

CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

Claflin University has had another year of distinguished academic successes. Campus growth and development, marking a ten year period of strategic objectives, reflect a continued escalation of achievements, which saw us surpass several of our stated goals. Our mission to educate regardless of race, gender or religious opinion now extends to 25 states and 14 countries. Our enrollment has risen to approximately 1,800 students. The university's retention and graduation rates of 68% and 80% respectively, have received national commendation. Our graduates in natural and computer sciences are accepted at some of the nation's top graduate and professional schools including Brown, Johns Hopkins, Duke University, Emory University, and Yale to list a few. Recent graduates in business have been equally successful with positions in prominent Wall Street investment firms: JP Morgan, Goldman, Sachs and Company, UBS Investment Bank, Morgan Stanley and Credit Suisse, again, to list a few. Off campus higher education and degree programs, which reach out to working adults, are offered in Beaufort, SC, at Fort Jackson, SC and in the fall of 2007, in West Columbia.

For the 11th consecutive year the university is listed in U.S. News and World Report's Guidebook to America's Best Colleges and Universities, ranking higher than all comprehensive colleges in South Carolina, coming in at number eleven in the Top Tier for Best Comprehensive Colleges in the South for students pursuing baccalaureate degrees.

The university continues to enhance the infrastructure and further build the institutional capacity to allow faculty and students to engage in significant research and scholarly activities. Given this commitment to increasing student preparedness, research programs have been expanded. In Claflin University's Center for Biotechnology, research is ongoing in the areas of prostate cancer, HIV/AIDS, Malaria and DNA. Our DNA program recently allowed us to collaborate with South Carolina law enforcement agencies to assist in forensic DNA testing generating a powerful tool for criminal investigations, while increasing our commitment to community service. Our HIV/AIDS program last year incorporated an international component. Under a federal grant, members of our faculty developed a unique HIV/AIDS outreach prevention program. The program, *Culturally Sensitive HIV/AIDS Prevention Risk Reduction and Intervention Training Program in India*, through methodology, is actively fighting the spread of this virus in targeted regions of the country. Our faculty embarked on their third visit to the Punjab State at the end of February.

The university underscored its historical significance and also expanded scholarly research in the humanities with the establishment of the Jonathan Jasper Wright Institute for the Study of Southern African History, Culture and Policy. The institute, named for the distinguished African American who served on Claflin's first board of trustees and also on the South Carolina Supreme Court, sponsors symposia and intellectual study for nationally known and gifted scholars in the social sciences.

Our reputation reached other areas of the globe when in November 2006, the U.S. Department of State chose Claflin University as one of a few universities to be visited by dignitaries from the Near East and North Africa under the International Leadership Program. Claflin was chosen because of our student programs which instruct in civic education and the university's encouragement of ethics, tolerance and citizenship in a multicultural society.

Because of the emphasis we place on character and ethics, one of the university's greatest achievements this year will be the consecration of the new university chapel on April 27th. Architecturally, the chapel has many beautiful and unique features from its semi-circular brick ramps ascending to the front entrance to the 45-foot steeple. The chapel building, in addition to its sanctuary, will house the Department of Philosophy and Religion. For much of Claflin's history there has been a site for worship and meditation on campus. The last chapel, named for the Reverend T. Willard Lewis one of the university's founders who died tragically young from yellow fever, was demolished 37 years ago to make room for our expanding campus. It has since been our goal to build another chapel to serve the students of this university and the community. Our mission will be the stronger with the existence of the chapel. Our students will now have a sanctuary and a physical testimony to the importance of developing both academically and morally as they prepare for an exciting and challenging future.

Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, President