

The
MOUNT VERNON
NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT

2019
2020

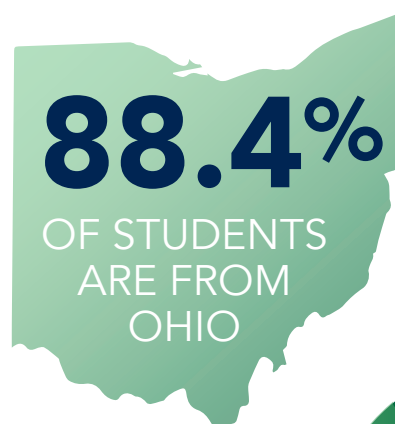
The Higher Learning Commission
230 S. LaSalle, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604
800-621-7440 | hlcommission.org

Enrollment

STUDENTS

	FALL 2017	FALL 2018	FALL 2019	FALL 2020
TRAD	1377	1405	1420	1393
GPS UNDERGRADUATE	451	433	396	379
GPS GRADUATE	394	405	389	369
TOTAL	2222	2243	2205	2141

GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION FOR ALL TRADITIONAL STUDENTS



FIRST TIME IN COLLEGE (FTIC) PROFILE

 87% OF STUDENTS ARE FROM OHIO	56% FEMALE <hr/> 44% MALE	 TOP 5 MAJORS Elementary Ed. Nursing Biology Christian Ministry Business
35.4% NAZARENE	11% STUDENTS OF COLOR	15 STATES+ 5 COUNTRIES
AVERAGE ACT 2.6 ABOVE OHIO AND NATIONAL AVERAGES	48% TRANSFERRED IN COLLEGE CREDIT	10% ATTENDED MVNU AS CCP STUDENTS
	84% LIVING ON CAMPUS	



MVNU celebrates retention and graduation gains

It is a MVNU distinctive that for many years, various programs and employees have assisted students in achieving academic success. There are alumni who can attest to the difference these supports made to their MVNU experience. However, even good programs can become better. When Dr. Henry Spaulding II unveiled MVNU's strategic plan for the Decade of Excellence for 2013 to 2023, an invigorated commitment to student success emerged.

Three key initiatives have taken place since then:

- MVNU was awarded, and completed, a five-year Title III Strengthening Institutions grant.

- Center for Student Success opened because Dr. Spaulding and the administration believed in the necessity, vision, and mission fit of a center providing a cadre of academic services which support students' academic quality and vocational calling. Funding was made available by the Board of Trustees and a Title III grant.

- A Retention Council of university leaders was formed and meets regularly.

In addition to the above, commitment and focus by faculty and staff to support student success both systematically and in individual ways with students is creating a culture of academic growth and success. We are grateful that the results of these efforts has been increasing retention and graduation rates at MVNU at a time when many other universities are seeing decreases. MVNU plans to continue to pursue excellence in the area of student success.

MVNU RETENTION

Note: Official rates will be released in February 2021.

FTIC 1ST TO 2ND YEAR
SEVEN-YEAR AVERAGE

79.0%

+5.7%



FTIC 1ST TO 3RD YEAR
2016-2018 COHORTS

70.7%

+2.1%



FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATES

FROM
2016-2020:

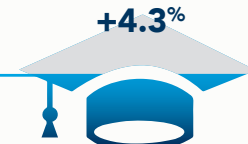
52.4%



2020
GRADUATION RATE

56.7%

+4.3%



MVNU Shines as Lighthouse Award Winner

Mount Vernon Nazarene University was named the winner of the 2020 Pharos Lighthouse Award — Institution of the Year.

Pharos Resources provides software expertise to higher education institutions that assists with relational retention and student success. The awards were developed to highlight beacons of light that serve and safeguard their communities and build successful practices to identify and engage at-risk students.

The university was singled out for its good work and dedication to student success day after day, and specifically during the challenges of the pandemic.

According to Rachel Phillips-Buck, Pharos Resource's Vice President for Student Success, "Joy Strickland, Assistant Vice President for Student Success and Retention, has always been a shining light for Student Success at her institution. However, when COVID-19 hit, Joy's leadership of MVNU's effort to ensure students were safe and successful was unmatched."

