



# Building a Culture of Evangelization

ON CAMPUS

**Benedictine College | Atchison, Kansas**



“The dream and dare of the Benedictines  
to **renew culture** through  
Catholic higher education  
is as game-changing today as it was  
in the sixth century.”

— CARDINAL TIMOTHY DOLAN  
2016 Benedictine College Commencement Speaker





## A MISSION FOR ALL TIME

The mission of Benedictine College is as old as the Benedictine order and as fresh and effective as the Gospel on which it is based. That is because Benedictine College's mission focuses on precisely the three areas young people most need:

### *Dynamic community.*

The college's emphasis on community not only gets students out of their room, off their phones, and into real relationships—the mission of Benedictine College's Student Life program is to form students who pursue intellectual, personal, and spiritual greatness.

### *Thriving faith.*

Benedictine College's approach to faith helps students own their belief in Jesus Christ and express it through sacraments and service.

### *Inspiring scholarship.*

By helping students experience the breadth of human experience through the liberal arts, the college's mission prepares them to choose wisely their path in life.

By following the mission to educate students within a community of faith and scholarship, Benedictine College helps them to acquire the skills they need to not only cherish their Catholic faith, but to build a culture of faith wherever they live.



“An evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people’s daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others.”

— POPE FRANCIS, *Evangelii Gaudium*, No. 24



# BUILDING COMMUNITY

## AT BENEDICTINE COLLEGE

Recent sociological studies tell us that between the ages of 18 and 24 — a person's college years — three things happen. Young people:

Develop lifelong relationships;

Make the faith their own;

Discover their vocations.

Benedictine College is an extraordinary success story of campus life.

### Success measures

In the respected SSI survey judging student satisfaction, Benedictine College exceeded the national average in 11 of 12 categories, and virtually tied in the 12th. Student surveys tell us that 95% of Benedictine graduates valued the friendships and relationships formed while at Benedictine College, as well as mentoring relationships.

### Student life

Benedictine College employs an extensive program of student development, the goal of which is to graduate students who, due to rigorous intellectual, personal, and spiritual development, will transform the world so that in all things God may be glorified; through intentional programming, policies, activities, and training.

### Family Model

Benedictine College's student life program is based on the Family Model. In the course of each academic year, each resident has the opportunity to take part in activities designed to foster spiritual development, provide guidance for developing healthy relationships, support engagement in critical social issues, and build community.

### Benedictine College's innovative Family Model

has propelled the college's mission to new effectiveness. The SSI survey showed the following strengths of the college compared to its peer institutions:

- » Benedictine College has strengthened my relationship with Christ.
- » Benedictine College has strengthened my ability to live by higher standards of personal behavior and responsibility.
- » Benedictine College has strengthened my ability to positively influence my community and the common good.
- » Benedictine College has strengthened my ability to develop positive relationships with others.



### **The Benedictine College Leadership Seminar**

The seminar is designed to train students who are interested in applying for formal leadership positions within the offices of Residence Life, Students Activities, College Ministry, and Alumni in the essence of leadership. The seminar lays a firm foundation for student leadership at Benedictine College. The students who attend the Leadership Seminar will then serve as cultural agents who educate new students about the mission and values of the college. Hundreds of students attend the program each year.

### **Real Love Initiative**

The goal of Benedictine College's Real Love Initiative is to promote excellence in virtue for every student, such that students seek a life of purity inside and outside their residence hall during and after the academic year. This approach includes a mix of freedom and strictly enforced rules on the one hand, and many points of contact regarding virtue-building on the other.



## Residential Life

The college has provided single-sex residence halls across campus for more than 160 years, naturally supporting and promoting chastity on campus. The college's 57 resident assistants receive instruction in Theology of the Body as a part of their training. The incoming freshman class is required to attend chastity talks as a part of their orientation weekend, promoting both physical and emotional chastity.

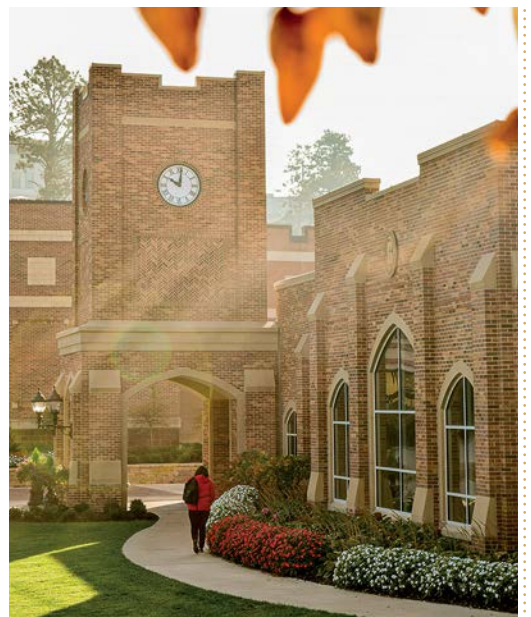
## Sobriety

Benedictine College strives to cultivate the virtue of sobriety in our student body, as well as a moderate drinking culture for our students who can legally consume alcohol. To accomplish this, the college provides both proactive and reactive initiatives. For instance, each residence hall provides alcohol-free programs that are popular with students.



