

Summer 2020

Linfield Digest

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Recommended Citation

Linfield Magazine Staff (2020) "Linfield Digest," *Linfield Magazine*: Vol. 16 : No. 2 , Article 4.
Available at: https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol16/iss2/4

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Record-setting \$10M gift earmarked for new science center

Linfield STEM students will soon benefit from a state-of-the-art science center on the McMinnville Campus, thanks to a \$10 million gift from the W.M. Keck Foundation.

The largest single gift in the university's history, the Keck donation supports the renovation of existing facilities and the build-out of new spaces to create a new science hub. Construction is expected to begin in mid-2021. Once built, the facility will be named the W.M. Keck Science Center.

"This new center will have a transformational impact on Linfield," said Lucinda Day Fournier '95, W.M. Keck Foundation vice president and Linfield trustee, when the record-setting gift was announced.

"From the increased dedicated space for faculty-student collaborative research, to the enhanced interdisciplinary teaching and learning opportunities the project will provide, we know amazing work and learning will take place."

This is not the foundation's first significant gift to Linfield. In 1998, it helped the university purchase the neighboring Hewlett-Packard property and facilities. Today, these 17 acres are known as the Keck Campus.

Linfield president elected to national board

In February, Linfield President Miles K. Davis was selected as a board member of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU).

With more than 1,000 colleges, universities and associations as members, NAICU serves as the unified national voice of independent higher education and reflects the diversity of private, nonprofit higher education in the U.S.

Davis was among several new additions to the board, whose members set the association's agenda on federal higher education policy, oversee the organization's financial administration, and encourage support for the NAICU's priorities and initiatives.

Davis is the representative of Region VIII, which covers institutions in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. His three-year term ends in February 2022.

New master's degree prepares nurses to transform health care

Linfield's first graduate program will offer a master's degree in health care leadership for BSN-prepared registered nurses.

Designed with the work-life balance of nurses in mind, the new Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in Leadership in Healthcare Ecosystems is an accelerated, online program for nurses who want to lead change and

Linfield VP becomes president of Mount Aloysius College



On June 1, John McKeegan, formerly Linfield's vice president for institutional advancement and general counsel, took the helm as president of Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, Pennsylvania.

McKeegan, a Pennsylvania native, joined Linfield in 2010 as advisor to the president and general counsel. He was appointed vice president three years later.

His responsibilities for the university included coordinating fundraising activities, handling communications to internal and external constituencies, and leading alumni, parent and community engagement. During his tenure, Linfield secured the two largest donations in its history.

"It has been my great honor and privilege to serve Linfield," McKeegan said. "These are without question challenging times for our world, but I believe Linfield is in a strong position to continue being a beacon of light and ray of hope long into the future."

promote equity in health systems.

Starting in fall 2020, the new university program incorporates the fields of environmental, social and health sciences, as well as economics, to address current and future challenges to healthcare delivery. The program addresses these challenges while advocating for a sustainable and just healthcare ecosystem.

“This is an ideal time to offer a master’s degree that puts nurses in the driver’s seat,” said Kim Dupree Jones, Linfield’s dean of nursing. “Our graduates will transform the healthcare system as they advance their own careers. The program grows tomorrow’s leaders and serves as a springboard for success in doctoral programs.”

Interested students can learn more at linfield.edu/msn.

Wildcats’ earning potential is tops among Oregon colleges

Linfield nursing graduates have the highest median earnings of any Oregon college or university.

One year after graduation, Linfield alumni with bachelor’s degrees in nursing earn a median income of \$79,300 a year, according to the U.S. Department of Education’s College Scorecard.

President Davis credits Linfield’s commitment to educating the whole person — in and out of the classroom — for the success of its graduates. “Here, we combine both theoretical and practical knowledge to allow our students to perform well in multiple contexts,” he said. “Whether it is as a museum curator, marketer for Nike or a trauma room nurse, our graduates are making a

A new face in communications



In May, Kathy Foss joined Linfield as the university’s assistant director of communications and marketing. Foss comes to Linfield after 10 years at the University of Idaho, most recently as marketing and communications manager for the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences. Her previous experience includes several roles in collegiate athletic marketing. She holds a master’s degree in higher education administration and a bachelor’s degree in sport management, both from Washington State University. Her responsibilities will include serving as editor of *Linfield Magazine*.

difference within an organization on day one because Linfield connects learning, life and community.”



