



## Allegheny Mennonite Conference Mennonite Education Agency Report 2016 Annual Gathering

### *Greetings!*

MEA is pleased to share information with you for your annual conference. We are partnering with Mennonite educational institutions, preschool through continuing education to transform students to become Christ followers, service givers, peace seekers, rigorous learners, difference embracers and community builders.

This year **11,517 students** are enrolled at Mennonite institutions – 25 Mennonite School Council (MSC) schools, 5 colleges/universities, 2 seminaries and 2 Hispanic Pastoral and Leadership Education (HPLE) programs. Many future church and community leaders are being shaped with skills needed to succeed.

MEA is working with school leaders and teachers to ensure schools have the tools they need to transform lives through an Anabaptist lens. Over the past year we have worked in several areas to further Mennonite education.

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- In MEA staff has been involved in two presidential searches at Eastern Mennonite University and Hesston College.
    - In April, EMU announced the appointment of Dr. Susan Schultz Huxman as the 9<sup>th</sup> President, beginning January 1, 2017. Interim President Dr. Lee Snyder was jointly approved by the boards of MEA and EMU to serve beginning July 1.
    - The Search Committee for the new president of Hesston College has met several times. Their work is on track as scheduled.
  - Planning is underway for the joint MEA/ Mennonite Health Services board governance conference scheduled for March 9-11, 2017. This event will bring together the boards from Mennonite educational groups and MHS institutions. Conference leaders and boards are also participate in board development training.
  - The MEA board and committees have entered into conversations on the current landscape of the denomination and its implications on Mennonite schools.
  - Over 475 registrants participated “In the Image of God: Faith Community, Reconciliation” Mennonite Educators Conference 2016 February 4-6, 2016. Registrants came from the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, Colombia and Benin.
  - MEA is providing leadership for the planning for a Hispanic Anabaptist Academy Pastor and Spouse Spiritual and Training Retreat to take place this June. MEA is partnering with Goshen College and Everence in this event.

**Thank you** to Allegheny Conference congregations who support Mennonite education\*:

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015: \$4,142.50

*\*Giving includes gifts for higher education, MEA, Racial/Ethnic Leadership Education and Hispanic Pastoral Leadership Education.*

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**One of our greatest accomplishments is the testimony of students to the transforming power of Mennonite education.** Stories are plentiful and many of you could echo these words from a current Mennonite college student: “Attending a Mennonite college shaped who I am today and brought me to my own understanding and ownership of my Mennonite faith.” Thank you for your work in partnering with Mennonite schools of all kinds as well as Mennonite Education Agency. ***We are grateful for your support.***

Carlos Romero, MEA Executive Director