# OUR MOMENT IS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011

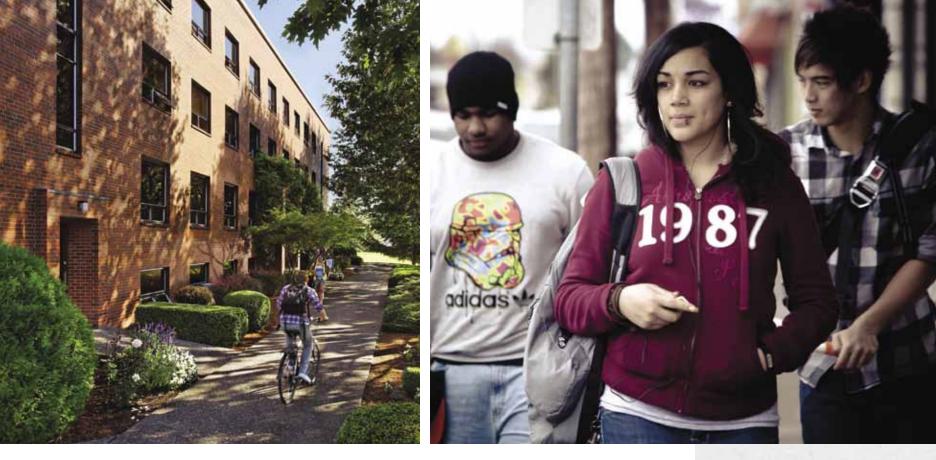
> WARNER PACIFIC COLLEGE

# This is only the beginning.

## Dear Friends,

Warner Pacific College has been serving students in southeast Portland for more than seven decades. While our commitment to delivering an excellent Christian liberal arts education has never wavered, there have been moments in our history when the challenge of limited space in our urban setting and the need to grow enrollment led to conversations about leaving the city and moving to a suburban or rural location. Only recently has it become clear as to why God placed us in the heart of the city— He knew that Portland was our place...and that our time was now.

in the city... for the city 2012 marks our 75th year for Warner Pacific College and serves as a reminder of the importance of the work we do. Be on the look out for events, activities and new publications celebrating the **39 Million Moments** that have made Warner Pacific College what it is today. Stay connected at warnerpacific.edu.



For the last five years, we have envisioned the College as an integral component of the living, breathing city of Portland, both embedded in—and an influence upon—the greater urban community. In February of 2010, we created a plan of action that will ensure Warner Pacific lives out our mission of being "in the city, for the city"; we created a Design for Urban Higher Education.

At the heart of Warner Pacific's Design for Urban Higher Education is the desire to increase access to higher education and prepare students to live and lead in an increasingly urbanized world. This plan will provide future generations of Warner Pacific students with scholarship opportunities, mentoring programs and meaningful, cohort-based learning communities. But a plan of this magnitude also requires significant investments in four distinct areas:

- Equipping the college community to welcome students from diverse backgrounds
- Creating meaningful support systems for students as they navigate college
- Forging community partnerships to strengthen our experiential learning offerings
- Providing experiences that will prepare the next generation of urban leaders

We've set a goal of raising \$3.5 million to meet the needs of our Design for Urban Higher Education. Change of this magnitude is not easy—or inexpensive. But there has never been a greater moment to embark on an initiative of this magnitude.

This last year marked a defining moment in our history as the year of embracing our place, of living our mission, and implementing our vision. This was a year of strength—financial and spiritual and communal. This was a year of great energy—a palpable energy, an institutional excitement about where we are as a community and where we are heading next.

In this report, I hope to convey our excitement, celebrate our progress and share our stories. I also want to make it clear that we must capitalize on the energy of this—our defining year—and build upon the progress we've already made. We must forge ahead, fortified by our sense of call, buoyed by God's love and faithfulness. It would be easy to be satisfied with the phenomenal positive change that has occurred at Warner Pacific. But I hope we will always have a holy urgency to be about the work of bringing shalom to the city where God has called us (Jeremiah 29:4-7).

