



**THE DIOCESE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
*THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SOUTH CAROLINA*

229<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention  
Report of Institutions



## 2019 Report to the Diocese of South Carolina

The road to Kanuga is unique for each guest that travels here. For some it's a path to self-discovery, an opportunity to learn a new skill or engage in an eye-opening discussion. For others it's a familiar journey to a time honored family tradition. And for others still, it's an exciting adventure that allows them to experience what nature has to offer while they grow and create new friendships.

Established in 1928 by the dioceses of the two Carolinas, Kanuga originally provided summer programs and camps to people from across the Southeast. Within 10 years, Kanuga had become the largest conference center associated with the Episcopal Church. Today, Kanuga serves the Episcopal Church broadly through Faith and Education, Wellness and Recreation, Artistic Expression, Outdoor Exploration and Camp Activities.

Last year, Kanuga unveiled our guiding set of **Core Values:** Service, Respect, Sustainability and Stewardship, to serve as the cornerstones of Kanuga's future. In March, we were pleased to reveal new mission and vision statements. In 1928, Bishop Kirkman Finlay envisioned a place in the mountains of Western North Carolina, rooted in the Episcopal Church, grown from the love of Jesus, and open to all people. **Ka-nu-ga**, is a word borrowed from the Cherokee and once thought to mean the meeting place of many people. These statements are both a reflection on where we have come from and on the values that we uphold today.

**Our Mission:** Kanuga is a gathering place inviting all people to connect with each other, nature and the Creator.

**Our Vision:** To inspire a more mindful and compassionate world.

**Our Culture:** We share the spirit of this place equally with all who desire its experience and affect in the world, and we welcome people of all religions, genders, ethnicities, nationalities, ages, abilities, sexual orientations and gender expressions.

Kanuga hosted 50 parish related retreats for churches across the Southeast and are honored to host annually the historical Diocese of South Carolina's clergy retreat. We've developed a New Parish Weekend Model at a reduced rate (family of four under \$500) that includes programming and childcare.

The Episcopal Church utilized Kanuga for the House of Bishops Spring Meeting, The General Board of Examining Chaplains, The Episcopal Church Foundation's Congregational Leadership Initiative and The Church Pension Group's Business Partnerships retreat. Province IV often utilizes Kanuga for Synod, ECW and Daughters of the King retreats. Sometimes our mission calls us to be a safe refuge from the storm. In early September, we served as an evacuation site for Bishop Gadsden Retirement Community from Charleston, SC. bringing about 80 assisted living patients to us, along with an equal number of staff plus family members.

In Kanuga developed programming, many offerings for Adults and Families, both familiar and new, occurred throughout the year. Funding Ministry through Innovation: **Life Beyond the Plate and**

**Pledge**, is a collaboration of The Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes Network, Trinity Church Wall Street and Kanuga. A program centered on the desire for in-depth leadership development amid the realities of a changing 21st century church. Teams of one clergy and one layperson from diverse parishes throughout the United States and abroad attended in September a summit and symposium on discerning new paths to fund mission and ministry that embrace the economic realities of today's church.

**#elevateECOJUSTICE**, a Creation Care and Environmental Justice gathering for the Church at Kanuga, March 13-15, 2020. This community will share stories from key players in the Church's creation care and environmental justice work, offer resources from groups intimately involved, and develop intentional plans for bringing this work to life in communities across the Church and the world. Elevate Eco Justice is part of Kanuga's annual Lansing Lee series which is made possible by an endowment established by Natalie Lee honoring the memory of Lansing B. Lee Jr. of Augusta, GA and with major support from the Buford L. Bowen Endowment.

**Nuevo Amanecer**, translated as New Dawn, is the largest Kanuga conference serving TEC biennially, and it celebrates and supports Latino ministries in the Church. Nuevo Amanecer is organized by the Office of Latino/Hispanic Ministries in partnership with Kanuga and will be held on May 12-15, 2020 with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry as keynoter.

