



July 2023

Report to the 2023 Shenandoah Conference

Dear Friends in the Shenandoah District,

As ever, Bridgewater College remains committed to furthering the values of community we share with you—goodness, truth, beauty and harmony—and to empowering our students to lead lives of purpose and consequence.

This summer we have begun a multi-year renovation of Bowman Hall, one of our central academic buildings. Home to seven undergraduate programs and three graduate programs, nearly every student at Bridgewater takes at least one class in Bowman. Every classroom, office space and teaching lab will be transformed into modern flexible spaces that facilitate collaborative work and engaged learning, while furthering the deep connections among Bridgewater faculty and students.

The College announced a new undergraduate major in engineering in response to student interest, which will allow students to graduate with career-ready skills necessary for the fields of mechanical engineering, automation engineering and mechatronics. We also launched a varsity esports program, with competition to begin this fall.

The Bridgewater Academic and Social Experience (BASE) program, which provides an extra layer of personalized assistance for students with autism spectrum disorder and others who may benefit from the support, completed its first year. Bridgewater has always emphasized developing and caring for the whole person, and this holistic program exemplifies that care.

Retiring College Chaplain the Rev. Dr. Robbie Miller '79 delivered our commencement address on April 29. We will greatly miss Robbie's humble dedication and the spirit of service he exhibited throughout his 33-year career at the College. Our commitment to the care and well-being of Bridgewater students and to fostering spiritual life on campus has not changed with Robbie's retirement. We have retained the campus Chaplain as a full-time position in Student Life, and I am pleased to share with you we have hired the Rev. Erin Burt as our next Chaplain. Erin joined the College on Wednesday, July 5, and we are confident her years of experience and education will serve her well in providing faith exploration and spiritual development experiences for our students.

In 2022-23, 74 congregations and church groups contributed \$34,974 to the College. The 41 Church of the Brethren students enrolled in 2022-23 received \$88,750 in Church of the Brethren scholarships and more than \$1.3 million in College-funded financial aid. Twenty-one Shenandoah District congregations donated \$14,130, and 25 of our students came from the Shenandoah District, receiving College-funded aid of more than \$760,000. Your support enables us to move forward, as we strengthen our academic programs, revitalize campus and celebrate our connections and accomplishments along the way.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David W. Bushman".

David W. Bushman, Ph.D.