### Building projects over the last 10 years have been designed to promote community.

- » **A New Dining Hall**, with its iconic clock tower, provides a place for the community to gather for meals.
- » **Raven Memorial Park** in front of the Murphy Recreation Center.
- » **Benches** added to green areas.
- » **Water features:** Our Lady of Grace fountain, the Raven Memorial Park waterfall, and the Guadalupe fountain.
- » **Mary's Garden**, outside Our Lady of Guadalupe Hall, featuring plants and flowers named after the Blessed Mother.
- » **The Nest** convenience store offers food, drinks, and more in the St. John Pau II Student Union with community seating.





“As a residential college, **Benedictine College** supports and encourages the full development of its students, through a community life that expresses and proclaims the worth and dignity of each individual.

In a caring and supportive atmosphere, students are helped to develop a sense of meaningful purpose in life.”

— MISSION STATEMENT, Benedictine College



## Clubs and Activities

Students are encouraged to form and join organizations that contribute to the development of the whole person. The college provides many opportunities for cultural growth. As a Benedictine, Catholic college, student organizations must not, in any way, be contrary to or partake in activities contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church. Many clubs explicitly reflect the Catholic identity of the college, including:

**Ravens Respect Life »** Ravens Respect Life is the pro-life club on the Benedictine College campus.

**Knights of Columbus »** This fraternal organization meets monthly and is open to all practicing Catholic men.

**FIAT »** FIAT is a place for women dedicated to encountering Christ through the Immaculata by walking with Mary using both Scripture and Tradition.

**Communion and Liberation University (CLU) »** This is the University branch of Communion and Liberation, a lay movement in the Catholic Church.

**Regnum Christi »** Members of this Catholic movement seek to bring the Kingdom of Christ among men through prayer and witness.

**The Legion of Mary »** This worldwide association of Catholics seeks to foster Marian devotion and to evangelize the world through the strength and protection of Mary.

**Consecration to Mary »** Ministry sponsors a Consecration to Mary ceremony every year on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

**Jam for the Lamb »** At the end of each semester, Ministry sponsors a night of music, worship, and fun for the Benedictine College community.

**CRS University »** The Benedictine College chapter of the Catholic Relief Services University Student Ambassador program seeks to engage the campus community to act on global emergencies and injustices through awareness campaigns, prayer services, legislative advocacy, and fundraising campaigns.

**House Blessings »** Ministry chaplains are available at the beginning of each semester to offer blessings to students living in off-campus houses and residence halls.

**Service Week »** To promote service to others, Benedictine College hosts Elementary Book Reading, Writing Letters to the Nursing Home and Mount St. Scholastica Monastery residents, School Supply Drive, conducts food and clothing drives, blood drives, and more.



## Athletics

The stated goal of the Benedictine College Athletic Department is to “win within the mission.” Athletic teams are meant to form the whole person, mind, body, and soul. The college has put several programs in place for faith development in sports.



**Intramurals »** The Benedictine College Intramural Program, in accordance with the Benedictine College mission statement, pursues the education of men and women within a community of faith and scholarship by providing safe, fun, and competitive recreational activities that develop teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship that grow individuals socially, physically, mentally, and spiritually. The program offers 16 different sports.

**Winning within the Mission »** Every Raven athletics team participates in Varsity Catholic, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, or team-led mission trips. The average GPA of our student-athletes, currently 3.1, increases every year.

**Eucharistic Adoration »** A new program of Eucharistic adoration for student-athletes on Wednesday nights is very popular.

**Spiritual Playbook »** Offered to all athletic teams, with a personal introduction offered by the college chaplain.

**Introduction to Catholic Practices »** The college provides an overview of the Catholic, Benedictine tradition and common Catholic practices and prayers to all athletic teams, in coordination with the athletic director.

### **Team Prayer and Game Blessings »**

Blessings or prayers before each game offered by a priest, sister, or one of the Varsity Catholic FOCUS missionaries. Weekly team prayer offered by a Benedictine religious or one of the Varsity Catholic FOCUS missionaries.

**Football Team Mass »** Offered before each home game.

**Varsity Catholic Bible Studies »** Offered to each team by the FOCUS missionaries.

**Captains Core Formation »** Monthly meeting of all team captains. Formation provided by College Ministry, in conjunction with the athletic director.

### **Building Culture of Inclusion and Making a Stand Against Racism »**

The director of Student Support and Engagement, Black Student Union, and College Ministry offer regular activities/discussions on this topic. Annual Martin Luther King Day Jr. March promoted to all athletic teams.

**Athletes entering the Church »** Invitation offered to all athletes who would like to learn more about the Catholic Church and receive sacraments. Of 12 students entering the Church through College Ministry's RCIA program on the most recent Divine Mercy Sunday, 75% were varsity athletes—six football players, two wrestlers, and one member of the women's soccer team.





**SEEK Conference »** Invitation offered to all athletes as a practical way to grow in their faith and network with other leaders from campuses nationwide.