Often overlooked is Kanuga's impact on youth and children. Camp Kanuga experienced a 15% enrollment increase from 2018, Camp Bob, our free summer camp experience for children who are under served, experienced a 40% enrollment increase. Through Camp Kanuga, Camp Bob, Mountain Trail Outdoor School, KEY (Kanuga Empowered Youth) Conferences, Summer Conferences and Guest Period, Kanuga served nearly 5,000 youth and children.

Known as a gathering place, we also take Kanuga on the road. Camp Kanuga collaborates with local churches and communities to offer unique youth programming and Day Camps in your area. Camp Kanuga Expeditions are dynamic exploratory experiences for high school students in Pisgah National Forest, Alaska and Hawaii that encourages the development of self-reliance, adaptability and Christian leadership.

A new resident program for young adults is in development that will explore the intersection of agriculture, nature and spirituality. A pilot program will begin in January 2020 with the full yearlong program beginning in August 2020.

We are also active locally with missional collaboratives like Interfaith Assistance Ministry, Friends of DuPont Forest and Camplify, which uses a series of camp-based and experiential learning programs to teach kids-in-need the life skills required to succeed and become the leaders of tomorrow. Kanuga awarded the Blue Ridge Service Corp, the Diocese of Western North Carolina's emerging Episcopal Service Corp project, \$9,000 through the Minkler Howell grant. As the Kanuga community, staff and guests, we have donated, through the Blood Connection's mobile bus, 144 units of blood. Each unit can help up to 3 patients in local hospitals, which means we could have reached as many as 432 people through our giving.

Kanuga's mission and vision statements are designed to carry us forward to our centennial celebration in 1928 and beyond. Since its founding, Kanuga has been shaped by a Spirit of true Christian Community. It is reflected in our Mission and demonstrated by the personal transformations that occur here. In navigating a rapidly changing world, we understand that its not going to do any good to try harder. We have to make an adaptation, and the key to adaptation begins with going back to our core values and

creating a capacity to experiment and to learn. Our purpose remains clear and our Mission has never been more meaningful to those who seek to reconnect with themselves, each other and the Creator.

All of us at Kanuga continue to be grateful to friends, supporters and partners in ministry from the historical Diocese of South Carolina. No matter what brings you here, we look forward to welcoming you with open arms and unparalleled service.

Respectfully submitted,



**Michael R. Sullivan**  
President



**James L. Haden**  
Executive VP: Mission



## **2019 Annual Report** **Danny Sanford, Chief Executive Officer**

In 2019, Still Hopes opened a brand new building named Greenway. Greenway brought to life 22 new assisted living apartments, the Riverbanks Apartments, and replaced our older nursing center with three new 16 room nursing care neighborhoods. Each of these skilled nursing neighborhoods are scaled down to allow a much more home-like environment, both in the size of the building, and in the intimacy of the care. These three neighborhoods are each named for Columbia's three rivers: the Saluda, the Broad, and the Congaree. These three neighborhoods collectively form the Dr. Jane Bruce Guignard Healthcare Neighborhoods. This combined effort of the Greenway building brings to life a significant part of our 2001 Master Plan to re-invent the Still Hopes campus for a vibrant future.

In May we began another new building, which will see us bring to life the final component of our 2001 Master Plan. This new building will be called Hopewell, and consists of 80 additional luxury apartments, along with a fifth dining venue for residents of our apartments and cottages. These apartments, almost all of which are two bedroom, and all of which provide large balconies, are pre-sold now, with the new residents-in-waiting eagerly anticipating the building's completion in March of 2021.

In addition to these construction projects, the Board of Trustees has worked with the management of Still Hopes to bring to life an on-site medical practice for the use of our residents. Dr. Victor Hirth, a renowned geriatrician, is the physician we have partnered with to operate this new concierge style practice. The practice offices were constructed as a component of the Greenway building completed in 2019. The practice is officially open as I write this report, and Dr. Hirth has already begun meeting with his patients, those residents of Still Hopes who have elected to join. We are excited to bring this amazing new service to our residents, assuring them the highest quality physician care in a time when the Medicare program is being re-tooled to do the opposite. Still Hopes believes the wellness of our residents is multi-faceted, and Dr. Hirth's personal approach to medicine aligns with ours and will certainly benefit the health of those who choose to participate in his practice.

