



Personal greetings to your Assembly Delegation and through you, to the members of your congregations.

I am nearing completion of my first year among you, as President of Carthage College. Among my earliest impressions of this strong and vibrant institution is its identity through 166 years as a Lutheran-related college. I seek to assure you that this identity shall be respected, preserved and strengthened. A small, private college deserves and needs a distinction, a specific reason to help it stand out among a throng of other excellent educational institutions. Carthage is church-related and we want to celebrate that fact.

We have moved this year to revive the popular Torchbearer relationship with congregations to improve our mutual dialogue, and I invite each one to respond to our liaison, The Rev. Dr. Carl Johnson when he calls with an invitation. Also, I seek your support and advice. Visit the campus so that we can meet as our schedules permit. Arrange a campus tour or write to me with your greeting or concerns: [president@carthage.edu](mailto:president@carthage.edu). You might also look at the Carthage website, [www.carthage.edu](http://www.carthage.edu), where you can take virtual tours and enjoy a variety of videos.

Now, celebrate with me the status of your college:

- At near-capacity, 2,546 full-time and 617 part-time students this year are being served by 149 full-time and 169 part-time faculty. Approximately 30% of our students are Lutheran, and 50% are Catholic. This past fall, students moved into the 6th and final dormitory in our new Oaks subdivision, a former Kenosha public park facing beautiful Lake Michigan. They enjoy the new Campbell student union, a state-of-the-art facility named after 25 year president, F. Gregory Campbell and his wife, Barbara. This spring, our students, plus teams from Kenosha and Racine, will begin to enjoy our new baseball field and stadium, dedicated in honor of widely known sports director, Augie Schmidt.
- Carthage extends far beyond our 80 acre arboretum campus. Annually over 500 students study across the United States and around the world, from Central America to Europe to Central and Eastern Asia. International students join Target Language Experts from 7 countries as they live among, teach, and bring cultural diversity to the campus community. In support of such diversity and inclusiveness, our Chapel ministries have enabled Jewish holiday observances and shared Ash Wednesday services and study projects with Catholic ministries. Intentional admissions recruitment is directed at racial and ethnic variety.
- Financially, Carthage remains strong, with endowment at an all-time high in spite of recent crises. This marks the 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of operating surpluses. Our facilities are being maintained, with over \$3.5 million spent this past year on repair, improvements and off-campus parking facilities. Significant capital additions are in the planning stage, including a welcome center and a performing arts center. In the spring of 2014 we will begin construction of a new science building with state-of-the-art teaching and laboratory facilities.

So, I invite you to pray with us, that we may be dutiful servants of the Lord. And celebrate with us the faithful and effective service of those who give their lives and careers to your college, Carthage.

Sincerely,

Gregory S. Woodward, President