**Community Service »** Opportunities to serve the local Atchison community and Benedictine College campus as a team—in conjunction with College Ministry. The Center for Service-Learning

at Benedictine College coordinates efforts with faculty, Atchison community leaders, and College Ministry.

**Sports Mission Trips »** Athletic teams yearly take advantage of opportunities to do domestic and international mission trips in conjunction with FOCUS and College Ministry.







“I’ve learned that even my training and suffering  
can be an encounter with beauty

because it can be a moment to relate more to another person  
who is suffering or offer up my own life for them in a way.”

— TYLER SUPALLA '15, as a Resident Assistant initiated St. Michael's Chapel.

Now a high school teacher, he competes in Ironman competitions  
to raise scholarship money for students who are underprivileged like he was.



## Pornography Addiction Ministry/Counseling

The pornography epidemic has caught much of the younger generation in its grips. Those who are addicted suffer in every aspect of Benedictine College's mission, but this situation especially hurts community by isolating individuals and making it harder for them to create real relationships. Benedictine College has a multi-dimensional response to this problem.



### Building Healthy Relationships

#### Recovery groups meet throughout the week at Benedictine College.

- » **Conquer:** A confidential men's pornography recovery group run by a counselor and college chaplain.
- » **Live Free:** A women's pornography recovery group.
- » **Goretti Group:** A student-led, confidential accountability group for any Benedictine College woman who needs help combatting sins of impurity and desires to grow in virtue.

**To address the aftermath of pornography addiction and victims of the culture of sexual promiscuity that has pervaded the 21st century, Benedictine College has several unique programs in place.**

- » **Eden Invitation:** Benedictine College hosted the Eden Invitation as an outreach initiative to students who struggle with same-sex attraction. *(See presentation description on the right.)*
- » **Life Giving Wounds Retreat and Ministry:** Benedictine College is partnering with Life Giving Wounds to conduct retreats for adult children of divorce. Life Giving Wounds is a national organization whose "mission is to give voice to the pain of adult children of divorce or separation and to bring God's healing to them through peer-based ministry."

**KansasCitySA.org:** Endorsed by the college as a resource for students in the metro area, the organization offers helpful resources to those interested in working the 12 Steps program. An increasing number of Catholic and Christian men and women are breaking free through SA meetings.

- » **Fight the New Drug:** Benedictine College hosts an on-campus presentation from this national organization that raises awareness on the harmful effects of pornography using only science, facts, and personal accounts.

#### INTO THE LONGING:

##### Life & Love Beyond the LGBT+ Paradigm

At the center of every human heart, there is an ache to know and be known, to love and be loved, to give and to receive. For persons experiencing same-sex desires or gender discordance, our Christian truths on the human person are a place of both crisis and commitment. If desire is off-kilter, where do we direct it? Together we will examine three potential stumbling blocks for LGBT+ persons within our Catholic faith, as well as opportunities for grace and resurrected life in the midst of our longings.



“Rather than experts in dire predictions, dour judges bent on  
rooting out every threat and deviation, we should appear as  
**joyful messengers of challenging proposals,**  
guardians of the goodness and beauty which shine forth  
in a life of fidelity to the Gospel.”

— POPE FRANCIS, *Evangelii Gaudium*, No. 168



# FAITH LIFE

## AT BENEDICTINE COLLEGE

Benedictine College is dedicated to “the ardent search for truth and its unselfish transmission ... so as to act rightly and to serve humanity better.” *[Ex Corde Ecclesiae]* All students are challenged to put their faith into action through service to their neighbors. We seek to strengthen the faith experience for our students on campus, to provide additional opportunities for faith-based service, and to construct avenues to share our faith beyond the borders of our campus.

Statistics show that an active religious life is the best way to pursue happiness.

**Religious attendance** adds years of life expectancy and is correlated with health benefits, such as lower blood pressure and lower rates of depression.

**Religious young people** show less juvenile delinquency, less drug use. They smoke less, attend school more, and graduate from high school at a higher rate.

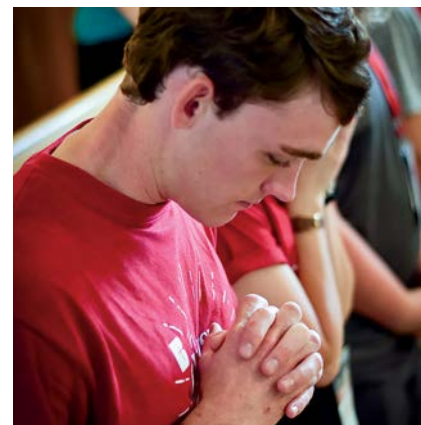
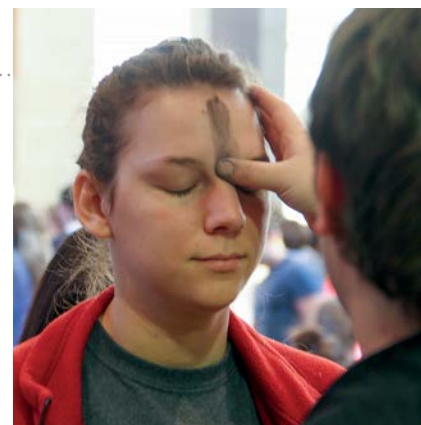
**Religious adults** also commit fewer crimes, are employed at a higher rate, and go on welfare at a lower rate.