Outside the walls of our campus, we are still actively working with the Diocese of Upper South Carolina to bring an intergenerational community to life in York, South Carolina. This community will not only provide a middle-market option for those in their retirement years, but will also offer early childhood development programs to a community in need of this service. The early stages of fundraising are underway for this effort, in conjunction with two additional ministries of the Diocese: Camp Gravatt and Campus Ministries.

Still Hopes' Mission is to provide a faith-based community where life will be rich and full as God intends it to be, holding to our values, serving one another with dedication, and promoting health and wellness for all. Never before have we honored our Mission as well as we do today, and be assured that we will continue to find ways to further brighten the journey of our residents and their families. Your role, as supporters of our efforts, is vital to our success and we thank you for your kindnesses, both with your monetary support and your prayers. It is my pleasure to bring you this report and to continue to serve this great ministry organization.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Danny Sanford". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.



## **Religious Life: Annual Report**

**The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina  
The Episcopal Church in South Carolina  
Porter-Gaud Board of Trustees  
October, 2019**

### **LEADERSHIP**

J. Walker Coleman '87 is the currently-elected Chair of the Board of Trustees. He began his first 3-year term in July. Cordes Ford '94 is chair of the Porter-Gaud Foundation, which oversees the philanthropic efforts for the school including the current capital campaign for a new performing arts center and auditorium as well as a chapel. There are three clergy representatives on the board in addition to eighteen other members. These are held by The Rt. Rev. Mark Lawrence, The Rev. Canon Caleb J. Lee, and The Rev. Greg Snyder. Dr. John McCardell, Vice Chancellor of Sewanee is also serving on the Board of Trustees. DuBose Eggleston is in his 11<sup>th</sup> year as Head of School. DuBose currently serves on the Governing Board for the National Association of Episcopal Schools and the Board of Trustees for the Southern Association of Independent Schools.

### **CHAPLAINCY FACULTY and STAFF**

The Rev. Jill Williams - Lower School Chaplain

Ms. Henrietta M. Rivers - Middle School Chaplain

The Rev. Charles Echols, PhD - Upper School Chaplain and Chair of the Religion Department

Mr. Nick Rindge - Upper School Religion Faculty and Lay Chaplain

### **HISTORY**

Porter-Gaud has a long history of living out its spiritual identity as an independent Episcopal school rooted in the rich heritage of Anglicanism. For much of its history, Porter-Gaud had one chaplain who taught all the religion classes, conducted chapel services, and provided pastoral care for the school community. As the School has grown and the needs for ministry have increased, the Board of Trustees has bolstered the chaplaincy so that there are now three full-time chaplains on campus in addition to a faculty member teaching Religion classes and supporting student ministry.

### **WORSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP**

In addition to the traditional celebration of Holy Communion each Thursday morning in St. Timothy's Chapel, there is weekly chapel on a divisional basis for the Lower, Middle, and Upper School students and faculty. The School observes the major festivals of the church calendar. Advent chapel services are held in all three divisions. The Lower School holds a Christmas chapel and the Middle and Upper Schools have a Christmas Eucharist. The School's service of Lessons and Carols, held at the Church of the Holy Communion, is a tradition that dates back over 30 years and is a highlight of the Christmas season for the school community. All three divisions mark Ash Wednesday in their respective

chapels, and the Middle and Upper Schools celebrate the Eucharist during Holy Week. The Middle and Upper Schools have, furthermore, developed a vibrant ministry of student groups. Vestry and Bible study groups meet weekly with strong attendance. Vestry members hold significant leadership roles on campus and assist in leading worship in chapel. The students participate in a retreat in the fall. The chaplains continue to develop this ministry and are discussing service opportunities, and how to develop a sequential curriculum for student spiritual growth.

### **ACADEMICS**

Porter-Gaud offers Godly Play and character education curricula in the Lower School that focus on the major stories of the Bible in tandem with selected virtues each month. In Middle School, virtues are taught using C. S. Lewis's *Narnia* novels, and eighth graders take a survey course of the Old Testament. The Upper School features a required course in the New Testament and Ethics and an elective on the writings of C. S. Lewis. The Upper School Department of History curriculum includes World Religions as an elective every other year. In the Middle and Upper School, the character education thread is woven through Advisory, Chapel, and other programming for students that follows the virtues framework established in the Lower School.

