



Report to Franconia/Eastern Conference 2016

Mennonite educators meet at Bluffton University

BLUFFTON, Ohio –Three times a year, members of the Mennonite Schools Council meet. Every other year, one of these meetings is at a Mennonite college and for the first time in nearly a decade, that meeting was held at Bluffton University.

Council members toured campus and learned about new and key programs at Bluffton including speech-language pathology and audiology, nursing and dietetics.

“We’re very excited to be here. Only four of our administrators had been to

Bluffton, so for the rest, this was their first time on campus,” said Conrad Swartzentruber, principal at Conrad Dock High School in Lansdale, Pa. “We’re using this opportunity to gather to learn more about Bluffton and what they offer so we can share with our faculty and students at our schools. It is a beautiful campus.”

During the meeting, the network of Mennonite early childhood through high school leaders took part in professional development sessions given by Bluffton University faculty.

Sessions ranged from “Issues in Education” to “Leadership: What does your staff need from you?.”

Council members also appreciated a session focusing on Title IX and issues surrounding sexual violence.

“Title IX is an area all of our schools are struggling to understand and deal with. One of our member schools has been very proactive in this area and Bluffton has also been very proactive so it was really helpful for all of our schools to learn more about this topic,” said Swartzentruber.

Simply Innovate campaign launches

Campaign goals

The campaign has a comprehensive goal of \$26 million with a high priority on opening a new science building in 2019. Campaign goals include:

- **\$14.5 million for the Austin E. Knowlton science building**
- **\$5.5 million in annual support** for the next five years
- **\$5 million to strengthen Bluffton’s endowment** with long-term support for student scholarships, faculty research and student discovery
- **\$1 million innovation goal** to support new academic program development, faculty-student research and interdisciplinary initiatives that enrich learning for students in the natural and applied sciences and for all students



Campaign milestone

President James Harder stands with Greg '77 and Donna (Thompson '78) Wannemacher and Dave Baumgartner '82 during the launch of Simply Innovate, the Campaign for Bluffton University. The Wannemachers made a \$1 million gift commitment during the event. Greg Wannemacher and Dave Baumgartner are campaign co-chairs and Bluffton trustees.

For more information on Bluffton University visit www.bluffton.edu or contact Robin Bowlus, senior director of advancement and public relations at bowlusr@bluffton.edu