**Those who attend church regularly** give more money to charity than those who do not attend regularly.

On the other hand, the rise in secularism has been accompanied by a sharp rise in anxiety-related diseases. As Bishop Robert Barron of Los Angeles put it, “When you suppress the desire for God, which secularism does necessarily, it’s very dangerous psychologically. I see it all the time in the form of addictions and deep depressions. So, I’m doing this out of deep concern for people. It’s dangerous stuff, to shut down the aspiration toward God.”

Studies show that young people are less religious today than at any time in the history of the U.S. At Benedictine College, however, 90% of graduating seniors report that their faith life increased while they were at Benedictine.

“Benedictine College is on the cutting edge of the New Evangelization,” said Archbishop Joseph Naumann of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas. “It has created a culture where the pursuit of truth is celebrated no matter if it is in the laboratory unlocking the beauty of the natural world or in the chapel kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament. Benedictine College is a place where faith and reason intersect.”





## College Ministry

**To match the college's budget to its priorities, College Ministry has upgraded in the past 10 years.**

- » Benedictine grew its professional staff in ministry from one full-time chaplain to a team of six ministry professionals to better serve our students and create dynamic, sustainable programs.
- » Ministry created and effectively implemented an in-depth systems infrastructure to measure effectiveness and help students succeed.
- » College Ministry annually provides 200 free subscriptions to Covenant Eyes, a screen accountability software.
- » The college funds a ministry leader at its Florence, Italy, campus to provide faith-based initiatives.

**To help a new generation who looks for more individual attention, College Ministry has emphasized spiritual direction.**

- » Ministry continues to develop this on campus with an annual information night, hosting and funding spiritual directors to come to campus, striving to make direction available to all students who are in need.
- » The college cooperates with the monks of St. Benedict's Abbey and the sisters of Mount St. Scholastica Monastery in this initiative.
- » Over 250 students take advantage of this opportunity and recently recorded an all-time high of 420 hours of direction offered on campus.
- » College Ministry offers many opportunities for Confession weekly.



## Vocations

Academic Year	Vocation Visits	Religious Orders at Vocations Fair
2012-13	6	21
2015-16	17	28
2019-20	29	32



### **Benedictine College created a scholarship initiative to attract student leaders to serve in College Ministry.**

- » The college funded the Ministry internship grant for students at \$15,000 annually. Since 2015, over 130 students have used nearly \$60,000 in grant aid.
- » The college provided funding for Varsity Catholic to promote FOCUS events and conferences.
- » Benedictine launched Train the Trainer for Ministry.
- » SGA created a diversity initiative to increase more diverse student representation and events throughout campus life.
- » Benedictine College promotes the King's Scholar Program, a partnership with the Seymour Institute in Boston, to serve inner-city young people with summer internships.

### **Benedictine College has expanded service and Mission Trip opportunities.**

- » The Mission Trip program has grown from four trips with 37 students to an average of 21 trips with 250 students in 2020.
- » Ministry has equipped 125 students to lead 154 mission trips impacting over 50 communities around the globe.
- » Students have gone on mission to over 20 countries spanning five continents.
- » Mission work included building homes, diffing wells to ensure a sustainable clean water supply, funding and helping build churches, and building stairs in mountainous communities so that families could get to and from work and to resources in the towns below.
- » Benedictine College mission trips equipped and sent 1,589 Benedictine College students on mission in the past eight years.



“We are committed to building community and lifelong friendships.  
Everybody opens their lives to everybody else.



**Benedictine College has made efforts to engage students with Catholics in the region.**

- » **Assistance for priests and sisters.**  
The college offers tuition reduction — or tuition-free matriculation — for priests and sisters. In this way, the college has brought priests to campus and teaches religious sisters in the School of Education.
- » **Enflame our Hearts Convocation.**  
The college sent 25 students and staff to attend the Convocation, an initiative of the Archdiocese of Kansas City Kansas. This increased the college's connection and cooperation with the local archdiocese.



**To provide worship spaces, Benedictine College added three new chapels in the past 10 years, each with a tabernacle, stations of the cross, and altar at which dorm Masses are celebrated:**

- » St. Michael in St. Michael Hall, dedicated to the archangel.
- » St. Juan Diego in Guadalupe Hall (left), consecrated in 2014 by the postulator of the cause of St. Juan Diego.
- » St. George in Newman Hall, dedicated to the legendary knight hero.

**Sacred art showcases the Benedictine College Catholic identity throughout campus.**

- » The Our Lady of Grace Fountain was added and dedicated when the college was consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- » The Sacred Heart statue was sculpted for the college and unveiled at a ceremony of the campus's Enthronement of the Sacred Heart.
- » The St. Benedict statue was unveiled in front of the Haverty Center.
- » A statue of Mother Teresa was added in front of the Mother Teresa Center for Nursing and Health Education.
- » A St. Scholastica statue was added near the entrance to campus.
- » The Ravens Respect Life Memorial for the Unborn was added to Raven Memorial Park.
- » A statue of the Little Flower, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, was added in the Marian Garden overlooking the soccer and lacrosse field.



