



# MCKENDREE

*2017-18 President's Report*

# UNIVERSITY



# RECOGNITION

## National Recognition:

- McKendree University remained in the top tier of Midwest regional universities and on the “Best Value Schools” and “Best Colleges for Veterans” lists in the category, in the U.S. News & World Report’s 2018 “Best Colleges” edition.
- The online bachelor’s degree, MBA, graduate education and nursing degree programs were among U.S. News’ “Best Online Programs” for 2018.
- Innovative application of high impact educational practices earned the University a “College of Distinction” designation.
- The University remained a “Great College to Work For” in 2017, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education’s annual survey. It was recognized in the supervisor-department chair relationship category among institutions enrolling 3,000 to 9,000 students.
- Phi Eta Sigma first-year student honor society achieved national Pyramid status for demonstrating strength, stability and tradition.
- The University was designated a 2018 “Military Friendly® School” by Victory Media, which sets standards for higher education institutions to provide positive opportunities for veterans.
- The University joined a nationwide “Voter Friendly Campus” initiative, a program to help institutions increase civic and electoral engagement.
- The University welcomed hundreds of impressive high school students and their families to campus for Leadership Scholarship Days on Dec. 2, 2017 and March 3, 2018.
- A master’s in criminal justice degree program and undergraduate majors in musical theatre and entrepreneurship were added in 2017. New 4+1 programs, in which students may complete both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in five years, were offered in business + accelerated MBA and sociology + criminal justice.
- At the 190th Founders’ Day celebration on Feb. 20, 2018, Dr. Linda Cassens, a trustee, received the Friend of the University Award for her commitment to education, cancer research and philanthropy in the region.
- Hundreds of students displayed their research, creativity and collaborative work at the fifth annual Academic Excellence Celebration on April 26, 2018. Eleven honor society induction ceremonies included two new chapters: Tau Sigma for transfer students and Pi Mu Epsilon for mathematics.
- A multifunctional, technology-centric area called theHub opened in lower Pearsons Hall in April 2018.
- The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education Board of Commissioners granted the Doctor of Nursing Practice program five-year accreditation until June 30, 2023, following an on-site evaluation in October 2017.
- Career Services survey results determined the Class of 2017 career outcomes rate was 96.5 percent for undergraduates and 98 percent for graduate students.

## Notable Highlights:

- The Active Learning Center, designed by the Management Information Systems class, opened at New Residence Hall West in August 2017. The Radcliff, Ky., campus opened a multi-functional Active Learning Center on Jan. 11, 2018.
- In August 2017, the University welcomed 370 first-year students and 120 transfer students from 28 states and 20 other countries. The Class of 2021 included the most honors program scholars to date (51).
- McKendree University received a bronze seal from the ALL IN Challenge for achieving a student voter rate between 50 and 59 percent.
- On #GivingTuesday, students, faculty, staff, alumni and other supporters made Annual Fund gifts totaling \$102,778 over a 24-hour period on Nov. 28, 2017.

## Faculty, Staff and Alumni Highlights:

- Outstanding alumni were honored at the annual awards dinner on Sept. 30, 2017. Retired teacher **William “Bill” Blythe ‘63** received the Peter Akers Award for professional success, outstanding service and loyalty. **Susan Harbaugh ‘04**, an accountant and chief financial officer, received the Loyol