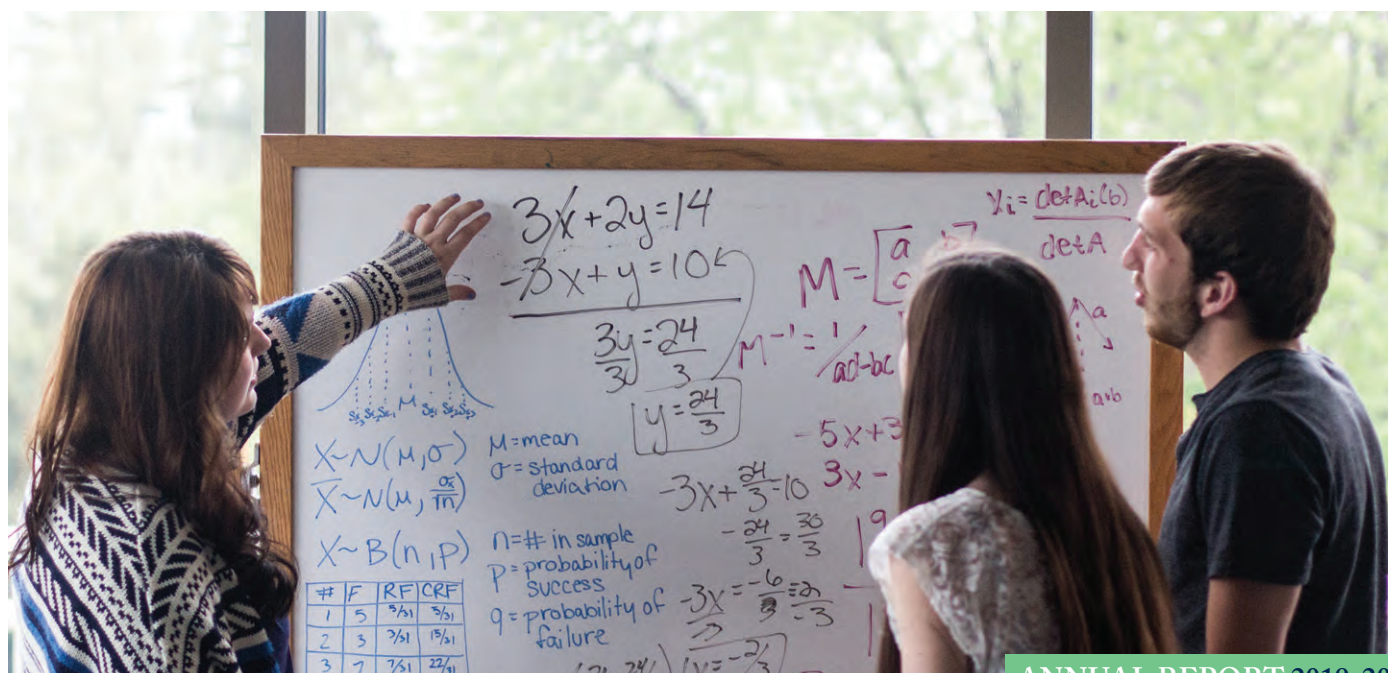
Strickland is quick to turn the focus on the collaborative effort across campus that truly makes this award an institutional success.

"We are so honored that Pharos Resources selected MVNU for their Institution of the Year Lighthouse Award," said Strickland.

"It is a confirmation of what I see and appreciate every day at MVNU, which is the campus-wide commitment to holistic student care and service. It's been truly impressive how quickly, and fully, a very high number of faculty and staff partnered on initiatives, programs, and tools to support students' academic, personal, and spiritual growth, especially during the additional challenges from the pandemic. MVNU faculty and staff embrace that student success is everyone's job, and we are grateful for the Pharos Resources tools that help us to better coordinate our efforts. Faculty and staff – congratulations on this award! MVNU was chosen because of your hard work and collaboration."

MVNU was one of first schools to connect students with the Pharos/MacMillan Impact survey. This outreach resulted in over 500 student responses that provided much needed insights to set students on a course for success in a difficult time for higher education and learning. With the insights collected, staff and faculty were able to identify students who were struggling in myriad ways and began to provide solutions.

"From delivering financial relief and addressing students' technology difficulties to empowering faculty-student connections, MVNU made very clear that they were invested in their students' success," said Phillips-Buck. "Over the summer, this commitment has not wavered. MVNU created a campaign to call every student, assess their needs, and remind them that although they were not together on campus, they were still a connected community."



