EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Trustees of Northwest Nazarene University are pleased to report that 2014-2015 was another strong year in the pursuit of NNU’s mission of being “a transformative learning community expressing the love of Jesus by forming scholars, nurturing disciples, serving the church, shaping the culture and redeeming the world.” As we celebrated many achievements on campus, we were pleased to renew President David Alexander’s contract for an additional 4 years. Here are a few of the positives from this year.

Strong Enrollment:  NNU was excited to announce a strong spring enrollment, with a six percent increase in traditional undergraduate students over spring of 2014, and a 96.9 fall-to-spring retention rate for all programs. Currently there are 1,297 degree-seeking undergraduate students and 690 graduate students. New opportunities continue to develop in our online programs and in the majors of engineering and nursing. With increased financial assistance available, there is a great need for Nazarene churches to emphasize to their youth that NNU is an affordable educational option. We are pleased that over the last couple of years we have seen a significant increase of applications from WaPac. We would encourage you to invite NNU Admissions Counselor, Jennifer Miller (jenmiller@nnu.edu) to visit your church.

Leah Peterson Learning Commons:  At the fall meeting of the Trustees we were able to celebrate the ribbon cutting of the new Leah Peterson Learning Commons. This facility which houses the John E. Riley Library, the J.A and Kathryn Albertson Foundation Atrium, the newly developed Doceo Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning and the university coffee shop has become a popular gathering place for the campus community. Head counts show that there are seven times more people utilizing this facility each day than those who made their way into the old library.

Spiritual Health of the Campus:  To step on NNU’s campus is to be struck by a strong emphasis on the call to become a Christlike disciple. Led by our new chaplains, Dustin and Olivia Metcalf, this year’s chapel services have focused on Jesus’ words in the Sermon on the Mount. Opportunities are also provided for students to interact with a small group, participate in a mid-week student-led gathering known as ‘Time Out’ and engage in service.

Wesley Center Activity:  The growth of the Wesley Center has provided pastors on our district with practical handles for growth. We have continued our partnership with NNU in the use of faculty and staff during our Ministerial Enhancement Weekend targeted at our district Ministers in Development. There are also lifelong learning opportunities being provided at $29 a course (one week online) which can be found at wesleycenter.nnu.edu. Through this site, pastors can also utilize the new “Clergy Life-Long Learning (CEU) Registry.”

Church/University Partnership:  Let’s be reminded that there are three major ways that every church can support NNU. First of all we can pray. The challenges of providing education in our world have never been greater, and there is a need to lift the administration, faculty, staff and students to God. Let’s pray for God’s protection and blessing over the university. Second, we would encourage every church to support the university by paying their 2.25% of the Education shares. The University’s Trustees Matching Award of $350 per student is matched at 7:1 for all churches that pay their Educational Assignment (2.25%) in full. Finally, we can do our part to encourage students to consider NNU. Whether it be high school graduates or those seeking graduate degrees, our university is a great place to become equipped to make a difference for Christ within the world.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. SCOTT SHAW

And the Washington Pacific District NNU Board of Trustees members: Jerry Kester, Ken Borbe, Debbie Edgbert, Bill Bowers, Steve Walden, Tim Westerberg