### **SERVICE**

Porter-Gaud has an active community service program through which students volunteer thousands of hours annually to assist various agencies throughout the Lowcountry. Service opportunities are available with agencies working with at-risk and special-needs children, environmental and animal welfare, health and senior-adult issues, and hunger and poverty needs.

### **Porter-Gaud Mission Statement**

Porter-Gaud is an Episcopal, coeducational, independent, college preparatory day school. We acknowledge the sovereignty of God, recognize the worth of the individual, and seek to cultivate a school community that endows its citizens with a foundation of moral and ethical character and intellect. Porter-Gaud fosters a challenging academic environment that honors excellence in teaching and learning, respects differences, expects honesty, and applauds achievement. The school strives to create an environment that nurtures and protects what we value most in our children: their faith, their curiosity, their talents, their integrity, their humanity, and their dreams.

### **Episcopal Identity at Porter-Gaud**

As an Episcopal school, Porter-Gaud stands on the foundation of Anglican theology rooted in the Scriptures and expressed in the Book of Common Prayer. Because the school community is inclusive and diverse, we cultivate a climate of respectful dialogue in matters of faith. The School respects different faith traditions while simultaneously emphasizing its Episcopal core. We uphold the principles of honesty and integrity and the pursuit of moral and ethical character. Inherent in the Porter-Gaud mission is the belief that we possess certain distinctive gifts and talents given to us by a loving God. The school community reflects this belief and our teachers are committed to helping each student discover his or her gifts and talents.

### **The WATCH Prayer**

O Lord, may our words be full of truth and kindness, our actions gracious and honorable, our thoughts unselfish and charitable, our character noble and upright, and our habits virtuous, that our school family may grow in faith, honor, and knowledge, as we watch together in all things. AMEN.

# BISHOP GADSDEN



*Bishop Gadsden Episcopal Retirement Community embraces God's call to ministry.*

*We affirm positive living for all who live and work here.*

*We serve with integrity.*

*We exercise wise stewardship.*

*We reach out with a generous spirit.*

The Bishop Gadsden mission statement above guides our philanthropic outreach, core business, and continued growth. Bishop Gadsden now serves some 500 residents and over 400 team members every day, providing a unique mix of hospitality, healthcare, amenities and services. Currently, we are completing construction on 8 cottages in a new neighborhood known as The Glebe on the west side of our campus. We look forward to welcoming these new residents beginning in December. Nowhere is our mission more visible than in the compassionate medical support provided in our health care residences. Groundbreaking will occur soon on an expansion of these services, to include a new wellness and hospitality focused healthcare center, and a repositioning of some of our oldest buildings to create 24 new one- and two-bedroom assisted living apartments.

The new healthcare center will provide 32 beds for short-term post-acute rehabilitation, 32 assisted living memory care residences, and 64 beds for long-term skilled care, with capacity to serve not only Bishop Gadsden residents but those in the greater Charleston community as well. Large private suites with multiple exposures and beautiful courtyards will surround a spacious 2-story Commons with an atrium library, gathering/multipurpose space, and an upbeat bistro with a bakery, fresh food market and retail shop. On the 2nd floor, The Christie Family Rehab Center will feature soaring glass bringing healing natural light into the rehab gym/fitness center. The planned medical clinic, relaxing spa, and family prayer and meditation space will provide a restorative context to short-term rehab. We anticipate completion of this project in 2021.

Generosity and philanthropy are defining elements of our Community culture for our residents, future residents, family members, board and staff. Our community has demonstrated this incredible generosity through our Shared Futures Campaign, currently advancing quickly toward a goal of \$5M to support the healthcare expansion. Over the past year we have provided \$544,888 in grants to support residents in financial need, enabling access and continued care for those in need of assistance. Residents selected and partnered with variety of not-for-profit organizations that serve others in the Charleston community, including Vantage Point Foundation, Lowcountry Food Bank and Turning Leaf with support totaling \$223,186. Our Strongheart Employee Scholarship Program continues to expand and offer opportunities to staff members seeking to further their education or pay down education debt. Fifty-seven staff members have received over \$100,000 in scholarship funds last year and so far this year, with another round of scholarship distributions coming this month. Social accountability is a part of wise stewardship, and our entire Community embraces our philosophy of giving back.