# & HIGHLIGHTS

- Service Award. Entering the Academy of Excellence were Dr. **Donald Wagner '84**, a pastor and teacher, and **Lori (Rehmet) Moore '98**, an educator and author. **Kyle Eversgerd '07**, an executive with the Los Angeles Rams, and **Josh Nimmo '07**, an athletic trainer and fitness center manager, were selected as Rising Stars.
- Entering the McKendree Bearcat Sports Hall of Fame in 2017 were **Sam Hipple '62**, men's basketball; **Andrew Sanchez '11**, men's wrestling; **Oku Satcher '02**, football; and Gary White, former coach of cross country, track and field, and bowling.
  - Dr. Dawn Hankins, the long-serving chair of the Division of Health Professions in the School of Nursing and Health Professions, and professor and director of athletic training, won the 2017 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. Alumni who also received the teaching award on Nov. 12 were **Janice Amann '02**, third grade, Mascoutah Elementary; **Candace Caveny, M.A.Ed. '10**, 12th grade AP physics, O'Fallon Township High School; **Ashleigh Deets '04**, second grade, Illini Elementary; **Stephanie Ferguson '10**, fourth grade, Signal Hill Elementary; **Wendy (Stanford) Kassing '11**, fifth and sixth grade special education, Shiloh Middle School; **Lyndsey Mehrstens, M.A.Ed. '08**, third grade, William Holliday Elementary; **Keith Padgett, M.A.Ed. '10**, social studies, Belleville East High School; **Lauren Seka-Steward '00**, eighth grade English and language arts, Emge Junior High; **Jana Vasquez '96**, sixth grade language arts, Fulton Junior High; and **Lori Zeiter '86, M.A.Ed. '11**, kindergarten, Belle Valley School.
  - **Jennifer Miller '04, M.A.Ed. '07**, the assistant dean for student success and coordinator of University 101, and **Hannah Howell '13**, president of Lebanon Kids, Inc., after school program, received the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Awards at a celebration held on Jan. 18, 2018.
  - Accounting instructor Terese Kasson received the 2018 Exemplary Teacher Award, given by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church.
  - Associate Faculty Awards for Excellence in Teaching went to health and wellness instructor Scott Neill and to Dr. Marleis Trover, who has taught several courses in the graduate education program for 11 years.
  - The 2018 President's Award for Professional Excellence went to **George Kriss, MBA '08**, director of information technology.
  - The Distinguished Service Professor title was given to two faculty members who reached the 30-year milestone in their McKendree careers: Dr. Irwin Halfond, professor of history, and Dr. Nancy S. Ypma, chair of the Division of Visual and Performing Arts and professor of music.
  - Dr. Nichole DeWall, an associate professor of English known for her positive attitude and love of Shakespeare, received the 2018 William Norman Grandy Faculty Award from the Alumni Association.
  - Dr. Betsy Gordon and Dr. Feza Ozturk retired from their distinguished teaching careers with the honor and title of professor emerita, awarded at the May 12, 2018, undergraduate commencement ceremony.
  - The University awarded an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree to operatic soprano **Christine Brewer '76** at the commencement ceremony. The honorary degree recognized her extraordinary lifetime accomplishments and continued commitment to her alma mater.
  - The Kentucky campus Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award was given to Dr. Millard Dunn, a part-time associate faculty member who has taught undergraduate English, writing, literature, art history and film courses since 1977.

## Student Highlights:

- The 2017 Student Lincoln Laureate for excellence in academic and extracurricular activities was **Himani Patel '18**, a chemistry major and campus leader from Eldoret, Kenya.
- Junior **Emily Davis**, a professional writing major, studied at the National University of Ireland, Galway in spring 2018 as a Gilman International Scholar, sponsored by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.
- The 2018 Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award went to sophomore **Shaneise Tally**, who has been a residence life community coordinator; member of McCAT (McKendree Community Action Team), United Feminists, and the Social Justice and Equity Committee; Black Student Organization treasurer; Change Ambassador and a Teacher for Change.
- In an impressive debut, the 117th Regiment Cyber Defense Team posted a top five finish at the Midwest Regional Cyber Defense Competition in Chicago, Feb. 17–18, 2018.
- Campus Compact chose **Ileanisse "Lily" Soto** as a 2018 Newman Civic Fellow for her service, leadership and commitment to social change. The junior organizational communication-human resources major organized fundraisers for hurricane relief efforts back home in Puerto Rico.
- The speech and debate team brought home 30 awards from national tournaments in spring 2018, including a ninth place finish at the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence, six semifinalist finishes, a selection to the All-American team,



two service awards for coaches, and a novice national championship. McKendree was the only school to advance at all five national tournaments.

