

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

2024 REPORT TO THE SYNODS OF REGION 1, EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

A MESSAGE FROM ALLAN BELTON, 14TH PRESIDENT OF PLU

Greetings to the Oregon Synod, from Pacific Lutheran University!

I'm glad to have the opportunity to share some news with you.

Our vocation as a university calls us to expand well-being, opportunity, and justice. As you know, this commitment derives from our Lutheran identity, in which education is inextricably linked to promoting health and wholeness for others, their communities, and the natural world.

The Lutheran reformers taught that education is for something: not only the advancement of knowledge but also a commitment to the alleviation of suffering. Students choose PLU because they want to pursue an unconventional education that prepares them to become impactful leaders and changemakers in their communities and all over the world.

That's why we continue to create new and innovative programs that are responsive to the challenges of our changing world. In the past year, we've launched new engineering and pre-law minors; new data

science and criminal justice majors; a new masters in social work program; and a new doctoral program in educational leadership. It's also why PLU as intentionally sought out to co-create a new Partnership for Health Innovation. With the creation of this innovative, one-of-a-kind partnership, PLU becomes home to a new health education and care district, right here in Parkland - powered by PLU, MultiCare and WSU Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine.

From South Sound to statewide, the Partnership for Health Innovation will ensure that the next generation of health leaders learn here. As part of this partnership, MultiCare is building a new medical center on PLU's campus that will provide high-quality, culturally appropriate outpatient services to the almost 200,000 people in and around Central Pierce County, an area in dire need of this care. PLU students will benefit from the expansion of internships, clinical placements, and other experiential learning opportunities — right on campus.

At PLU, we believe that the space and guidance necessary to explore one's vocation should not be a privilege available to some, but inaccessible to others. Our steadfast commitment to

accessibility and financial aid is a big reason why PLU is proud to serve a higher percentage of first-generation students and Pell Grant-eligible students than public institutions like the University of Washington and Washington State.

PLU continues to be a university that lives, learns, and serves from the heart. We continue to lean into our commitment to transformative care. These values are fundamental to how we approach everything we do. PLU continues to be a place where students are challenged and stretched academically, where they grow and mature personally, and where they are supported and looked after by a tight-knit community that cares for them deeply.

Thank you for your prayerful support and partnership in our shared mission.



**Office of Congregational
Engagement**

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