In addition to *giving*, Bishop Gadsden experienced the profound grace and gratitude of *receiving* this year through the support of two Episcopal Church institutions, Still Hopes Episcopal Retirement Community and Kanuga. Both organizations, along with a 3<sup>rd</sup> partner LMC Extended Care, were relocation sites for us during our evacuation for hurricane Dorian. To be welcomed with such gracious



hospitality and to have the support and commitment of the wider Episcopal Church in a time of great need was a true comfort.

The single most significant event in our Community life this past year has been the honor of celebrating the incredible ministry and impact of C. William Trawick, Bishop Gadsden President/CEO for the past 34 years. Bill announced his retirement earlier this year, beginning our journey through a leadership transition for the first time in our Community's modern history. During Bill's tenure, Bishop Gadsden has become a recognized model of innovation in senior living, through excellence in programs, amenities, philanthropy, architecture and design. Our unique culture of mutual support and care, established through Bill's personal example and servant leadership, has blessed thousands of lives. For this, the Board of Trustees in partnership with the Resident Council announced the naming of Trawick Commons in his honor, with hearty affirmation of the entire Community. Bill continues to serve Bishop Gadsden as the Chair of the Shared Futures Campaign and is undertaking the documentation of the Community's history.

It is a profound honor for me to be called now to advance our ministry of generosity, care, and service. Bishop Gadsden's 169-year history reflects an unwavering commitment to our founder's vision. We are grateful to our residents, family members, donors, team members, and the community of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina for being part of this extraordinary mission.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Tipton".

Sarah Tipton

President/CEO



**NEVER STOP  
LEARNING AT  
SEWANEE**

*Kimi deMent, who earned an M.A. in Theology in 2013, leads a faith and justice summit, helping faith leaders understand how to help when parishioners have legal difficulty. The summit is a program of the Beecken Center, in partnership with Sewanee's Office of Civic Engagement, and the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts, where deMent coordinates a statewide Faith and Justice Alliance.*

**T**he University of the South is well known for its College of Arts and Sciences, one of the country's top liberal arts colleges; its seminary, one of 10 serving the Episcopal Church; and the Beecken Center, home of Education for Ministry (EfM), which has enlivened the personal ministry of more than 100,000 Christians. What is less well known is that this University, owned by 28 dioceses in the Sewanee Province of the Episcopal Church, is a center for learning that touches people of all ages.

#### **Preparing for adulthood**

Come to Sewanee for SUMMA and learn, through debate, how to connect reason, faith, and tradition, while also preparing for college with a rigorous introduction to critical thinking. Or participate in the Young Writers' Conference, Choral Institute, or the Sewanee Environmental Institute's field studies experience and develop a creative talent or learn more about the natural world.

#### **On the path to the baccalaureate**

Move successfully into adult life by earning a degree at the only University owned and governed by Episcopal dioceses. Study one (or more) of 36 majors, 43 minors, and 15 special programs, including an innovative civic engagement program that leads students to change the world for the better.

#### **Getting ready for church leadership**

Congregations raise up individuals who are called to ministry, and the School of Theology provides them rigorous academic training, grounded in a life of prayer and in the shape of the Anglican tradition. The result? Good priests, pastors, teachers, liturgists, and preachers, formed with a servant's heart to lead the church's service to the world.

#### **We all have a ministry**

EfM builds communities of mutual support and mutual discernment where participants study scripture, history, and theology and read and reflect on how God is calling them to work in the world. **Invite Welcome Connect** is a transformational ministry that equips and empowers clergy and lay leaders to enrich their practices of evangelism, hospitality, and connectedness. These offerings from the Beecken Center provide learning opportunities to Episcopalians and others whose fervent wish is to live lives of meaning.

#### **Digging Deeper**

The **Advanced Degrees Program** gives Episcopal and other clergy deeply embedded in ministry the opportunity to dig deeper in their understanding of their faith and gain new energy in their ministries.