- Senior **Sophia Jeffery** and **Elexis Baltimore '18** presented papers at the national Popular Culture Conference in Indianapolis on March 30, 2018. Biopsychology major **Ciara Jones '18** and junior psychology students **Jordan Morton** and **Tatiana Nieves** presented their research at the Midwestern Psychological Association's Annual Conference in Chicago on April 14, 2018. Psychology majors **Cory Berberich '18**, juniors **Raina Isaacs** and **Jordan Morton** and sophomore biopsychology major **Rebecca Chicosky** presented at the 45th Annual Illinois-Iowa Undergraduate Psychology Empirical Research Conference on April 21, 2018.
- The National Association of Colored Women's Clubs and Youth Affiliates, Inc., established a Collegiate Young Adult Club on campus, inducting 18 students as inaugural members of the ELITE (Exceptional Ladies Impacting and Transforming with Elegance) chapter on April 15, 2018.
- **Jessica Lirios '18**, an honors program psychology major and summa cum laude graduate, received the Technos International Prize for academic excellence and international understanding.
- **Jason Wade '18** received the "Spirit of McKendree" Award for academic excellence, character and community mindedness at the Radcliff, Ky., campus.
- Sophomores **Emily Berry** and **Zahrah Dinkins**, and **Amy MacLennan**, associate professor of art, spent two weeks learning about Japanese culture and history in June 2018 as guests of Technos International College in Tokyo.

## Athletics Highlights:

- Senior **Lindsey Raker** became the Bearcats' first national powerlifting champion when she took first place in the women's 72kg weight division at the USA Powerlifting Collegiate Nationals in April 2018.
- For the second time in three years, the men's bowling program claimed the Intercollegiate Team Championship (ITC) national title.
- The women's bowling team visited the White House on Nov. 17, 2017 as one of 18 NCAA programs honored on National Collegiate Champions Day, having won the National Championship in April 2017.
- The women's bowling team finished as national runner-up at both the 2018 ITC & NCAA National Collegiate Bowling

