



2003 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SYNODS

Guided by its mission of "challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning," Wartburg College continues to discover and claim its calling as a college of the church. Wartburg has always been a place where callings are heard and where students can respond and prepare for purposeful and meaningful lives. More than 80 percent of Wartburg alumni report that the college helped them develop a sense of purpose in life. This core principle of the mission of Lutheran higher education continues to lead the work and direction of the college.

The events and initiatives of 2003 at Wartburg illustrate the myriad ways the college is excelling and expanding in its work to help students discover and claim their callings.

• The college formally launched "Discovering and Claiming Our Callings" in the fall of 2003 with kickoff events held at Opening Convocation and Homecoming. The program, made possible through a \$2 million grant from the Lilly Endowment, will foster an enriched college wide understanding of vocation as God's call to service in and for the world. Components of the program include:

- Discernment, which includes vocational retreats, programs for faculty and staff who serve as mentors, new programs to foster interfaith dialogue, and vocational discernment opportunities for alumni.
- Engagement, which includes activities to expand experiential learning such as Diakonia internships, new internships and courses that focus on service learning, service trips, and summer faculty workshops.
- Ministry, which includes new and expanded partnerships with Wartburg Theological Seminary to support students preparing for church vocations such as 21st Century Scholarships for underrepresented racial or ethnic groups, curriculum partnerships and expanded opportunities for international and cross cultural education, and enhanced ministry programs.



• Last spring, Wartburg College and Wartburg Seminary entered into a formal scholarship agreement to further celebrate their common history and mission. The Wilhelm Löhe Scholarships, offered to dependents of college and seminary faculty and staff, will build goodwill between the two institutions and serve as a model for college seminary cooperation in the ELCA.

• A comprehensive institutional plan to address multicultural and diversity issues was developed over the past year by the Global and Multicultural Studies Committee. The proposal sets forth a vision that helps define diversity for Wartburg and a framework that connects goals to the priorities established during the Commission Wartburg planning process. The campus is currently in the process of providing input to the draft of the plan, which will further be refined prior to full implementation.

• This past year, the faculty helped move forward the recommendation for the establishment of an Honors (Scholars) program that will be implemented this year with the first class enrolling fall of 2004.

• Enrollment reached a record high for the eighth consecutive year with 1,775 students from 23 states and 32 countries enrolled for the 2003-04 academic year. The total includes 106 American diversity students and 77 international students, the highest numbers in recent years, representing 6 percent and 4.3 percent of the student population, respectively. The Board of Regents and the college are engaging in discussions about optimum enrollment and faculty load. Over the past four years, average class size has been reduced substantially.

• Gifts and commitments to Campaign Wartburg now total approximately \$62 million toward the \$88 million goal for endowment, facilities and special projects, and the annual fund. The success of the campaign is evident today with the completion of Phase I of the Student Center and Science Center renovation and addition projects. Both facilities will be finished and dedicated in fall of 2004.

• Opportunities for faith formation through a vibrant worship life, a growing and thriving campus ministry program, peer ministry training, and service work help students consider how they can put their faith into action. The Wartburg community is privileged to be involved with continued outreach and partnerships to help strengthen the Lutheran traditions of higher education and Christian vocation.

A life of purpose is shaped by faith and learning, expressed in leadership and service to others. Our partnerships are invaluable as together we prepare young men and women for productive lives in society, their communities, and in the church. Thanks to all of you who support Wartburg and all the colleges of the church with your prayers, your gifts, and your young people.

JACK R. OHLE, PRESIDENT