New program sees emergency management through Christian lens

In 2020, the importance of emergency management became front and center as the global pandemic made its way to the United States. From implementing logistics for mass testing and vaccinations, managing the supply of personal protective equipment for public safety agencies, and communications between necessary organizations, as well as the public, directors of emergency management agencies quickly became key leaders in every community across the country.

A new program, for both traditional and non-traditional students, developed by Thad Hicks, Ph.D., CEM, and Eric Stetler, Vice President for Graduate and Professional Studies and Dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies, will prepare graduates for these and other careers in emergency management and homeland security.

The program was designed for students new to the field as well as public safety professionals who are looking to upgrade their competencies and skills. Both traditional and adult students will be prepared to make decisions, problem solve, plan, implement,

and coordinate resources necessary for preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery from possible disasters.

The core requirements will allow any graduate to work, or continue to work, in public service, no matter their area of focus. Students graduating from the program who are interested in continuing their education can expect to be prepared for graduate school courses of study such as continued emergency management work, Criminal Justice, Political Science, Public Health, Law School, Public Administration, an MBA, and even seminary work.

“To have a trained individual who’s approaching these emergencies and crises, especially with a Christian worldview, I think it makes us better and more equipped to respond to whatever we encounter, whether it be man-made or naturally occurring,” said Hicks. “The student coming out of MVNU is going to have been presented with the skill set to be successful.”

DEMAND FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTORS:

5% INCREASE

BETWEEN 2018 AND 2028



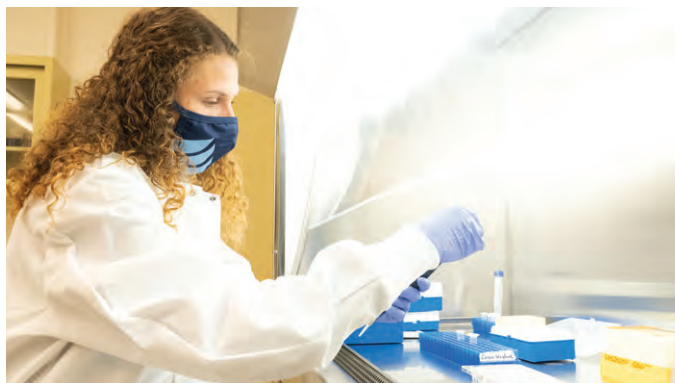
1,672

JOB POSTINGS DURING AUGUST
2020 IN OHIO, PENNSYLVANIA,
MICHIGAN, AND KENTUCKY

EXPECTED ENROLLMENT BY YEAR 5:

40+ STUDENTS





Cutting Edge COVID-19 Screening



A team of senior Biology (Pre-med) majors is gaining hands-on laboratory experience to complement their classroom education with a new lab under the direction of Dr. Geoffrey Fuller. Their objective: Detect the coronavirus in saliva samples.

MVNU opened the lab in late September to implement saliva screening protocols as part of the COVID-19 Response Task Force's initiative. The goal was to keep the campus safe, healthy, and open throughout Fall semester. Initial baseline testing of students took place on Oct. 20, followed by faculty and staff. Since then, screening was conducted weekly throughout the semester. Each week throughout the semester. Students were also offered the opportunity for exit screening to prepare them for their return home for the break.

Although the pool screening procedure is not a diagnostic test, the process allows lab technicians to screen large numbers of samples with quick results. It also provides a tremendous tool necessary to detect asymptomatic carriers. The findings enable the Task Force to make swift decisions regarding necessary campus protocols.

"The establishment of the surveillance screening laboratory is significant," said Dr. LeeAnn Coutts, Dean of the School of Natural and Social Sciences. "It allows the university to closely monitor the rates of COVID-19 on campus and be able to respond quickly. It gives the biology student technicians valuable experience in the lab, and the department gets a RT-PCR machine to use for future studies. It is a win-win-win situation!"

"I am an aspiring physician and plan to attend medical school next year. The experiences that I have gained through this project have laid a crucial foundation for getting myself used to contributing to academic medicine in medical school."

– Ben James, lab team member, Class of '21

"Obviously, this opportunity seemed very valuable to me as I saw it as a way to improve my resume, which will be very beneficial in my current application to medical school, and for my career after. But more importantly, I wanted to do everything possible to make this happen, and I saw serving in this opportunity as a way to use my knowledge that I have learned from my Biology classes and apply it in a way that can benefit the entire MVNU community."

