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**FRANCONIA CONFERENCE AND EASTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE  
OF MENNONITE CHURCH USA REPORT**

October 2016

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**Interim President** – The Hesston College Board of Directors and Mennonite Education Agency Board appointed Benjamin E. (Ben) Sprunger, as interim president of Hesston College who started on August 1st. His appointment comes as President Howard Keim transitioned out of the role after an 11 and a half year tenure in June. Dr. Sprunger’s interim arrangement is to last no longer than June 30, 2017, to allow adequate transition time for the college’s next president.

**Commencement 2016** – The 2015-16 academic year came to a close with Commencement exercises last May. President Keim conferred 166 degrees for the Class of 2016. Special ceremonies honored graduates in Disaster Management, Nursing and Aviation.

**RN to BSN** – Starting in January 2017, Hesston College will launch an RN to BSN program for registered nurses looking to complete a bachelor’s level degree. The associates degree program (ADN) expanded in August 2015 to include a four-year bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) program. The RN to BSN program will be offered as both a one-year or two-year option and courses will be online and on-campus. For more go to [www.hesston.edu/nursing](http://www.hesston.edu/nursing).

**Starting the year** – Campus kicked off the 2016-17 year during Opening Weekend Aug. 19 to 21 and the first day of classes Aug. 22. Hesston College’s official fall 2016 enrollment numbers give a total student headcount enrollment of 401. Included in total enrollment is a four percent increase of new students who started at Hesston of 215 in 2016, as compared to 206 in fall 2015.

**2016 Community Read** – The 5th Hesston book selection for the 2016 read was “Spare Parts” by Joshua Davis. The book tells the true story of four undocumented teenagers, born in Mexico but living in Phoenix, who were inspired by their high school science teachers to build an underwater robot out of “spare parts” and compete against corporate-sponsored collegiate teams. Davis shared about his work in a presentation on Oct. 4.

**Homecoming 2016: Home Sweet Hesston** – Hesston College and over 450 alumni and friends celebrated homecoming 2016, “Home Sweet Hesston,” Sept. 29 to Oct. 2, along with Hesston High School and the larger community. Homecoming 2016 marks Hesston High School USD 460’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which transitioned from the former Hesston Academy. More than 265 Hesston College alumni attended 12 class reunions. Dual alumni that attended both Hesston High School and Hesston College resourced the weekend as presenters and performers. Many events throughout the weekend were shared events and open to the community including, the keynote presentation, “Compassion and Integrity in an Age of

Fragmentation” by 1973 HHS and 1975 Hesston College graduate John Paul Lederach and the “Promise of Living” Gala concert.

**AVDS Conference** – Hesston College’s 2017 Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series (AVDS) event **When The Unthinkable Happens**, seeks to answer the question, “How can congregations and our communities work together to be ready for traumatic events and to build resilience and bring healing and hope in the immediate aftermath and in the days and months following?” On Feb. 17-19 Kate Wiebe, director of the California-based Institute for Congregational Trauma and Growth, will give keynote presentations on campus along with STAR (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resiliency) trainer Donna Minter, Mennonite Disaster Service(MDS) Executive Director Kevin King and area resource persons.

**Congregational student aid** – Hesston College offers a match grant for scholarships provided by students’ churches. During the 2015-16 year, 65 churches contributed \$176,880 in student scholarships to 108 recipients. Hesston College matched a total of \$112,885. The average church aid per student was \$1,637 while the average church-and-college aid per student was \$2,683. **If your congregation is interested in providing a scholarship program to support Mennonite higher education, contact the Church Relations Office at 866-437-7866.**

Read these full stories and more at [www.hesston.edu](http://www.hesston.edu). For questions or more information, contact Dallas Stutzman, director of Alumni and Church Relations toll free at 866-437-7866.

**2016-17 campus theme verse** - “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord....-- Jeremiah 29:1-13 (NIV)

**Franconia Conference and Eastern District Conference  
of Mennonite Church USA  
Statistics and Connections**

2016-2017 Academic Year Students – 4

**Congregational Student Aid** – 2 congregations provided \$2,000 in tuition assistance for 2 students as of October 1, 2016.

**Unified and Designated Giving** – We are grateful for the financial support of conference churches to Mennonite colleges and Mennonite Education Agency through Unified and Designated Giving and for personal contributions given from individuals.

Ben Sprunger, Interim President

Dallas Stutzman, Director of Alumni and Church Relations

Tony Brown, Development Officer