**VISIT [EPISCOPALRESOURCE.SEWANEE.EDU](http://EPISCOPALRESOURCE.SEWANEE.EDU)**



Wil Keith is serving his community as a rector as well as a chaplain for the fire and rescue unit.

### SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE

**W**il Keith, T'09, is active in the Episcopal Church in South Carolina and serves his community in others ways, too. He became chaplain for Midway Fire Rescue on Pawleys Island and Litchfield Beach in 2014. As Chaplain, he provides spiritual guidance and counseling that aids in personal and professional matters. He is also available in situations where the possibility of injury to personnel is high, such as structure fires or natural disasters. Father Wil received a BA in philosophy & religion from Appalachian State University in 2002 and in 2009 he earned an M.Div. from Sewanee. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2010. Originally from Asheville, North Carolina, he was called to be rector at Holy Cross Faith Memorial Episcopal Church in 2012, where he currently ministers to a congregation of 400+ active members. On the Diocesan level he serves on the Bishop's Commission on Ministry, convener for the Waccamaw Pee Dee Deanery, and several liturgical committees. When he is not working, Father Wil is an avid fisherman and family man. He lives in Pawleys Island with his wife, Amanda, and their two daughters, Lilly and Willow.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

**Bess Turner**

University Relations  
 The University of the South  
 Office: 931.598.1460  
[bessturner@sewanee.edu](mailto:bessturner@sewanee.edu)



## REPORT FOR EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SOUTH CAROLINA

AS OF SEPT. 15, 2019

### FINANCES

Donations from the diocese: \$2,000  
 Donations from churches of the diocese: \$5,900  
 Returns to the diocese in the form of financial aid to college students, seminarians, and ADP students: \$199,758  
**The average return on contribution for an owning diocese is about \$34 for each dollar donated**

### ENGAGEMENT

EfM groups: 1  
 Trustees: The Rt. Rev. Gladstone B. Adams, The Rev. Wil Keith, Jane Hart Lewis, Thomas Miller  
 College students: 11  
 Seminarians: 1  
 Advanced Degrees students: 2 plus 8 alumni

## WHAT WE DO

### PRE-COLLEGE

#### SUMMA

45-60 participants | \$1,000 tuition |  
 \$12,000 given in financial aid

#### SEI ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD STUDIES EXPERIENCE

22-25 participants | \$1,850 tuition |  
 \$8,000 given in financial aid

#### YOUNG WRITERS' CONFERENCE

75 participants | \$2,400 tuition |  
 \$10,000 given in financial aid

### COLLEGE

1,698 students (374 Episcopalians) | \$58,000 comprehensive fee | \$32 million given in financial aid (\$6.2 million to Episcopalians from owning dioceses)

### SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

#### SEMINARY

79 residential students | \$18,258 tuition and fees | \$1.6 million given in Financial aid

#### ADVANCED DEGREE PROGRAMS

48 participants in 2019 (73 active students) | \$94,000 given in financial aid

#### SEWANEE MINISTRY COLLABORATIVE

32 participants per year build thriving ministries | minimal cost to participants | fees paid by a grant

#### BEECKEN CENTER

5,500 current participants | average of 11 EfM groups per diocese

**I. Core Strategic Goals for the College**

- A. Goal #1 Demonstrate Academic Excellence and Distinction
- B. Goal #2 Facilitate Student Success
- C. Goal #3 Ensure Institutional Efficiency and Effectiveness
- D. Goal #4 Strengthen Resource Development

**II. Update on Specific Strategic Objectives**

A. SPRING 2019- Goal #1: Demonstrate Academic Excellence and Distinction

Objective 1.3 focuses on developing programs to enhance the thinking of students. SACSCOC has officially approved the College's first online degree program. The Business Administration online degree was fully operational this summer. Objective 1.5 refers to enhancing the Honors Program, and some 60 students were inducted into the *W. Franklin Evans Honors College* this spring semester. This objective also requires that greater financial support be provided to scholars. On April 12, ten presidential scholars were recognized at the President's Scholarship Gala. This group included the largest percentage of male presidential scholars in some time.