– Gerrit Franko, lab team member, Class of '21

Ashley Brown and Matias Malkamaki, both Senior Biology (Pre-med) majors, Class of '21, are also members of the lab testing team.

Faculty & Staff

David Baker

Center for Innovative
Education Coordination



Staff Member of the Year

David Baker, Center for Innovative Education Coordinator, was named Staff Member of the Year, for his commitment to MVNU's mission through his years as an MVNU student, alumnus, and employee. As a lifelong learner, he has educated himself on what MVNU faculty need to survive teaching in a pandemic and was critical in the university's success to quickly transition from in-seat instruction to remote learning.

Laural Heinze

Campus Events Manager



Hospitality Award

Campus Events Manager Laural Heinze was awarded the Hospitality Award at MVNU's Fall Board of Trustees meeting. Laural is a diligent, committed, and faithful employee of MVNU. She goes above and beyond her assigned responsibilities to support our guests, as well as our students, faculty, and staff. Laural embodies our university motto "To Seek to Learn is to Seek to Serve". She is a lifelong learner who implements her findings into her daily work in order to better serve our customers.

RANK OF FULL-TIME TEACHING FACULTY

RANK	FEMALE		MALE	
Professor	5	23%	17	77%
Associate Professor	5	50%	5	50%
Assistant Professor	16	64%	9	36%
Instructor	1	50%	1	50%
TOTAL	27	46%	32	54%

FACULTY & STAFF CLASSIFICATION

	Full-time		Part-time		Total	
Faculty	78	93%	6	7%	84	27%
Exec/Admin Fac	19	100%	0	0%	19	6%
Teaching Faculty	59	91%	6	9%	65	21%
Staff	205	89%	26	11%	231	73%
Exec/Admin/Mgr	41	100%	0	0%	41	13%
Other Prof	106	91%	10	9%	116	37%
Sec/Clerical	24	69%	11	31%	35	11%
Skilled Craft	10	100%	0	0%	10	3%
Service/Maint	24	83%	5	17%	29	9%
TOTAL	283	90%	32	10%	315	100%

University Relations

Giving Day replenishes student emergency fund

Faithful friends, alumni, faculty, and staff gave from their hearts during MVNU's first ever Giving Day, Aug. 12. The 24-hour fundraiser was specifically geared to assist students financially impacted by COVID-19. The addition of a unique matching opportunity set the tone for the day to reach a donor milestone rather than a monetary target.

MVNU recognized the urgent need for a financial giving opportunity after the spring semester depleted the student emergency fund. We set a goal of 500 donors in one day, hoping to inspire and challenge the MVNU community.

You rose to the challenge. The generosity of 686 individual donors, including the matched gift, raised a total of \$77,840 in a

short period of time. Not only did you surpass the goal of 500 donors, you helped bring significant financial backing where it was much needed.

"We are humbled and inspired by the pride and belief that our alumni, current students and friends have in this really sacred space," said Justin Nowicki, MVNU's Assistant Vice President for Development.

"Giving Day has instantly become one of my favorite days of the year," said James Smith, MVNU's Vice President for University Relations, "It was encouraging and inspiring to see friends from across the generations join hands to meet this need."

TOP 5 CLASSES

BY AMOUNT GIVEN		
YEAR	COUNT	AMOUNT
1999	43	\$15,715
2011	11	\$3,185
1971	10	\$2,050
1986	11	\$1,775
1970	13	\$1,400
BY DONOR COUNT		
1999	43	\$15,715
2000	18	\$1,025
1998	17	\$455
1972	15	\$1,125
2014	14	\$535

GIVING BY DECADE

KEY	COUNT	TOTAL
1970s	67	\$6,215
1980s	66	\$5,555
1990s	118	\$18,894
2000s	83	\$3,775
2010s	99	\$6,876
2020s	12	\$225
Non-Alum	241	\$11,300
Total	686	\$52,840
% of Goal/ Average Gift	137.20%	\$77

The number of donors and the amounts given to the emergency fund were broken down by alumni decades and non-alums, as follows:

The top three classes based on amounts given, from highest to lowest, were 1999 with \$15,715, 2011 with \$3,185, and 1971 with \$2,050. The top three classes based on donor count, from highest to lowest, were 1999 with 43, 2000 with 18, and 1998 with 17. Over 240 friends of MVNU contributed \$11,300.

