Today, media outlets are proclaiming great concern for the future of higher education in America. From “Inside Higher Education” to “The New York Times,” to local papers, the discussion is not about whether or not the academy will change, rather it is about who will survive.

Over the last five years, Warner Pacific has experienced great change. The faculty, staff, and students at the College have spent thousands of hours working together to discern what it looks like to love Portland; committing to actively engage the concerns of the city and dedicating time to serve the needs of its people. Warner Pacific is evaluating programs, facilities, and services to ensure an educational environment that can meaningfully support students who otherwise would never dream of attending a private, Christ-centered college.

Our goal is to think less in terms of elitism and more in terms of radical service to those unsure if they will be able to persist and graduate with a degree. Throughout this process of reflection, imagining, and change, we have identified three strategic advantages that Warner Pacific is prepared to leverage fully so that we will continue to flourish in this season of uncertainty.

**STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE 1: THE STUDENTS WARNER PACIFIC SERVES**

The first advantage lies in the fact that Warner Pacific has taken the time to get to know its neighbors in Multnomah County and beyond, developing enrollment practices that welcome students who reflect the region demographically. The College is betting on a deep trend highlighted in the most recent census data which reflects that Oregon, and Multnomah County in particular, is rapidly diversifying.

In terms of academic inputs, most private colleges seek to increase their profile through recruiting students with high SAT or ACT scores and a high GPA. We believe that access to education is a justice issue, so we focus on recruiting students with potential and grit. We now measure our success by our ability to welcome students with great aptitude, perhaps in spite of their test scores, providing them a framework where they will transform, grow, graduate, and lead into the future.

**STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE 2: FINANCIAL FLEXIBILITY**

In the 1990s and early 2000s, enrollment in private higher education grew significantly and institutions were compelled to construct new buildings to accommodate the influx of students. Many institutions took on large debt loads to finance those buildings, and that debt is constraining institutional flexibility today. Warner Pacific is a different story. The College didn’t grow then, but it is growing now. An operational debt from the 1980s has already been paid off and the fact that Warner Pacific didn’t leverage itself financially with new construction and expensive amenities now works to its advantage.

Moving forward, growth at Warner Pacific will look different than it does at other institutions. We will develop the facilities that are needed, while being wary of over-investing. We will invest our most strategic assets in people, which means we will consider not just our debt, but the debt of the students we serve. This commitment was apparent last fall as the College launched “Freedom to Flourish,” Portland’s first undergraduate loan repayment assistance program, enrolling all incoming freshman students and providing assistance in repaying their loans as they establish their earning capacity upon their graduation.

**STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE 3: LEVERAGING THE ASSETS OF ITS COMMUNITY**

While there are many examples of this, the one that I find most exciting, is the opportunity for increased partnership with the region’s community colleges. The data is overwhelming; the majority of Portlanders are going to community college. When listening carefully to the White House and to leaders in the Oregon Legislature, it is clear; cost concerns in higher education are driving both students and politicians to view community college success as a critical component in educating America’s cities.
While some institutions are looking at these facts with concern, Warner Pacific sees it differently. We are proud of our partnership with Portland Community College (PCC), and we are continuing to forge strong relationships with our colleagues from our regional community colleges. In fact, 40% of current Warner Pacific students have transferred from another institution. However, it is not just that transfer students are finding a home at the College that is noteworthy; it’s the fact that they are persisting and graduating at higher numbers than anyone had imagined.

With transfer graduation rates at 89% and climbing, we believe that we can make Warner Pacific the first-choice private institution of staff and faculty from community colleges; a place where they are eager to send their students because they know we will make an in-depth investment in their success.

It’s true, the Warner Pacific of today looks very different than the one many have known in the past. And while change can be difficult, it is often part of the way that God speaks to His people. These are new times in higher education and I hope you will continue to pray for the College over next five years.

I believe that, perhaps more than anything, when He was here on earth, Jesus of Nazareth was concerned about ushering in the Kingdom of God.

_The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought the field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and he bought it._

Matthew 13:44-45

We have truly found a treasure here at Warner Pacific College. We have sold everything and gone all in to fully buy-in. The cost is great, but the reward is far greater.
SERVING THE COMMUNITY

WP and CHOG Congregation Throw a Graduation Celebration for Displaced Students
Just days before almost 100 Heald College students in Portland were to celebrate achieving their academic dream of obtaining a college degree, they were hit with the news that Heald was closing immediately and the graduation ceremony was cancelled.