The Benedictine charism, the way of life based on  
**hospitality and love, was, and is, still strong.”**

— DR. LINDA HENRY '81, has served Benedictine College for nearly 30 years.

**To spread the good that is happening at Benedictine College to more people,  
College Ministry launched a youth outreach program.**

- » College Ministry began the “**One Love**” Speaking Team to train college students to speak to high school students about Theology of the Body. The college has trained over 100 speakers and addressed almost 4,000 teens since the team’s founding in 2013.
- » Benedictine College initiated **Underground** in 2011-2012, and has hosted more than 2,000 teens on campus since then with numbers continuing to grow each month.
- » The **Benedictine College Youth Conferences** launched in 2013. BCYC Immersion began with eight students and now hosts hundreds of students on our campus. BCYC Encounter began in 2013 and has seen tremendous growth having only four participants in the summer of 2015 to a large-scale event involving five different parish and diocesan groups with whom we continue to build relationships.
- » **Set Free Retreats:** The Set Free Ministry Retreat Team travels to parishes to give high school, junior high, and Confirmation retreats. Retreats are led by college students steeped in the teachings of the Church and on fire for Jesus Christ. Our retreats provide students the opportunity for Reconciliation, Adoration, and Mass. They include music, skits, personal testimonies, talks, and Christ through fellowship and community.
- » **Marriage Prep:** Benedictine College chaplains have been preparing college students for marriage for over a decade. Each year, more than 15 student couples go through our program.





“Benedictine College is a very special place.  
 The institution is suffused with a love of learning.  
 One senses it among faculty and students alike.  
 It is confident in its Catholic identity and at the same time  
 enthusiastically engaged with the larger intellectual culture.”

— DR. ROBERT GEORGE, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University



### Ongoing evaluation helps Ministry efforts stay current and effective.

- » **First Fridays:** The Dean of Students, chaplains, Director of College Ministry, Coordinator of Evangelization, FOCUS Team Director, and SPO Chapter leaders meet once a month on first Fridays to evaluate our evangelization efforts on campus using the following format:

1.	2.	3.	4.
Pray together for the needs of our campus.	Explore who is being reached by our efforts.	Explore who is not being reached by our efforts.	Strategize how we will reach those who aren't currently being reached.

- » **I Am Formation:** Ministry outreach initiative through which current students and staff teach evangelization best practices to students in order to reach those on the fringes of our community through small group discussion and opportunities for application.
- » **FORMED:** Since 2017, Benedictine College offers a free subscription for our students to the FORMED program sponsored by the Augustine Institute.

### Benedictine College has brought several well-known Catholic speakers to the area, including:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| » Immaculée Ilibagiza                              | » Jim Beckman                           |
| » Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC ( <i>middle right</i> ) | » Sister Josephine Garrett, CSFN        |
| » Sister Miriam Heidland, SOLT                     | » Leah Murphy                           |
| » Mark Bocinski                                    | » Deacon Dana and Deborah Nearmyer      |
| » Kelly Colangelo                                  | » Michelle Benzinger                    |
| » Fr. Augustino Torres, CFR                        | » Chika Anyanwu                         |
| » Dr. Bob Rice                                     | » Nic Davidson                          |
| » Mari Pablo                                       | » Michael Nations                       |
| » Danielle Noonan                                  | » Chris Roth                            |
| » Sarah Swafford ( <i>lower right</i> )            | » Sisters Bernadette and Peter Marie OP |





“As a Catholic college, we consider faith and reason as  
‘two wings on which the human spirit rises  
to the contemplation of the truth.’<sup>1</sup>...

Our distinctive Benedictine approach to education  
culminates in graduates who are committed to living their lives  
‘so that in all things God may be glorified.’<sup>2</sup>”

— From BENEDICTINE 2020: A VISION FOR GREATNESS

1. John Paul II, *Fides et Ratio*

2. *Rule of St. Benedict*



# INSPIRING SCHOLARSHIP

## AT BENEDICTINE COLLEGE

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“Universities are outstanding environments for articulating and developing this **evangelizing commitment** in an interdisciplinary and integrated way.”

— POPE FRANCIS, *Evangelii Gaudium*, No. 134

### Academics

The search for the truth needs to be restored to its essential role in all levels of education, from the earliest grades through postgraduate programs. At Benedictine College faculty seek to provide education for future leaders that emphasizes the search for truth; academic departments ensure that our programs and offerings are themselves oriented toward the truth; and the college is tireless in proclaiming that “you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

At this time in history, more than any other, what is happening in higher education becomes critical to the success of the country. Two centuries ago, Thomas Jefferson said “Love of the laws and of our country ... ought to be the principal business of education.” But today “discourse in the United States is at a boiling point, and nowhere is the reaction to that more heightened than on college campuses,” Middlebury professor Allison Stanger wrote in the *New York Times* after a scholar’s visit to the Vermont campus caused riots.