Giving Day allowed us to replenish our student emergency fund that had been completely depleted during the spring surge of COVID-19. This emergency fund provided money for students' immediate needs such as **housing, food, and transportation.**

TO DONATE TO THE UNIVERSITY FUND,
email Jill.Ballenger@mvnu.edu, Director of
the University Fund and Community Relations
or visit mvnu.edu/give.

MOUNT VERNON
NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY FUND

University Relations

FROM JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020

\$4,115,461.70

WAS RAISED FOR ALL PURPOSES

\$88,160.01

WAS RAISED FOR THE
UNIVERSITY FUND, THE MOST
IN THE PAST 10 YEARS

\$216,422.22

WAS RAISED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

6%

ALUMNI GIVING
PERCENTAGE

151

PRESIDENT'S
CIRCLE MEMBERS
(GIFTS ABOVE \$1,000)

Stadium, Plaza connect MVNU with City of Mount Vernon

Two major projects have been front and center for the University Relations team with significant milestones hit in the last fiscal year. These additions to our main and downtown campuses are not only significant for the MVNU community, but also to the residents of Mount Vernon and Knox County.

The first phase of the Soccer and Lacrosse Stadium is complete with Cougar teams enjoying the benefits of the turf field, new scoreboard and lighting system. Fundraising efforts continue to secure the ability to construct stadium seating, restrooms, concession area and more.

The stadium is part of the Educational Gateway — a collaborative effort between MVNU, Mount Vernon City Schools and the City of Mount Vernon which provides for shared facilities. MVNU's stadium will be used by the high school soccer teams while MVNU develops soccer fields that will become home to local youth leagues. In turn, MVNU indoor track teams will utilize MVSC's new Energy Field

House to practice and host home meets. The city's bridge replacement project on Mount Vernon Avenue included new multi-use trails from MVNU to the Kokosing Gap Trail. The project was awarded the Knox County Chamber's Investor in the Future award.

For more on the stadium project, **visit mvnu.edu/future.**

The re-imagined South Main Plaza has been brought to life with a whimsical fountain that features 18 cast aluminum dogs, a cat, four birds, a pony and an apple. Located just north of the Buchwald Center in downtown Mount Vernon, the transformed space has become a must-visit destination in the heart of the historic business district.

To read more on the plaza and sponsorship stories, visit **mvnu.edu/southmainplaza.**



Student Life — Cougars honored by NAIA

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) announced its 22 honorees in addition to over 10,000 Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athletes and over 2,000 NAIA Scholar Teams as a part of its annual NAIA National Awards Day on Sept. 15. The day recognizes the association's highest individual honors and achievements of NAIA student-athletes, administrators and coaches. Additionally, the association announced the seven-member class of the 2020-21 NAIA Hall of Fame.

Overall, MVNU had 98 total student athletes honored as Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athlete Award winners for 2019-20. Honorees for each sport are listed below.

Baseball — Aaron Saal, Cameron Miller, Corey Clark, Damien Kandel, Jacob Roe, Jake Glover, Kaleb Bauman, Owen Paulus, Toby Walker, Yanni Patten

Men's Basketball — Jacob Paul, Jevon Knox

Men's Cross Country — Clayton Slemmons, Dan Sharp, Justis Paul, Nicholas Weiss

Men's Lacrosse — Grant Hauger, Jacob Ocknuzzi

Men's Soccer — Brandon Mount, Caleb Sayre, Colt Tanner, Connor Davis, Sammy Atkins, Tim Kasparek, Zach Miller

Men's Tennis — Logan Gauthier

Men's Track & Field — Clayton Slemmons, Connor Whitaker, Dan Sharp, Gerrad Williams, Isaac Wallace, Jayson Mitchell, Jonah Barnett, Joseph Joe, Justis Paul, Luke Couchman, Nicholas Weiss

Competitive Cheer — Kaitlyn King, Lauren Klopfenstein

Softball — Chloe Brenneman, Courtney Knepper, Karmen Huntsberger, Kayla Tschudy, Kristin Davidson, Samantha Collier, Sydni Altman

Women's Basketball — Dani Ellerbrock, Elizabeth Fee, Jordan Campbell, Kayla Hovorka, Madison Near, Maggie Coblentz, Taylor Gregory

Women's Cross Country — Alyssa Gaines, Amy Kifer, Ashley Brown, Emerson Hamsher, Emily Cobb, Isabelle DiTullio, Katie Kearns, Kaylin Shackelford, Lindsey Goehring, Morgan Forney, Valerie Stichert