We've accomplished so much already. But this is only the beginning.

"We are encouraged and excited about the urban mission that Warner Pacific is committed to. They are strategically poised to serve the unique needs of students from the Portland Metro area, particularly those who are first-generation college students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds."

 John W. Castles, Trustee, M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust

Sarah Castles, Board of Trustees, Warner Pacific College

### Stories matter.

#### 2010-2011 Notable Faculty Accomplishments

Professor of Educational Psychology **Dr. Lou Foltz** was an invited speaker to the annual Lilly International Conference on College and University Teaching for a third year in a row.

Professor of Music **Dr**. **Thomas Miller** prepared and conducted the 60-voice Massed Choir for the Michael W. Smith concerts in Portland and Seattle in December 2010. He has been invited to guest conduct at the Carnegie Hall of Music in 2012.

#### Dr. Elizabeth DuPriest,

assistant professor of Biology, conducted research on the effect of maternal low protein diet on offspring adipose tissue dysfunction in collaboration with her former graduate advisor at Oregon Health & Science University. In September 2011, Dr. DuPriest presented two abstracts from her research at the Seventh World Congress on Developmental Origins of Health and Disease in Portland, Oregon.

Joe Linker, an assistant professor of writing in the Adult Degree Program, was one of five adjunct faculty members recognized by Warner Pacific in December 2011 for excellence in teaching. He also maintains a popular blog called The Coming of the Toads.



#### Let us do God's work.

We have already begun to do the work for the city that God has called us to do. In 2008, we became one of the first institutions—in what has now become a growing trend—to significantly restructure tuition to increase access to higher education. According to College Board's Trends in College Pricing 2011, the cost to attend Warner Pacific is 35 percent lower than the average private nonprofit college in the West Region. *(see chart on insert)* 

In addition to reducing our cost, Warner Pacific recently partnered with the Portland Leadership Foundation on the Act Six Leadership and Scholarship Initiative, with a program equipping emerging college-age leaders to engage the college campus and their communities. Portland Leadership Foundation believes that emerging

urban leaders, with the right opportunity, support and inspiration, can combine their natural gifts and passion with a college education to create a new kind of bold, visionary leadership that will transform our campuses, our city and our collective future.

In Fall 2010, Warner Pacific College welcomed our first 10-student cadre to the Act Six Leadership and Scholarship Initiative. Act Six students receive a full-need scholarship, live on Warner Pacific's campus and attend classes at a local community college earning credits for two years before enrolling in Warner Pacific during their third year of study. Our college commuity has embraced the first two cadres of Act Six students with open arms, giving us great hope that this is the beginning of a long and meaningful partnership.

#### **profile: Adam Ristick** Changing the trajectory of his family forever

Adam Ristick, an Act Six student at Warner Pacific currently majoring in Human Development, dreams of one day providing opportunities for disadvantaged youth—dreams that, four years ago, seemed unattainable.

As a freshman at Portland's Cleveland High School, Adam struggled in his classes, managing Cs and Ds while navigating an unstable home life. His parents were addicted to drugs and his two older brothers had already dropped out of high school. After becoming involved with Portland Central Young Life, Adam learned of the Act Six scholarship initiative and earned a place in Warner Pacific's 2010 Cadre. As of now, Adam's possibilities are endless.

"I would love to be a motivational speaker for college students one day," Ristick said. "I have a younger brother who is 16 and if I can't show him that I can get out of [our economic situation], what can he do? I'm just excited and I'm up for the challenge."



# Transforming our campus community to reflect all of God's Kingdom.

Our institutional focus on providing access to higher education to underserved populations in Portland is not only changing our city, it is also changing the dynamic of our student body in meaningful and important ways. We are a vibrant, diverse college community in which students from all walks of life are sharing their culture and their perspectives, and learning from one another.

But the numbers only tell a fraction of the story. We have already changed lives and reversed the trajectories of families; we have already begun to shape communities and the social, spiritual and economic fabric of our great city.