FALL 2019-Goal #1: Demonstrate Academic Excellence and Distinction

Objective 1.1 focuses on attracting talented and qualified faculty. A new department chairperson, Dr. Katherine Whitaker for Business and Entrepreneurship, and several new faculty members were hired for the fall term. For the upcoming Annual SACSCOC Conference in December, a team of 10 employees will travel to Texas. Five team members (Dr. Ronne Hopkins, Dr. Sherry Hopkins, Ms. V. Diane O'Berry, Dr. L. Rochelle, and myself) will undergo the required orientation for the upcoming decennial reaffirmation process. The Department of Business and Entrepreneurship will be working on its ACBSP reaffirmation over the next 12 months.

B. SPRING 2019- Goal #2: Facilitate Student Success

As the College continues to increase its retention rate (Objective 2.1), staff mentors were identified to not only assist in the residential facilities but also with our international program and honors program. These coordinators will implement strategies to mentor students and keep them engaged with campus-life. To assist with improving the graduation rate (Objective 2.2), a First-year Experience Coordinator position was funded through the CPI budget. The new coordinator began work June 1. Based on the Office of the Registrar's report, 77 students applied for spring 2019 graduation. This was an increase to the graduation numbers from the previous year. The Office of Admissions reported that over 6,277 applications were received for the upcoming fall term, compared to 6,066 this time last year. Of that number of students with complete files, 3,787 had been accepted compared to 3,601 last year at this time (Objective 2.3). A new group of Student Government Association leaders was installed on April 9 during Chapel Service which was hosted by the outgoing SGA officers (Objective

2.4). Mr. Jalen Williams-Butler is the new SGA president and will serve as the student representative to the Board of Trustees. Voorhees College's Honda All-star Team was selected to attend and compete at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Honda Campus All-star Challenge (HCASC) in Los Angeles, CA. Although the team was unsuccessful in winning the grand prize of \$75,000, the Voorhees College team has three of its four members returning next year as eligible and experienced competitors. The ladies of Spellman College were victorious in winning the HCASC grand prize. The Spring 2019 Health and Wellness Fair was held at the Dawson Center (Objective 2.9) with over 200 students and community partners participating. This was an excellent demonstration of collaboration between and among the divisions of Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management-Student Affairs.

FALL 2019-Goal #2: Facilitate Student Success

For the past two years, the College's retention rate has been 55%. We are waiting to receive confirmation on the 2019 retention rate (Objective 2.1). Two years ago, the College's five- year retention rate average was 46.8%. Enrollment did increase slightly for this fall term at 510 students. In an effort to improve the graduation rate (Objective 2.2), Freshman and Sophomore Seminars classes are continuing to be provided, and the Career Pathways Initiative has received praise for its accomplishments and progress. Efforts to attract international students for Ghana and Liberia continue to forge ahead at Voorhees College (Objective 2.6). The SGA and other student organizations have already planned several well-attended programs: Chapel services; anti-hazing; domestic violence prevention; and active shooter (Objective 2.5). The newly renovated track has been opened for both athletes and the Voorhees College family (Objective 2.9). The HBCU Talent Showcase, held in Columbia, SC and sponsored by the CPI Cluster, was a major success in connecting students with potential employers from the across the state and the southeast region (Objective 2.10).

C. SPRING 2019- Goal #3: Ensure Institutional Efficiency and Effectiveness

The campus has been implementing a campus-wide plan for upgrades (Objective 3.7). The new Veterans Resource Center was established in a renovated Bedford Hall; the Track and Field facility is currently being renovated by Beynon Sports Surfaces, Inc.; restrooms in the Dawson Center have been enhanced; House #5 has undergone interior renovations due to a fire; and additional safety and physical facility changes (Rural Health Center, BTW, Security Booth) will occur in the next 90 days.

FALL 2019- Goal #3: Ensure Institutional Efficiency and Effectiveness

The Office of Human Resources continues to provide literature via its newsletter and electronic advice on improving customer service across the campus (Objective 3.2). A new AC unit was installed for one of the residence halls, and other repairs were made throughout the living facilities and guest houses (Objective 3.5).