For over nine years, Warner Pacific’s Adult Degree Program has partnered with Heald College, working closely with their career placement services to assist students desiring to pursue baccalaureate degrees after completing an associate degree at Heald. With this partnership in mind, a number of Warner Pacific staff jumped into action, planning an impromptu graduation celebration for these Heald students. The response was overwhelming, and within one day, the celebration had outgrown the facilities available on campus. Thankfully, friends at Mt. Scott Church of God (Portland) opened their doors with very little advanced notice, helping to celebrate the academic and personal achievements of those who successfully earned degrees from Heald College.

On May 1, with nothing but blessings and friendship, Warner Pacific held a program and reception to acknowledge the 2015 class of Heald graduates. Denise Douglas, Co-Senior Pastor at Mt. Scott explains, “We heard about the need from Dr. Andrea Cook who is part of our church community. She asked if we could help by providing space to honor the Heald College graduates and their families. We were thankful our calendar was clear (which was unusual) and we could respond with an, ‘Absolutely!’ We did so because it would be crazy not to share what God has given us to bless our community.”

WP Welcomes Cadre 6 of the Act Six Leadership & Scholarship Initiative
Warner Pacific is thrilled to once again award ten high school seniors with full-need scholarships through the Act Six Leadership & Scholarship Initiative. These diverse student leaders were selected following a rigorous three-month competition among over 900 applicants. This is the sixth cadre of scholars attending Warner Pacific. They were chosen for their distinctive leadership, academic potential, and commitment to making a difference in their communities. To date, Warner Pacific has awarded 95 students with this prestigious urban leadership award.

Social Change and Popular Culture Take Center Stage
The 3rd Annual Warner Pacific Diversity Lecture Series explored the themes of Celebrity & Social Justice in a two-part event. Noted actor and author, Hill Harper kicked off the conversation, sharing the story of his life in the spotlight as well as his dedication to founding the Manifest Your Destiny Foundation to empower underserved youth. The second lecture in the series was presented by Dr. Tricia Rose, Professor of Africana Studies and Director of the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America at Brown University. Dr. Rose is a highly praised author, commentator, and social critic who is best known for her groundbreaking book, “Black Noise: Rap Music and Black Culture in Contemporary America,” which was listed as one of the “Top Books of the Twentieth Century” by Black Issues in Higher Education.

Small Campus Still Translates to Big Service
“Where faith and scholarship lead to service,” is the motto of Warner Pacific College, and it was put into action when 415 students, staff, and faculty members stepped out of the classroom to serve the Portland community as part of the College’s 10th Annual Common Day of Service. The work completed served more than 1,500 people, at 19 sites, and provided an estimated economic impact of nearly $43,100. Last year, through Common Day of Service and other regularly scheduled volunteer events, Warner Pacific students participated in nearly 51,000 hours of service in the city of Portland, volunteer hours worth about $1.1 million to the community.
IN THE CLASSROOM

Social Entrepreneurship Program Awards Innovation and Community Service
Two seniors were presented with the first Capstone Project awards from the innovative Social Entrepreneurship (SE) Major. During their senior year, students in the SE program identify a need within the community and create a small business to meet that need. This is known as their Capstone Project.

Students presenting Capstone Projects this year included:

Luwan Kahassay: Art Cart, helping people engage their creative side
Anthony Sims: KooksLife, using business strategies to help skateboarders
Gimena Olguin: UniME, United Minority Entrepreneurs
Kristi Gifford: GU Fitness Wear, serving women 18 to 50 years of age to live motivated and active lives
Emily Potts: VEAS, using photography to help people appreciate the complexities of life

The business plans for each Capstone Project were judged by Arnie Kainu, President and CEO of NTT Centerstance; Carolyn Walker, Partner at Stoel Rives LLP and practicing in the Labor and Employment group; and Ben and Liz Bohannon, entrepreneurs and owners of Sseko Designs, both of whom were recently featured on ABC’s “Shark Tank.”

Gimena Olguin took home first place and a cash award of $5,000; second place and a cash award of $3,000 went to Anthony Sims. The cash awards will help both graduating seniors fund their business plans and become real-world social entrepreneurs.

RCM Students Share Ministry Impact
Seniors from the Department of Religion & Christian Ministries shared their personal experiences with hands-on ministry in Portland at two special events, Night of Stories on March 4, and Art of the Call on May 5. Night of Stories had the largest attendance in the history of the event, as students used storytelling techniques to talk about their internships with local organizations serving our most vulnerable neighbors. In its first year, Art of the Call was an engaging evening that welcomed the extended community to campus and allowed students to share the ways in which they are changing and being changed by the city we call home using the PechaKucha format of 20 images x 20 seconds.
You can view video from RCM events at warnerpacific.edu/RCMevents.

