

SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE

Spartanburg Methodist College continues its mission as a United Methodist institution dedicated to serving students in their first two years of a liberal arts education. The College continues its historic tradition to never deny a student admission because of the lack of financial resources. Each year, many first generation college students enroll at SMC. Approximately 95% of the students who matriculate receive some form of financial aid. An increasing number of SMC students receive the LIFE Scholarship, Lottery Scholarship, and Tuition Grants Award. These State grants, coupled with federal financial aid and loan programs and grants from the College enable us to be financially competitive with public and private institutions in South Carolina. It is our privilege to serve these students at the only independent, two-year, regionally accredited institution in South Carolina.

We continue to offer students a challenging academic curriculum that is comparable to the first two-years of liberal arts studies at institutions across the State. Approximately 85-90% of our graduates transfer to four year institutions where many earn the baccalaureate degree. We are pleased to report that the entering freshman class for the last three years had a cumulative high school grade point average of over 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

When freshmen students enter SMC, there are no juniors and seniors with whom to compete for leadership roles at our College. To strengthen their leadership capabilities, the area of Student Development offers a Leadership Program that is open to all students. Also, the faculty and staff who serve as advisors to student organizations help students refine their leadership abilities. When students transfer to senior institutions, many are prepared to continue serving as campus leaders.

At Spartanburg Methodist College, we emphasize the value of serving others as an expression of our faith. Throughout the year, we offer numerous opportunities for students to experience the joy of servant leadership. On their first full day on campus, entering students are immersed in our Freshman Day of Service Program. This year, over 450 students, faculty, staff, Trustees, and friends of the College were taken to various work-sites throughout the County. This eye-opening experience begins to give students a new perspective on the world. Upon returning to the campus, students discuss their experiences and share with one another the value of this experience in their lives and in the lives of those they served. Through our Campus Ministry program, Kappa Sigma Alpha Service Fraternity, and other student organizations, students may continue their volunteer service to others throughout their enrollment at SMC.

Through a generous gift from Drs. Ed and Charlotte Ellis to endow the Religious Life Program at SMC, our Chaplain, Rev. Candice Sloan, has expanded the variety of programs in very meaningful ways. Each week, the Chaplain leads a Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. each Wednesday. Our Religious Life Program includes a variety of ways students may explore their faith and find various ways to express their faith on our campus and in the community. The Religious Life program includes the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, music ministries, service-oriented ministries, and special campus-wide services such as *The Hanging of the Greens*. These opportunities are open to everyone on campus. During the Fall Break and the Spring Break, Chaplain Sloan and others from the faculty and staff take students on mission trips. These programs are an extension of our mission in higher education. Spartanburg Methodist College endeavors to be a community where John Wesley's "knowledge and vital piety" is alive and well throughout our campus community.

We are blessed to have a wonderful Board of Trustees that oversees the work of the College and clearly understands our unique mission in higher education. Our 24-person Board is very active in the establishment of policies and procedures, in all matters of governance, and in fundraising for the College. In many ways, our Trustees are very supportive of the ongoing work of the College.

Our relationship with the South Carolina Annual Conference through the Board of Global Ministries is both unique and strong. We strive to be the type of institution that one should expect United Methodist colleges and universities to be. We are grateful for the financial support we receive from the Church and the encouraging ways the General Board of Global Ministries and the Conference Board of Global Ministries support our mission in higher education. Truly this is a grand partnership in ministry!

In January 2007, the College began the two-year Reaffirmation of Accreditation process through the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. This rigorous process enables the College to intensively examine every dimension of the institution and identify ways to improve our work. In the year immediately following the conclusion of the SACS review, a review team from the University Senate of the United Methodist Church will visit the campus to ensure that we effectively fulfill the mission of the College and espouse Christian values and beliefs in all that we do.

As one of only seven remaining two-year United Methodist Colleges, we believe our mission as a two-year institution is viable, meaningful and relevant. With God's guidance, and through our partnership in ministry with the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, we confidently move forward with the resolve to educate the youth we serve, to instill in them the Christian values of our faith, and to equip them to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles P. Teague, President