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Linfield attracts national attention


Andrew Hacker and New York Times reporter Claudia Dreifus took American colleges and universities to task in their new book, Higher Education? How Colleges Are Wasting Our Money and Failing Our Kids — and What We Can Do About It. However, the book and a subsequent blog by the authors in The Washington Post singled out Linfield students and faculty for praise and placed Linfield among the top 15 schools in the nation for offering quality education at an accessible price. The authors again pointed to Linfield during an interview published in The Atlantic, citing Linfield first in a list of American colleges and universities where students are still a priority.

The Huffington Post named Linfield as one of seven colleges worth its tuition and the Washington Monthly listed Linfield as one of the 100 liberal arts schools serving the public good. The Princeton Review again named Linfield as one of the region’s top schools, recognizing its academic strength, financial aid, quality of life and dedication to sustainability.

High school counselors across the nation picked Linfield as one of 26 preferred small private schools in the U.S. Their College A-List was recently published in Parade magazine.

Linfield climbed 13 spots in U.S. News & World Report’s annual survey moving from 118 to 105 in the Best National Liberal Arts category.

Two Linfield students earn national honors

Two Linfield nursing students have been recognized nationally. Karen Bastian ’11 was one of six students in the country to win a competitive scholarship from the National Association of Hispanic Nurses.

Christina Perez-Camarillo ’13 was selected for participation in the National Hispana Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C., designed to address the underrepresentation of Latina graduates from colleges and provide tools to help Latinas become leaders and change agents in their communities.

“It feels great to be recognized at the national level,” Bastian said. “It’s been a great opportunity to meet inspiring Hispanic nurses and I plan to keep working with the Hispanic community in Oregon.”

NAHN is committed to improving the quality of health and nursing care for Latinos across the nation with a primary focus on promoting recruitment and retention of Hispanics in the nursing profession.

Perez-Camarillo said the institute transformed her life. It included sessions on public policy issues affecting the Latino community, career planning, effective communication skills and other leadership development topics.

“I had the chance to meet some wonderful Latina leaders who have motivated me to continue pursuing my dreams and to never give up no matter what obstacles come my way,” she said.

Linfield works to recruit and train Latino nurses in an effort to reduce health care disparities. The Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing achieved a 323 percent increase in Latino nursing students over six years due to an innovative program, Ayudando Podemos, which recruits Latino high school students and helps them obtain bachelor of science degrees in nursing.

President’s Report available online

The 2009-10 President’s Report, a look back over the past year at Linfield College, is at www.linfield.edu/presidentsreport.

The report provides a snapshot view of the year and includes information on academics, student life and athletics, enrollment, finances, philanthropy and volunteer leadership. It offers alumni, friends and parents an overview of activities, honors and events.
New chair brings broad experience

Sharon L. Wagner brings 15 years of academic and five years of corporate experience to her role as chair of the Business Department. Most recently, she built and led the workforce analytics practice for San Francisco-based Genentech, an international biotechnology corporation. Previously, she taught and administered undergraduate and graduate programs at the University of San Francisco, Golden Gate University and Middle Tennessee State University. She retains a private management consulting practice.

“I was drawn to Linfield and the possibilities our interdisciplinary environment offers,” Wagner said. “Linking business with a strong liberal arts curriculum enables our students to make connections, enhance critical thinking skills and see the global business environment and how they can make a difference. I look forward to working with alumni, business leaders and fellow faculty who make up the Business Advisory Council to ensure we provide the best undergraduate business education to Linfield students.”

New faces, new titles

Susan Hopp, the new vice president for student affairs and athletics/dean of students, is no stranger to the Pacific Northwest.

Although she most recently served as dean of students at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania, she previously served as director of student services and academic support programs at Oregon State University-Cascade Campus in Bend for six years. She was also associate vice provost of enrollment and student services/dean of students at Portland State University for eight years and held other posts at Lewis & Clark College and Western Oregon State College.

Hopp has extensive experience developing programs that contribute to the character formation of students as well as mentoring and coaching students to help them both professionally and personally.

She earned a bachelor’s degree with honors in English literature and the humanities from Stetson University in Florida and a master’s in college student personnel administration from Indiana University. She has completed doctoral coursework in public administration and policy at the Hatfield School of Government at PSU. She succeeds Dave Hansen, who has rejoined the faculty.

Others who have joined the administration or whose titles and responsibilities have changed include:

John McKeegan, advisor to the president and college counsel
Bonnie Saucier, associate vice president for academic affairs/dean of nursing and health sciences
Daniel Preston ’83, vice president for enrollment management
Robert Wolcott, interim vice president for academic affairs/dean of faculty

Record-breaking class of 2014

Linfield welcomed its largest freshman class on record, with 528 students enrolling this fall. Among the class members are an American lit student of the year and a five-time miniature race car national champion. Take a look at the class of 2014:

Class Size: 528
Women: 59%
Men: 41%
Students of Color: 26%
International Students: 2.1%
Legacy Students: 14%
First Generation Students: 20%
GPA: 3.34-3.83

SAT: 1000-1195
ACT: 20-26
National Honor Society: 162