Students Shine at WP Science Café
Seniors from the Department of Natural Sciences & Health presented research projects in the biomedical sciences at the spring Science Café, held on the College’s Mt. Tabor campus. The featured projects were:

Anh Ngo: Is Reduced Adiponecin mRNA Associated with Alterations in Transcription Factor ATF3 in Adipose Tissue of Nutritionally Programmed Microswine Offspring?
Almir Celebic: Reduced Plasma Adiponectin and Altered Beta-Adrenergic Signaling in Adipose Tissue of Nutritionally Programmed Microswine Offspring

These students also attended the annual Murdock College Science Research Conference in December 2014, where Anh Ngo presented her project.

Expanding Opportunities for WP Science Students
The College is excited to partner with the Doctor of Chiropractic Program at University of Western States offering accelerated entry into their chiropractic program. Warner Pacific science students can gain entry into the UWS Doctor of Chiropractic program while finishing the requirements for their Bachelor of Science degree from Warner Pacific; obtaining their post-secondary degree sooner than others and with an average tuition savings of $19,000.
IN THE CLASSROOM

New Online Degrees Recognized for Excellence
After launching its first online degree program just over a year ago, Warner Pacific College was recognized by Christian Universities Online as a top Christian college offering affordable online degrees. In fact, Warner Pacific ranked 25th out of 100 colleges and universities. No other Pacific Northwest Christian college ranked higher than Warner Pacific.

Warner Pacific College’s current online degree programs include:

- Associate of Arts in Organizational Dynamics
- Bachelor of Business Administration
- Bachelor of Health Care Administration
- Bachelor of Human Development
- Master of Science in Management – Organizational Leadership

New Grants Support Scholarships, Faculty, and Technology
The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust provided a $71,000 matching grant to establish an educational technology design lab located in the College’s Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). The space will assist professors in diversifying course delivery formats from face-to-face to hybrid and online class configurations.

A $5,000 grant from the Zimmerman Family Foundation will support the College’s educational technology design lab and studio through the matching grant as well.

The $20,000 grant from the William H. & Mary L. Bauman Foundation supports the Act Six Leadership and Scholarship Initiative’s Urban Service Track at Warner Pacific, which is tailored to help under-prepared but talented and highly motivated high school scholar-leaders succeed in achieving their higher education goals.

ON THE COURT

Men’s Basketball Recognized for Conference Excellence
After a 25-win season and a Cascade Collegiate Conference (CCC) Co-Championship, post-season accolades rolled in for the Warner Pacific men’s basketball team. Four Knights received All-CCC awards: Earl Jones, Coletun Tarr, and Doug Thomas were voted 1st Team All-CCC thanks to outstanding individual performances. Michael Hall shared the conference’s defensive player of the year award with an athlete from Concordia.

Jared Valentine was voted Cascade Conference Coach of the Year. Valentine was recognized for leading the Knights to a 14-4 record in conference play to earn a piece of the CCC regular season title.

Women’s Soccer Brings Home Conference Wins
After leading the Knights women’s soccer team to their first ever post-season win, Ashley Valencia, Elle’ Nelson, and Crystal Foster were named All-Cascade Collegiate Conference (CCC). Holly Popenuk was named Co-Coach of the Year, along with Vallan Seid of Northwest University. After finishing 3-8-1 in her first season, Popenuk turned around a struggling Warner Pacific team, ending her second season with a 7-7-2 record overall.

New Men’s Soccer Coach
Warner Pacific welcomes Chris Thoms as the new head coach of the Knights men’s soccer program. Thoms is a well-known club coach and individual trainer in the Portland area, working with Portland City United and Southside soccer clubs, as well as his own training and consulting business. His playing career spanned international professional opportunities in England, the Netherlands, and Thailand. He also competed domestically with the Cascade Surge.
NEWS & UPDATES

Meet the New Director of Alumni
Serena Cline ’02, has joined Warner Pacific as the Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving. Having spent the last 12 years working in higher education, Cline brings a wealth of experience and talent to this important leadership role. Most recently, Serena served as Senior Coordinator for New Student & Parent Programs at California State University, Fullerton. She has a M.E. in College Student Affairs from Azusa Pacific University, and a B.S. in Social Science from Warner Pacific College. Cline made the decision to return to Warner Pacific after learning about the College’s revitalized mission to serve urban and diverse students in Portland and she is looking forward to discovering meaningful ways to connect alumni to the inspirational work of their alma mater.

Ahlquist and Valentine Retire
Bart Valentine spent 23 years teaching and coaching in the local public school system before returning to his alma mater as the Director of Athletics and the Head Men’s Basketball Coach in 1999. Tasked with rebuilding the Knights Athletics program after a 9-year hiatus, Valentine built a formidable program, diversifying student talent, recruiting a high-quality coaching staff, and growing the program from only four sports in 1999 to eleven sports by 2008. In 2009, Valentine stepped down as Director of Athletics to accept a full time faculty position as the Assistant Professor of Mathematics, continuing to coach men’s basketball. When Valentine retired from coaching in 2011, the basketball court was named in his honor.