A college, almost uniquely among institutions outside the family, has the opportunity to form young people in a powerful, life-changing way. Benedictine College does this in its curriculum by teaching the fundamentals of the faith necessary for virtue.



**New Programs Created In The Past Decade To Attract Talented Students To Benedictine College.**

- » Catechesis & Evangelization major
- » Architecture major
- » Honors Program
- » Great Books Program
- » STEM, Constitutional, and Finance Fellows
- » Media, Beauty, Freedom, and Family Life Fellows
- » Service-Learning



Benedictine College's recent success has been significant.

- » **Academic Expansion.** Benedictine College has opened six new academic buildings in the past seven years.
- » **Benedictine 2020.** The college's transformative plan *Benedictine 2020: A Vision for Greatness* brought the school to a whole new level, attracting incoming students with the the highest average ACT score in Kansas, the highest GPAs in the school's history, and adding dozens of National Merit Finalists to the college.
- » **Academic opportunities** for professors on campus include faculty colloquium events and speakers sponsored by the Arts and Convocation Committee, the Gregorian Institute, and the Honors Program. Recent academic conferences on campus include the Association for Psychological and Educational Research in Kansas, the Mid-American Regional Astrophysics Conference, the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars, the MedCon Catholic medical conference, and the John Henry Newman Association. The college's annual Symposium on Transforming Culture in America has featured professors from nearly every department.
- » **Top 10%.** Several Benedictine College professors rank in the top 10% of the national IDEA faculty evaluations each year.

## STEM Leadership

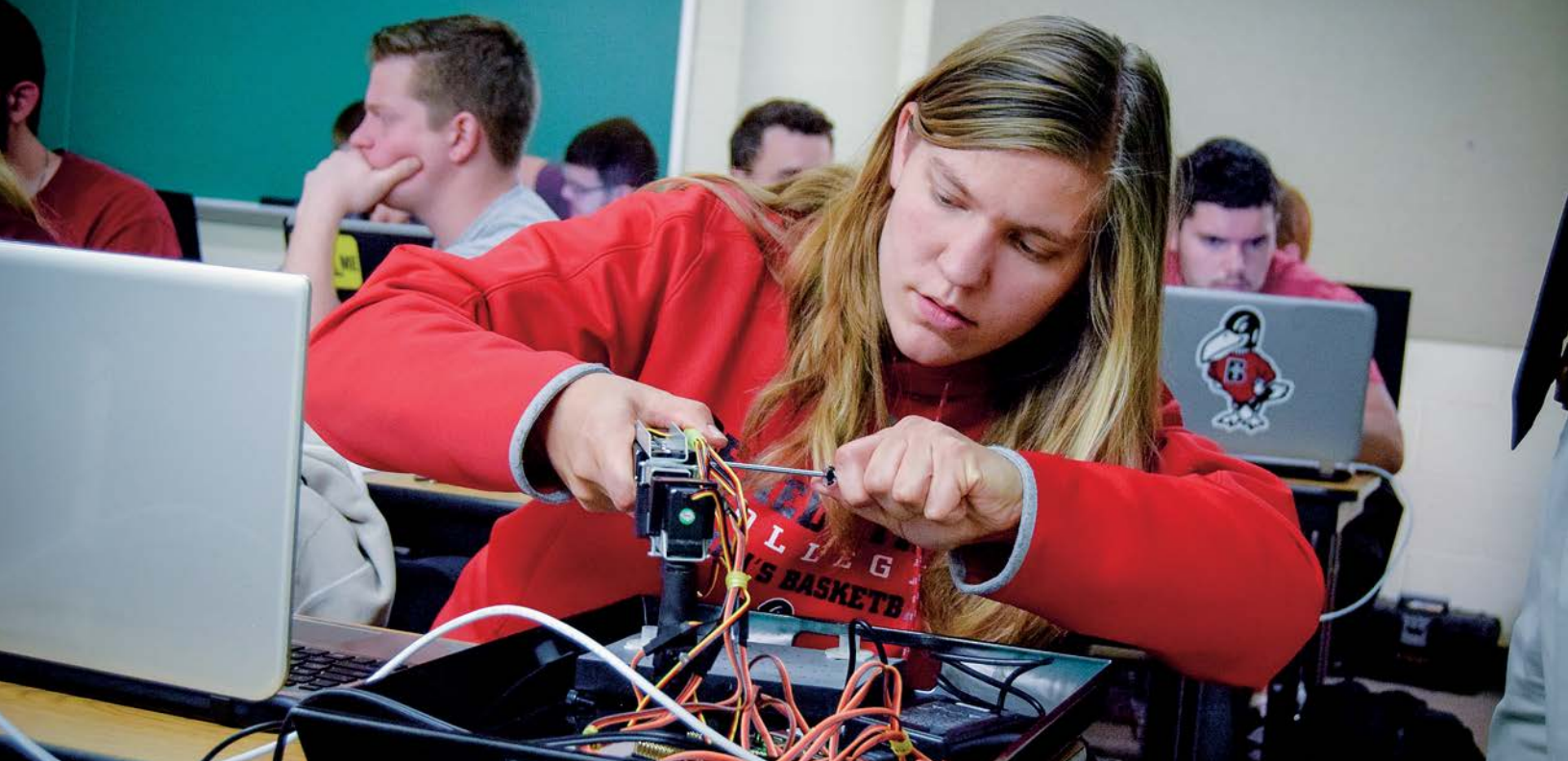
"To be the Catholic, liberal arts college that educates engineers, doctors, scientists, and health care professionals for the 21st century," is Benedictine College's STEM vision.