Additionally, a new Security Checkpoint was erected, and the fountain outside the Wrights-Potts Library has been restored. The annual campus auditing processes are currently underway (Objective 3.8), and it is our expectation that these audits should have little to no issues. The College also received a slight increase in Title III funding for this academic year, and the state of South Carolina provided an increase in HEEEP funding to all of the independent colleges and universities in the state (Objective 3.9).

A. SPRING 2019- Goal #4: Strengthen Resource Development

Alumni support and engagement (objective 4.2) continue to improve. Upcoming fundraising events were scheduled for Charlotte, Augusta, Charleston, and Atlanta over the next couple of months. The National Alumni Association of St. Paul’s College has partnered with Voorhees College (Objective 4.1). A check for \$25,000 was presented to Voorhees from that group earlier this year, and later this month, St. Paul’s alumni will be hosting an event to raise funds for Voorhees College and St. Augustine’s University. Positive media coverage continues for the College. U.S. News & World Report’s Best Colleges – 2019 Edition ranked Voorhees College as #61 among the “Best Regional Colleges” in the South and one of the top 55 “Best Historically Black Colleges.” The 2019 Presidential Scholarship Gala, held on April 12, was the most successful gala to date. Over \$200,000 was raised to support student scholarships (Objective 4.6). Regional, state, and local businesses and vendors, such as Dominion Energy, Aladdin, Morgan Stanley, South State Bank, AT & T, Sabb Law Group, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and State Farm, contributed to the 2019 Presidential Scholarship Gala (Objective 4.8). The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. has established a \$100,000 endowment (Objective 4.5), and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. provided a check to assist with “gap funding” in support of our students.

FALL 2019-Goal #4: Strengthen Resource Development.

The giving goal set for the Division of Institutional Advancement and Development met its expectation at the end of the fiscal year. The Voorhees National Alumni Association continues to provide funds to the College through its 10 Under 40 initiative. Alumni chapters, such as the Metro Atlanta Chapter, continue to provide scholarship funding to students residing in their areas (Objective 4.2). During Homecoming 2019, there is an expectation to receive funds from several classes and groups in reunion. The College’s relationship with the Episcopal Church continues to be strengthened. The President attended the Annual Convention of the Union of Black Episcopalians in California, and the College met with the national church and members from Trinity Wall Street this summer (Objective 4.3). The College now has live-streaming capabilities, and Tiger Tuesday Rewind continues to increase the reach and visibility of Voorhees College (Objective 4.4).

### III. Recent Activities and Accomplishments

#### SPRING 2019

- Voorhees College welcomed Judith Berry Griffin, a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow to campus, March 31 – April 4.
- Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, the 8<sup>th</sup> President of Claflin University, was the 2019 Founder’s Day Speaker. Having served 25 years as president of Claflin, Dr. Tisdale is retiring at the end of this semester.
- Dr. Diane Hulett and Ms. Cheryl Knight were recipients of the Faculty of the Year and Staff of the Year awards, respectively, for 2019
- The Class of 1969 celebrated its Golden Year Anniversary during the May 2019 Commencement Exercise. Baccalaureate took place on May 3 with Rev. Dr. D. Wellington Bright as speaker. Commencement was held May 4 with Rev. Al Sharpton as the keynote speaker.

#### FALL 2019

- Mr. Denzell Walls was selected as a 2019 White House HBCU Competitive Scholar, and he represented the College quite well in Washington, DC last month.
- The College Track and Field team hosted a cross-country meet here in Denmark; the first track meet to have occurred in more than a decade.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual UNCF Corporate and Community Luncheon occurs on October 23, 2019. The College has already achieved its fundraising goal for the event.
- Academy Award Winner Louis Gossett, Jr. was a speaker at an All College Assembly this month. The Lyceum Program continues to bring world renowned individuals to campus.
- A Presidential Brunch for Community Faith-based Leaders was held in October and sponsored by the Division of Institution Advancement.
- Voorhees College had to reschedule the reception for Congressman Jim Clyburn due to the threat of Hurricane Dorian last month.
- The SC Hall of Fame induction ceremony to honor founder Elizabeth Evelyn Wright will take place on February 7 in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Respectfully submitted, W.



Franklin Evans, Ph.D.  
President