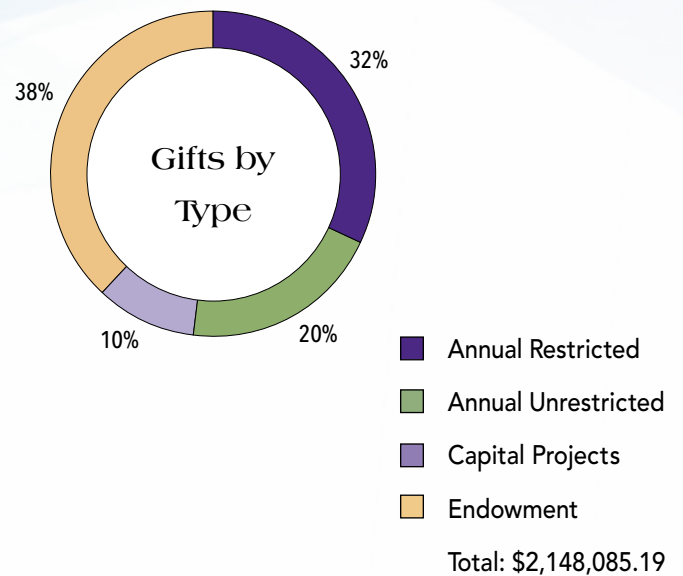
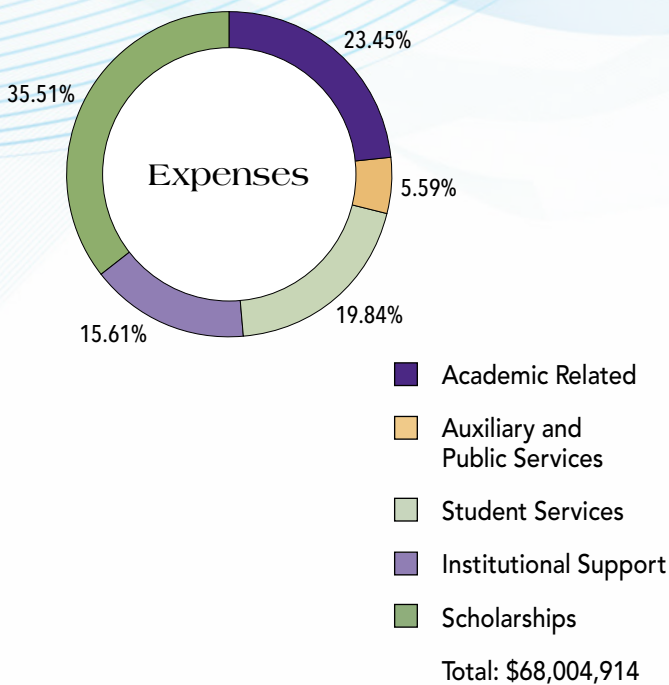
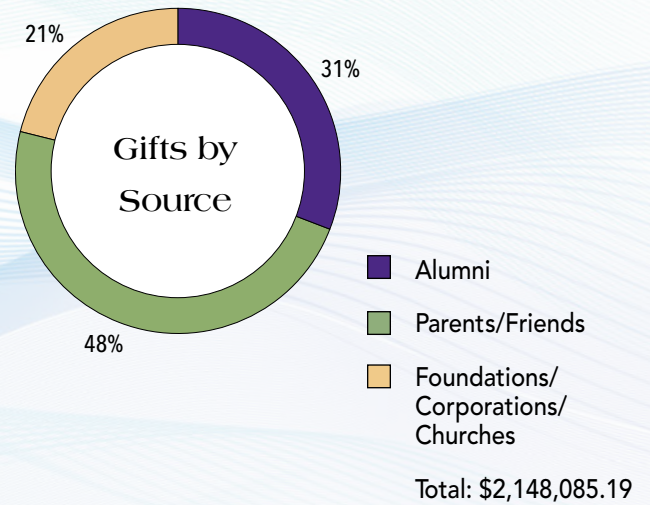
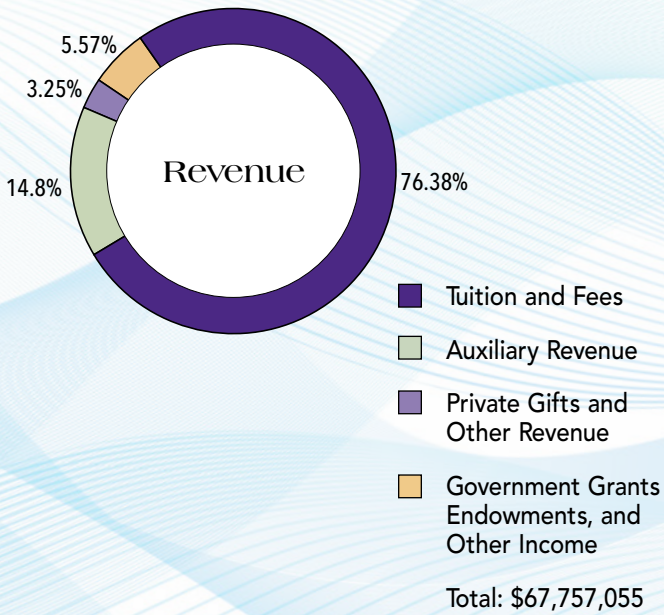
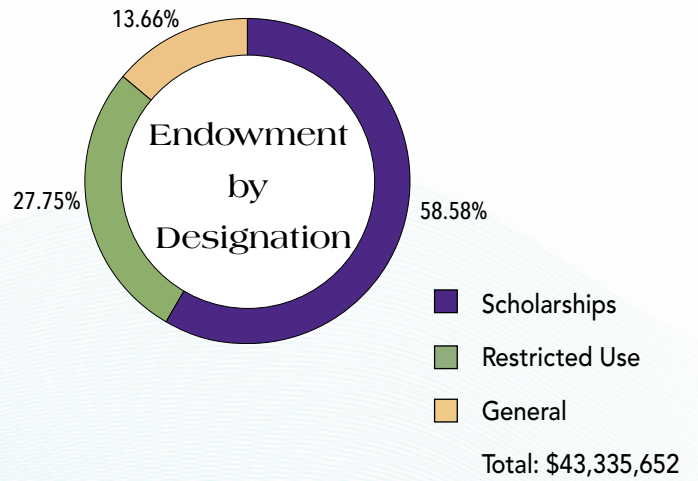
Championships. For the second consecutive year, sophomore **Brianna Clemmer** was named Bowler of the Year by the National Tenpin Coaches Association DII/DIII.