Take the story of Jeanie Whitten. A single mother by the age of 16, Jeanie came to Warner Pacific in 2008 bringing her then two-year-old son, Kaiden, with her. Jeanie will graduate in May 2012 with a degree in Human Development and Family Studies. She shared her amazing story of personal transformation at the Fall board meeting:

"I love this place. I love these people. And while I'm overcome with love, with a sense of belonging, a sense of being home, I am also left longing—for more time, more purposeful living in this place.

"I am proud of where [Warner Pacific] has come from, yet long deeply for us to keep moving, keep growing, keep digging deeper into our reality, into our city, into our hearts and into our purpose.

"I long for the years that I personally lost to 'tolerance' rather than love, to cynicism rather than understanding, to comfort rather than purposeful discomfort."

Warner Pacific's efforts to meaningfully shape our city were recognized alongside four other significant Portland-based non-profit organizations in the November 2011 issue of *Christianity Today*. The profile celebrated the Warner Pacific community's collective efforts to fully engage the city of Portland, and helped raise national awareness for the College. (www.christianitytoday.com/thisisourcity/portland/christiancollege)

#### profile: Raeleene Akin A second chance

Six years ago, Raeleene Akin '11, woke up in a hospital bed in Eureka, CA, more dead than alive. An ex-boyfriend had assaulted her with a heavy flashlight, leaving her unconscious in an alley with multiple fractures to her face and most of her teeth knocked out. How she made it to the hospital, she can't say.

What she does remember is lying in her hospital bed and wondering how her life had spiraled so out of control. The beating was just one in a series of traumatic experiences—including a battle with drug addiction, a two-year stint in prison, breast cancer surgery, and the death of a child—shaping the first 36 years of her life. She had reached her limit.

"I prayed to God, 'If you really exist, do what you got to do, but get me out of here," she said.

Since that pivotal day, Akin's life has been on a new trajectory. She is now a recent graduate of Warner Pacific's Adult Degree Program. Given that she never attended high school—earning a GED instead—the fact that she earned her bachelor's degree on December 17, 2011, is an astonishing victory. She plans to use her degree to advance her work as an advocate for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

#### None of this is possible without you.

You have a tremendous influence on Warner Pacific—from supporting our ongoing operations to endowing scholarships to shaping the direction of the College. None of this monumental change and forward momentum is possible without your generous gifts.

#### With your continued support, we know that anything is possible.

#### **Up to \$100** Brian Abraham

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WARNER PACIFIC COLLEGE

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#### Thank you for answering the call.

I want to thank you for all of your hard work; for your belief in the direction of the College; for all your support of what God is doing in this place. Most of all, I want to thank you for rising to the challenge of our collective calling. As all members of the Warner Pacific community can attest, when you are at the center of your calling, your path is not placid or smooth. It is powerful, messy, thick and real.

Realizing the goals set forth in our Design for Urban Higher Education will not be easy—or inexpensive. The student population that we hope to serve requires a great deal of educational, personal, and financial support.

That is why, in the coming year, we will embark on a \$3.5 million initiative entitled *Call to Action: A Design for Urban Higher Education from Warner Pacific College*. This initiative will fund the programs, scholarships and support systems needed to increase access to higher education to Portland's underserved populations.

We must capitalize on the success of the past year and forge ahead. We must continue to do God's work—to love God, love our students, our neighbors and one another. We must continue to change lives.

Together, we can get there.

God Bless,

Indrea Cook

Andrea P. Cook, Ph.D. President Warner Pacific College

"I applaud Warner Pacific College's efforts to serve urban students and the city of Portland by positioning itself to be 'in the city, for the city.' Portland Community College is pleased to partner with WPC as we seek to advance the education of students in Portland."

-Dr. Preston Pulliams, President, Portland Community College

To learn more about Call to Action: A Design for Urban Higher Education from Warner Pacific College, or to make an online donation, visit www. warnerpacific.edu/calltoaction.