‘Cats get high marks for student voter turnout

Linfield’s strong voter turnout in the fall has earned national accolades. In November, the university received a platinum award at the 2019 ALL IN Challenge Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The award recognizes Linfield for achieving a student voter turnout rate of more than 50%.

“Linfield is proud to receive this national recognition for our efforts,” said Jeff Mackay ’88, Linfield dean of students. “The faculty and staff at Linfield work hard to graduate civic-minded

students who are prepared to solve the country’s, and the world’s, most pressing challenges.”

The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge is a national initiative to support campuses as they work to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and full student voter participation. More than 560 campuses have joined the challenge since its launch in 2016.

Portland campus renovations begin

After more than a year of planning, renovations kicked off on the new northeast Portland campus, home to Linfield’s School of Nursing. In early June, Walsh Construction began work to complete the approved renovations to five campus buildings with a target end date of mid-November.

Walsh’s previous projects for the university include transforming T.J. Day Hall into a cutting-edge green building with LEED Gold certification and building the Elkinton and Terrell residence halls.

Unprecedented generosity



For the past five years, the university's giving day fundraising event has taken place in early spring. This year, the COVID-19 pandemic put some plans for Linfield Gives on hold. But the Linfield community realized students need support during the coronavirus crisis more than ever — and Wildcats stepped up in a big way.

Instead of canceling Linfield Gives, the university piggybacked on #GivingTuesdayNow, a global giving movement, on May 5, with an additional day of fundraising on May 6. The Board of Trustees also provided a one-to-one match for all gifts.

During the two-day online event, the Linfield community raised more than \$565,000, a record number of gifts from a record number of donors. Nearly 1,000 supporters helped Linfield students through gifts made to the Linfield Fund and the

COVID-19 Student Aid Fund, which offers help with tuition, housing, books and other necessary expenses.

"There were those who said we should not be trying to do this now," President Davis said at the time. "But our advancement team, spurred on by a generous jump start by our Board of Trustees and various other matching challenges, which you stepped up for, has exceeded its goals. Thank you one and all."

Linfield represents at TEDxMcMinnville

Nearly half of the presenters at McMinnville's second annual TEDx event boasted a connection to the university.

Speakers at the Linfield-hosted event on Jan. 25 in Melrose Hall included philosophy professor Leonard Finkelman, former Linfield health counselor Natalie Bowker, McMinnville teacher Matt Brisbin '06, and equity and inclusion consultant Cinthia Manuel-Martinez '05.

Their wide-ranging presentations included imagining a world without grades (Brisbin), understanding that grief isn't only reserved for the death of loved ones (Bowker), fixing the mentoring system (Manuel-Martinez), and an overview of the extinction of species due to climate change (Finkelman).



Linfield will match students' college savings

In late 2019, Linfield partnered with the state of Oregon to offer students matching scholarship funds for college savings accounts.

As part of the Oregon Scholars program, the university will match up to \$1,000 a year for incoming students who have saved at least that amount in their Oregon College Savings Plans.

"The Oregon Scholars program is gaining momentum and is poised to help even more students meet their goals," said Oregon State Treasurer Tobias Read. "We're pleased to welcome Linfield to our lineup of participating institutions. Together, we are making it easier for everyone to save for education and training after high school."

Correction


In the Fall 2019 issue, *Linfield Magazine* did not clearly explain statistics used to describe the university's first-generation student population. Twenty-eight percent of all Linfield students and 42% of the incoming class on the McMinnville Campus are "first generation," a term describing students whose parents are not college graduates. We regret the confusion.



A Commencement like no other

With the traditional Oak Grove celebration canceled because of COVID-19, Linfield fêted the Class of 2020 in Commencement video presentations on the university's YouTube and Facebook pages on May 31. The Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing also held an online pinning ceremony.

"Now we get to make our mark not just on Linfield, but on

 [linfield.edu/summer-2020-videos](https://www.linfield.edu/summer-2020-videos)

the world," Commencement speaker Grace Bruncke '20 said in her video address to fellow graduates. "Congratulations Class of 2020, we did it!"

Before the virtual celebrations, graduates received diplomas either by mail or in a drive-through or walk-up event with social distancing on May 25 (pictured above).