Before coming to Warner Pacific, Sandy Ahlquist was a therapist in community mental health for over 20 years. A Certified Family Life Educator with the National Council on Family Relations, Ahlquist is the Associate Professor of Social Work and has taught at the College since 1995. She was responsible for the creation of the Social Work major which continues to grow and evolve in exciting ways. Her time working professionally has enabled her to collaborate with students to develop meaningful internship experiences. Issues of human rights, oppression, and social justice influenced her teaching and community service activities, helping to prepare students to use their education in service to the needs of others. Professor Ahlquist will continue to teach in an emerita role.

Dr. Cole Dawson Returns to the Classroom
After 10 years of serving Warner Pacific as the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean, Dr. Cole Dawson is returning to the classroom to teach full-time. Along with his desire to teach as motivation for a change, Dawson, who as been on the faculty of Warner Pacific for over 30 years, also recognizes this time as pivotal for the College, stating that “we need a fresh pair of eyes that will revitalize, re-question, and re-evaluate the future of Warner Pacific.” Dawson was honored for his service with a Presidential Citation from Dr. Cook at the spring commencement. Students and colleagues alike are happy that Dr. Dawson will continue to bring the intellect, insight, and intentionality he is known for into the classroom.

Glenn Named to CCCU Diversity Commission
Dr. Daymond Glenn, Vice President for Community Life and Chief Diversity Officer, was appointed to the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities’ (CCCU) newly launched Commission on Diversity and Inclusion. The Commission on Diversity and Inclusion will build on the work of the previous Advisory Committee for Advancing Intercultural Competencies. One of the commission’s primary goals is to facilitate the exchange of best practices among diversity officers at member institutions across the country. Additionally, the Commission will host a conference on diversity for CCCU faculty, staff, and administrators.
Cook Recognized as a Woman of Influence
Warner Pacific College president, Dr. Andrea Cook was recently named a 2015 Orchid Award Winner by the Portland Business Journal. The Orchid Award recognizes the region’s most influential women professionals with strong records of innovation, outstanding performance in their respective fields, and meaningful contributions to their communities. Nominations for the award were judged on three criteria: professional accomplishments, community leadership, and awards and milestones.

President Cook Named Ally for Excellence
Dr. Andrea Cook was presented with the 2014 Oregon Latino Agenda for Action (OLAA) Líderes Award, also known as the Ally for Excellence Award. This award is given by the OLAA to exemplary individuals who have contributed to the growth, innovation, impact, and results of the Latino community. OLAA’s goal is to establish a broad-based statewide coalition of Latino organizations, community groups, and individuals to strategically advocate and work for systems change and to develop policy recommendations on issues affecting our communities.

Warner Pacific Hosts Summer Celebration
The Oregon and Southwest Washington Association of the Churches of God is returning to Warner Pacific for Summer Celebration 2015, July 26-29. This year marks the sixth Summer Celebration that the College has hosted. Staff, faculty, and students enjoy getting to know members of our partner congregations as they visit the campus for this annual event. Speakers include Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel, Tony Kriz, Rhonda Philips, Audrey Weiger, Rev. Brian Arnold, Rev. Nate Jackson, and Rev. Teresa Hellstrom. Worship will be led by The Exchange (theexchangerock.com). Learn more at orwacog.org/summer-celebration.

Bridgetown Releases New CD
Bridgetown celebrated the release of their third album, Treasure, on May 2, 2015. The men’s a capella ensemble was founded in 2011, and features a rotating roster of six students who share the message of the gospel at schools and events throughout the Northwest. Listen to song excerpts at warnerpacific.edu/Bridgetown.

Celebrating 20 Years of KAFU
The Kazakh-American Free University (KAFU) held the American celebration of their 20th anniversary at Warner Pacific College. KAFU president, Dr. Erezhep Mambetkaziyev, was joined by other leaders from the university, and friends from around North America who have been involved in supporting faculty, staff, and students in the USA. KAFU has benefited over the last two decades from the engagement and servant leadership example of former Warner Pacific President, Marshall Christensen and his organization, Co-Serve International. The College continues to partner with KAFU through visiting international professors, a summer academy, and extended internships in which KAFU students practice language skills and learn intercultural competencies while living in Portland.

Bethel Honored for Social Justice
The Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel, senior pastor of Maranatha Church and former Warner Pacific Trustee, was named “Ecumenist of the Year” on May 7, 2015, at the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner. The award is presented in recognition of leadership and commitment to fostering the love of Christ through ecumenical dialogue, witness and ministry.