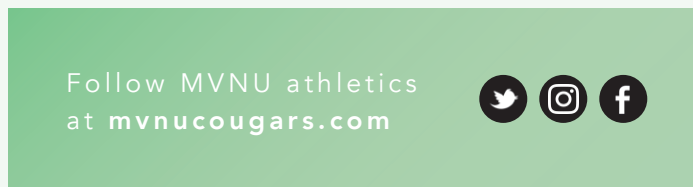
Women's Golf — Kate Von Handorf, Peyton Broce

Women's Soccer — Adison Preston, Amberly Knox, Brookelynn Semmelroth, Kaitlin Meade, Kayla Kalischuk, Madison Therrien, Melanie Critzer, Missy Emery

Women's Tennis — Alyson Landis, Ashley Weber, Laurel Sidle, Sarah Higgins

Women's Track & Field — Amy Kifer, Ashley Brown, Cassady Thrapp, Ellie Ruby, Emily Weber, Isabelle DiTullio, Kaitlin Meade, Kasey Keith, Katie Kearns, Kaylin Shackelford, Lindsey Goehring, Lorelai Breakey, Missy Emery, Morgan Forney

Women's Volleyball — Alaina Wright, Alyssa Harrer, Ellie Ruby, Mary Kate Harmody, Nicole Winkler, Sydney Kendall



Building bridges to a better future



Tavaris E. Taylor, MIM
Director of Intercultural Life

Every new academic year brings fresh opportunities, challenges, and anxiety. After working in higher education in one form or another for five years, I usually know what to anticipate.

The fall of 2020 was very different. To understand the fall of 2020, we have to revisit the previous spring. In my director and professor role at another university, I was experimenting with new zoom teaching trauma (definitely not my favorite thing) and consistent phone calls to various constituents to engage them amid the global pandemic. The world was being shaken, not solely by a pandemic.

Another plague resurfaced as many of us uncomfortably watched a law enforcement officer place a knee on the neck of a man for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. In that man, I saw my uncles, nephews, cousin, and honestly myself. An imperfect man, but even in his imperfection, I knew like the majority of us knew, the officer had gone too far.

That weekend I remember not being able to leave bed because, for the first time in my lifetime, I realized the safest I have felt in my adult life was when I lived outside my country. At that moment, I knew I wanted to do something different so that the next generation never has to share in that pain.

I knew the race divide was broadening, and the nation's motto, "E pluribus Unum" (out of many one) was becoming a distant ideal. In that, I sought an opportunity to work in a place where challenging conversation surrounding the need for diversity and equity could become the norm and setting systems to end discriminatory practices were welcomed. In that, I found Mount Vernon Nazarene University.

My goals are ambitious, but we can get the job done at MVNU through time, effort, and collaboration. Next semester we will host a series of conversations and events to address the divide in nation, churches, and communities and how we can build bridges to a future better than our past.

I invite faculty, staff, and students to join us for these conversations and events, for this is not the work of one department in our university. It is our work; it's Christ's work. If we are willing to work, our university will become more assertive in diversity and inclusion thus, our nation will inherit that work ethic because we will send students into this nation with the heart, wisdom, and knowledge to bridge that gap through Christ.

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MVNU rocks OAKtoberfest

The sun was bright, the sky was blue, and students were ready to unwind during their mid-semester break. An expanded OAKtoberfest provided the day of relaxation and entertainment they needed.

While still under the necessary COVID-19 precautions, students enjoyed a multi-day event that included over 25 different activities ranging from a pie eating contest to sports tournaments, puppy therapy, Worship Night, hayride, a haunted woods, all things pumpkin – smashing, launching and carving, and so much more.





Mission Statement

Mount Vernon Nazarene University exists to shape lives through educating the whole person and cultivating Christ-likeness for lifelong learning and service.

Vision Statement

Mount Vernon Nazarene University: To Change the World with the Love of Christ.

Senior Leadership Team



Dr. Henry W. Spaulding, II
President



Rev. Eric Stetler
Vice President for Graduate
and Professional Studies,
Dean of the School of GPS



Dr. Barnett Cochran
Vice President for
Academic Affairs



Rev. Tracy Waal
Vice President for
Student Life



Rev. James Smith
Vice President for
University Relations



Mr. Scott Campbell
Vice President for
Finance/CFO

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