"At Benedictine College, we believe faith, morality, and ethics are just as important in the sciences as in every other part of our lives. They cannot be separated. That is why it is so important to train future doctors, engineers, and scientists at a place like Benedictine College," said President Minnis.

Benedictine College recently dedicated its new 100,000-square-foot science building, designed to be the finest small-college STEM building in America.

The entryway of the building incorporates two "Science halls of fame" — one includes the portraits of famous Catholic scientists, including Louis Pasteur and Brother Gregor Mendel; the other features Benedictine College monks and sisters who excelled in the sciences and science education. Prominent artwork on each floor exhorts students to keep both faith and the sciences in mind with inspirational quotes on decorative wall coverings. The physics floor features Albert Einstein's quote "Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind."





Pre-med program director Dr. Martha Carletti agreed. “We are fairly unique among Catholic colleges,” she said. “There are very few who have invested in STEM the way we have. Our faith and our liberal arts background add to our science and math degrees and make our graduates better doctors, nurses, engineers, astronomers, and scientists. Because of our approach, they are better listeners, collaborators and leaders.”

### Endowing faithful scholarship

Benedictine College more than doubled the college’s endowment and added \$1 million to the academic departments. In the past decade:

- » Endowment increased from \$16 million to more than \$45 million.
- » Quasi-Endowment rose from \$1.6 million to nearly \$3 million.
- » Currently there are nearly \$18 million in documented planned gifts for the endowment.
- » The college has endowed several programs in the college.

Robert Dehaemers Chair of Nursing

H.G. and L.J. Westerman Chair of  
Theology (planned gift)

Gary J. and Gloria A. (Decker)  
Seib Chair of Theology

Byron G. Thompson Center for Integrity  
in Finance and Economics

Westerman Hall Endowment  
(planned gifts)

Dr. Thomas Sheridan Classical Learning  
Endowment

Ruth Krusemark, '73, Professor Emerita  
of Music, was the first recipient of  
the Mother Evangelista Kremmeter  
Professorship of Benedictine Traditions  
and Values.





## Theology

**Faith Foundations.** All Benedictine College undergraduate students are required to take Introduction to Theology and two additional faith foundation courses. These courses ensure a basic understanding of the truths of the Catholic faith while also giving students the freedom to study particular areas of the Faith they find most interesting, whether that be the study of Scripture, Church history, sacramental theology, or Benedictine spirituality.

**Theologians and Catechists.** In addition to the faith foundations classes we offer to all students, Benedictine has a large number of students who choose to major in Theology or Evangelization and Catechesis. In the past decade, Benedictine has graduated about 400 theology majors. The Evangelization and Catechesis program is on track to graduate more than 100 students every 10 years.

**Leadership on campus and off.** Benedictine College has established ways to form students on campus and demonstrate how to reach leaders off campus.

- » Benedictine developed a **Gregorian Fellows Leadership** program (increased training, budget, speakers, placements, etc.).
- » Benedictine increased freshman participation in the **Benedictine College Leadership Seminar** (BCLS) by a third, to 256 in 2020 up from 191 in 2012.
- » **Honors Program** forms the scholar leaders of tomorrow.
- » **ExCorde.org** is Benedictine College's outreach, sharing podcasts, videos, articles, and prayer resources.



## Intellectual Leadership

Benedictine College has become a gathering place for intellectuals from various disciplines, universities, and apostolates.

The Symposium for Transforming Culture in America is an annual conference sponsored by the Gregorian Institute at Benedictine College. The Symposium supports this mission and offers a unique forum for current and emerging leaders to share ideas and best practices. At the Symposium, scholars, field professionals, members of religious communities, clergy, and students present papers based on their research and professional experiences. It is a time of fellowship, reflection, and dialogue concerning topics integral to the New Evangelization.

