for the third-highest GPA in NCAA Division II.
- Freshman All-American **Nick Foster** was the GLVC Freshman Men's Wrestler of the Year and eighth-place finisher at the NCAA Division II National Championships in March.
- Junior All-American **Megan Black** won the 55kg division title at the 2017 USA Wrestling University Women's Nationals Tournament in March 2017, beating senior teammate **Gabby Weyhrich**. She was also a runner-up at 130-pounds at the Women's Collegiate Wrestling Association National Championships in February.
- In April, the women's bowling team earned its first-ever USBC Women's Intercollegiate Team Championship title and NCAA Women's Bowling Championship crown. McKendree was the first Division II team to win the NCAA national title, with a 4-0 victory over the University of Nebraska.
- In women's lacrosse, **Victoria Lelo '17** was the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Midfielder of the Year and an Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association second-team All-American. **Amy Porta '17** was the GLIAC Goalkeeper of the Year.
- Melissa Gyllenborg was the GLIAC Lacrosse Coach of the Year and guided McKendree to its first-ever GLIAC Tournament crown.
- **Michael Mendez '10** was the GLVC Outdoor Men's Track and Field Coach of the Year and led the team to the 2017 GLVC Outdoor Men's Track and Field Championship title.
- Shannon O'Keefe was the National Tenpin Coaches Association Division II/III Women's Bowling Coach of the Year.
- Jim Kisgen was the National Wrestling Coaches Association Super Region 3 Men's Wrestling Coach of the Year.

# Finance

The 2016-17 fiscal year continued to reflect the economic challenges experienced across the State of Illinois and globally. With a pragmatic approach driven by committed leadership, the University was able to withstand exterior factors and position itself well for the year to follow.

While tuition and auxiliary revenue were down slightly, gifts overall rose dramatically. Giving to Capital Projects was up, due to the gift of two buildings at the McKendree West residence halls complex and a large Campaign pledge payment. Endowment gifts were also up, due in part to the establishment of two new endowed scholarships. Alumni giving remained consistent with last year and included two large gifts. Giving by foundations, corporations and churches also increased considerably.

Through the generosity of donors, McKendree University continues to serve as a best investment for its students and the region.



# 2016 Fall Enrollment Breakdown

In August 2016, McKendree welcomed the largest and most diverse student body in its 189-year history.

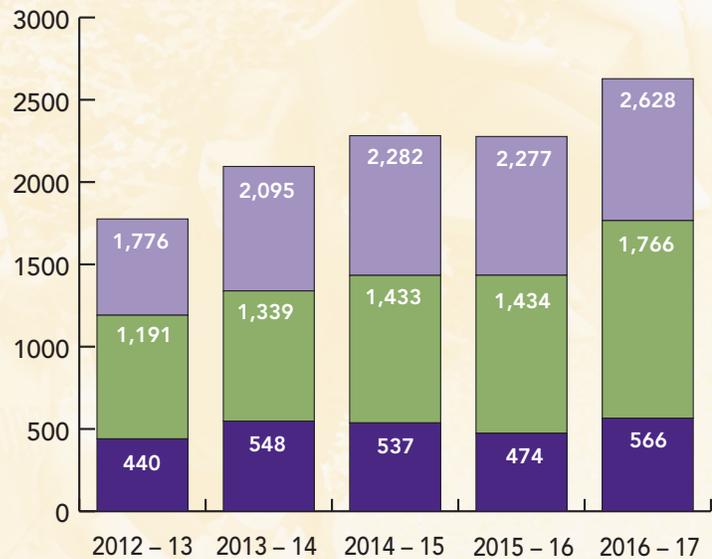
An increasing number of new Bearcats were from out of state. While two-thirds, or 66 percent, of the Class of 2020 came from throughout Illinois—a record low in-state percentage for a second consecutive year—others represented 28 states and 20 countries and territories. Five percent were international students from Canada, Nigeria, France, Netherlands, Ukraine, Belarus, Belgium, Zimbabwe,

India, Italy, Hong Kong, Sweden, United Kingdom, Cayman Islands, Switzerland, Rwanda, Germany, Serbia, South Africa and the Philippines.

Eighty percent of the first-year students received an academic scholarship; 47 percent graduated in the top fourth of their high school class. Collectively, the Class of 2020 had a high school grade point average of 3.5. Continuing a trend from recent years, most McKendree first-year students—91 percent—chose to live in campus housing.

## Incoming Student Enrollment

- Applied
- Admitted
- Enrolled



## Student Enrollment Statistics

- Graduate
- Undergraduate
- Total

