

**Report to the 2020 Synod Assembly  
Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Synod**

*We appreciate the opportunity to partner with you in the mission of Lutheran higher education.*

Highlights of the 2019-20 year at Texas Lutheran University include:

- Inauguration of the University's 16<sup>th</sup> president, Dr. Debbie Cottrell
- Appointment of long-time faculty member Dr. Annette Citzler as interim Vice President for Academic Affairs for the 2019-20 academic year
- Appointment of Dr. Sarah Ferguson (currently serving at St. Mary's University of Minnesota) as Vice President for Academic Affairs effective Summer 2020
- Appointment of Rev. Marcus Bigott and Rev. Kelsie Theiss as interim campus pastors, with search for permanent campus pastor underway
- Launch of President's Faith Initiative Project, which included conversations with students, faculty, staff, local ministers, and Texas bishops on what it means to be a Lutheran university and how TLU can best further the spiritual development of its students. The intersection of campus ministries, church relations, civic engagement, and theological studies was an important part of these conversations.
- Record fall enrollment, with 1,406 full-time students enrolled
- Completion of the comprehensive "Ignite, Inspire, Impact" campaign for TLU, with \$75.6 million raised. This represents TLU's largest campaign ever and surpassed the original goal of \$75 million.
- Preparations to begin an accelerated nursing program for adult students at Resolute Hospital in New Braunfels, with first cohort enrolling June 1, 2020
- Five new members of the Board of Regents approved by the TLU Corporation: Rev. Barb Bartling (Kingwood), Sarah Eidson (Weatherford), Jessica Gaidusek (San Antonio), Nate Raschke (New Braunfels), and Dwain Thomas (Houston)

- Three new Corporation members appointed: Gayle Bouzard, Sarah Loyd, and Alexandria Pruden. In addition, Charlotte Smith became the presiding officer of the Corporation.
- New faculty members hired in Accounting, Chemistry, Computer Science, and Nursing
- Ongoing external support from grants and foundations, including a \$1.3 million grant from the National Science Foundation to support student success in science and math through culturally responsive teaching

And, of course, we have also had to adapt, serve, and help in this season of the coronavirus. In March we moved all of our courses online and closed our residence halls. We now have the majority of our employees working from home rather than on campus. We will continue in this remote environment for the remainder of the semester, and now plan for most of our summer offerings also to be online.

In the midst of this very unusual spring, TLU has remained strong and steady in serving its students, honoring its faith and its diversity, and ensuring its future. We are proud to be part of the ELCA's life and ministry, and we welcome your support in prayers, students, and contributions. Thank you for your partnership with us in our mission of higher education.

Debbie Cottrell  
President  
Texas Lutheran University