### 2022 SYMPOSIUM

**See How They Love One Another: Community and the New Evangelization**

### 2021 SYMPOSIUM

**Destroyer of the Gods: Christianity vs. the Idols of Secularism**

### 2019 SYMPOSIUM

**Technology and the Human Person**

### 2018 SYMPOSIUM

**Humanae Vitae 50 Years Later: A Call to Self-Gift**

### 2017 SYMPOSIUM

**In the World, but Not of the World: Paradigms for the Evangelization of American Culture**

### 2016 SYMPOSIUM

**Mercy and the Revolution: The Church's Mission after the Sexual Revolution**

### 2015 SYMPOSIUM

**Influential Joy: *Gaudium et Spes* to *Evangelii Gaudium***

### 2014 SYMPOSIUM

**The Transcendentals as a Preamble to the Faith**

### 2013 SYMPOSIUM

**Building a Culture of Freedom**

### 2012 SYMPOSIUM

**The Catholic Church in the Modern World**

**The Symposium has brought leading intellectuals** and Church figures to campus, including:

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| » Ross Douthat ( <i>New York Times</i> )                         | » Bishop Mark Seitz (Diocese of El Paso, Texas)                  | » Pia de Solenni                                  |
| » Mary Rice Hasson (EPPC)  | » Jonathan Reyes (Knights of Columbus)                           | » Katherine Jean Lopez ( <i>National Review</i> ) |
| » Ryan Anderson (Heritage Foundation)                            | » Curtis Martin (FOCUS)  | » Bishop James Conley (Diocese of Lincoln)        |
| » Janet Smith (Sacred Heart Seminary)                            | » Archbishop Joseph Naumann (Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas) | » Rod Dreher (The American Conservative)          |
| » Jennifer Roback Morse (Ruth Institute)                         | » Msgr. Stuart Swetland (Donnelly College)                       | » Brad Wilcox (University of Virginia)            |
| » Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone (Archdiocese of San Francisco) |  |   |

“Because of Benedictine, I experienced the world

and corporate America. I taught children in Ghana and lived in Florence, Italy.

I interned at Dell Technologies in the Treasury and Foreign Exchange Department. The culture and education

I received at Benedictine helped me succeed, becoming one of few interns offered a full-time position.”

— MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ '18, Austin, Texas, Finance Major

## Centers

To increase the impact of the college's activities on the wider culture, the college has created centers that combine targeted recruitment of interested students, interdisciplinary academic opportunities, experiential and service-learning, focused co-curricular options, and significant public outreach.

**Center for Service-Learning:** The Center for Service-Learning is committed to engaging students in challenging academic work and the promotion of the common good as understood in our Catholic, Benedictine tradition by implementing service-learning opportunities for the faculty, students, and community partners of Benedictine College.

**Cray Center for Entrepreneurship:** The mission of the Cray Center is to spread entrepreneurship across the Benedictine College campus, assist local businesses, and provide unique opportunities for future ethical business leaders in their communities.

**Thompson Center for Integrity in Finance and Economics:** The Thompson Center helps form the next generation of virtuous and integral leaders in financial professions. This cross-disciplinary center provides students with the tools to make a positive impact on the prosperity of the region and the country, the skills and knowledge to become leaders in financial professions, and the principles and values to become role models in their community.







**Center for Constitutional Liberty:** The Center for Constitutional Liberty’s mission is to renew and advance understanding of the founding principles of the United States of America so that our nation’s unique experiment in self-government will inspire, inform, and direct new generations of Americans.

**Center for Beauty and Culture:** The Center for Beauty and Culture’s mission is to demonstrate that beauty, which is the revelation to the mind, through the senses, of the fullness of God’s presence, can save the world through artists who understand and apply objective standards of beauty at the service of truth and goodness.

**Center for Family Life:** Through the Center for Family Life, Benedictine College is forming students and mentor couples who will strengthen suffering families and form strong families, believing with St. John Paul II that “The future of humanity passes by way of the family.”

**Ex Corde Center for Catholic Media:** The Ex Corde Center for Catholic Media creates video content to promote positive messages of faith, hope, and love while providing students with the tools, experiences, and contacts they need to enter the 21st century media world as effective communicators.



# A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

The lantern is a powerful symbol of faith—and of Benedictine College.



In 1856, college founder Father Henry Lemke, OSB, was weakened, lost, and alone amid rising waters when he prayed to Mary for his life. At that moment, a lit lantern appeared in a window, and guided Father Lemke to safety. He later learned why: A child had been awakened in the night by “a lady dressed in white” and her mother had lit the lantern as a result. “The Mother of God worked a miracle!” he wrote.

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A plaque on campus tells visitors what happened seven years later:

“The Atchison townspeople held lanterns to welcome the seven Benedictine Sisters as they arrived on Nov. 11, 1863, to build a community of quiescent strength on the holy hill. As they shared the light of Christ, these women and hundreds more would later illuminate the souls and minds of generations.”

“I’ve had a full life of Faith, Family, Friends, Fun, and a Future.

And then it’s about Finish. Finish your life well.

That’s the target. That’s what I hope I did.”

— BYRON G. THOMPSON at his 60<sup>th</sup> class reunion,  
shortly before his death, on what he learned at Benedictine College.





# “Benedictine College is on the cutting edge of the New Evangelization.

It has created a culture where **the pursuit of truth**  
is celebrated no matter if it is in laboratory unlocking  
the beauty of the natural world or in the chapel kneeling  
before the Blessed Sacrament.

Benedictine College is a place where  
**faith and reason intersect.”**

ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH NAUMANN  
Kansas City-Kansas, Chairman USCCB Pro-Life Activities Committee



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BENEDICTINE COLLEGE  
1020 North Second Street | Atchison, Kansas 66002