- The men's and women's water polo program moved to NCAA varsity status and hosted its first match at the McKendree MetroRecPlex on Sept. 16, 2017 with a win over Monmouth College.
- First-year **Miranda Gajewski** was named the Hero Sports Network D2 Softball Newcomer of the Year.
- The men's wrestling team claimed the 2018 NCAA Men's Wrestling Super Regional 3 Tournament Championship. Senior **Darren Wynn** won the NCAA Super Regional crown at 141 lbs. and finished as runner-up at Nationals.
- Senior **Megan Black** placed first at the USA Wrestling's U23 World Team Trials to earn a spot on the World Team. In November 2017, Megan and senior **Brandy Lowe** won their respective weight classes at the National Wrestling Coaches Association All-Star Classic. Sophomore **Alexandria Glaude** competed at the Junior World Championships in Finland in August 2017 and sophomore **Andrea Sennett** wrestled at the Junior Pan-American Championships in Peru in May 2018.
- Ten Bearcat athletic teams qualified for their National Championships and 40 All-Americans were honored in their respective sports during the winter 2017 and spring 2018 seasons. Thirty-five Bearcats were named Academic All-Americans.
- Women's Wrestling Coach Sam Schmitz was named to the USA World Team coaching staff, which led the U.S. at the 2017 UWW U23 World Championships in Bydgoszcz, Poland. He also participated in the Cadet World Championships in Athens, Greece with USA Wrestling in September 2017.
- Women's Bowling Coach Shannon O'Keefe was named the NTCA Division II/III Coach of the Year. She also earned a gold medal at the 2017 World Bowling Championships in Las Vegas; was part of Team USA's winning effort in trios competition at the World Championships; and won her first major titles at the Smithfield Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour Championship in September 2017 and the USBC Queens Tournament in May 2018.
- Men's Wrestling Coach Jim Kisgen was named the NCAA Division II Coach of the Year by the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) and the NCAA Central Super Region Coach of the Year.
- Men's and Women's Volleyball Coach Nickie Sanlin served as a head coach for the USA Volleyball Women's Collegiate National Team in June.



# Finance

The 2017–18 fiscal year continued to reflect the economic challenges experienced across the State of Illinois and globally. With a pragmatic approach driven by committed leadership, the University was able to withstand exterior factors and position itself for the future. Through the generosity of donors, McKendree University continues to serve as a best investment for its students and the region.



# 2017 Fall Enrollment Breakdown

In August 2017, McKendree welcomed 370 new first-year students and 120 transfer students. The incoming class included the largest number of honors scholars to date, with 51 of them enrolled in the University's honors program.

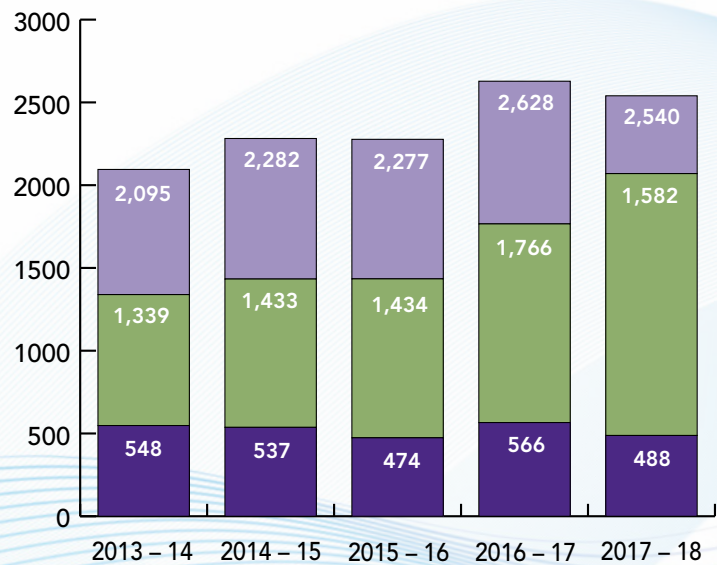
An increasing number of new Bearcats were from out of state. While 62 percent of the Class of 2021 came from throughout Illinois—a record low in-state percentage for the third year—others represented 28 states and 20 countries. Five percent were international students from Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Chile,

Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Paraguay, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

Collectively, the Class of 2021 had a high school grade point average of 3.5 and eighty percent received an academic scholarship. Seven were high school valedictorians. Continuing a trend from recent years, most McKendree first-year students—89 percent—chose to live in campus housing.

## Incoming Student Enrollment

- Applied
- Admitted
- Enrolled



## Student Enrollment Statistics

- Graduate
- Undergraduate
- Total

