

## An Introduction to William Carey University

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It is a great privilege to be with you today and represent William Carey University. In the absence of President Tommy King and International Coordinator Sharon Thompson, I stand before you simply as a William Carey alumni who happened to be in the right place at the right time. The great theoretical physicist, Albert Einstein once said "I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn." I know that those present today must consider the education of pupils in any society to be of the utmost importance. As we look at various models and conditions of learning offered around the world, I hope to help you attain a better understanding of William Carey University as well as American university management and operation in general.

William Carey University is a private liberal arts school that seeks to develop qualities of scholarship, leadership, and service in each of its graduates. Carey is located on three campuses in the United States. The main campus in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, is set on 120 acres. Carey on the Coast is located in Gulfport with a scenic ocean view. The School of Nurs-

ing has a campus in New Orleans, Louisiana. The school was founded in 1906 originally as Mississippi Woman's College, but became co-educational in 1954, and was renamed William Carey College. In 2006, as a part of its Centennial celebration, William Carey College was renamed William Carey University.

Carey is currently the only four-year degree granting private institution in south Mississippi. Carey offers baccalaureate degrees in the areas of arts, humanities, and sciences; education and psychology; business; music; and nursing. The Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.), Master of Education (M.Ed.), Master of Science in Psychology (M.S. in psychology) and the Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) degrees and a specialist degree in elementary education are also offered.

Three trimesters of eleven weeks each comprise the academic calendar at Carey, allowing ten weeks for classes and one week for final examinations before each trimester end. Two different summer school sessions are also offered to students. The university solicits applications from individuals who desire to study in a learning environment committed to the

achievement of personal and professional excellence. Each applicant for admission must file with the Office of Admissions a complete application. An Admissions committee then proceeds to select and admit those students who meet the requirements for admission to the university. The admissions committee uses the "whole student" concept in this selection process. The committee considers factors including Grades and College Preparatory Subjects, Test Scores (ACT/SAT), and Student Involvement in School and Community Activities.

Once a student has been accepted for admission to William Carey, he or she may then proceed to apply for financial assistance and register for classes. Annually, over 90% of Carey students receive some form of financial assistance. Although students are assigned academic advisors who help to plot and plan their coursework, students do have a certain amount of freedom to choose which classes they will take. All students are required to complete a core of general education courses taken from a variety of academic disciplines. Although there is some variation in the core curriculum requirements for the different degrees, all degrees require English, history, mathematics, science, communication, fine arts, and physical education. The Bachelor of Science degree requires additional laboratory science and the Bachelor of Arts degree has a foreign language requirement. The total number of hours required in the core ranges from 44 to 63, depending upon the degree. Students typically complete their core requirements during their freshman and sophomore years. Core courses are compatible with similar courses at other institutions and transfer students usually transfer in most or all of their core coursework.

The life of William Carey University took quite a blow in 2005 due to the massive Hurricane Katrina which left damage on all three its campuses. Current enrollment for the fall trimester at Carey is about 2400, but as registration is ongoing, additional students are expected to enroll. William Carey offers a small, family-like environment where students can thrive both academically and socially. Carey's 17-1 student-faculty ratio is appealing to many students who prefer a small and nurturing classroom setting. Each faculty member at William Carey must provide and post office hours, certain times of the day that they will be in their office and available to students for questions or concerns pertaining to academics or other areas needing assistance. Often times this allows for students to get to know the professors outside of the classroom and therefore build stronger relationships. Carey is also equipped to provide Electronic Learning for certain classes by using the internet.

Campus and student life is perhaps one of the most appealing aspects of William Carey University. Students may live in any of the six dormitories located on the Hattiesburg campus. These residence halls range in style from a basic dormitory with shared facilities all the way to apartments. Two new residence halls housing 190 students have just opened for the Fall 2007 trimester. Students who meet certain requirements may elect to live off campus and commute to school each day. Those students who wish to live on campus must purchase a meal plan with the school's cafeteria, conveniently located in the center of campus. The Department of Student Services offers diverse opportunities for student involvement through a large number of student activities and organizations. Divisions within the Department of

Student Services are: Residence Life; Student Support Services, which includes tutoring, support services counseling and career counseling; Student Activities, such as Intramural Sports, the Student Government Association, cheerleading and community involvement activities; and Campus Security and parking.

Athletics are often a large part of universities in America. Although William Carey University is not a very large school, there are still opportunities for involvement in athletics. William Carey University is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference. The school sponsors athletic teams in the following sports: Men and Women's Basketball, Men and Women's Soccer, Men's Golf, Men's Baseball, and Women's Softball. The objective of the athletic department is to provide a quality intercollegiate athletic program which provides equal opportunity for men and women to develop physically, emotionally, socially, and morally.

At William Carey University, the president is the forefront character who is recognized to be in charge of the university. However, a governing body known as the Board of Trustees is appointed to oversee the management and render advice on certain important issues. Currently there are twenty-four active members on the William Carey University Board of Trustees. Active alumni can also play a large role in the future of the university. The president and board of trustees are responsible for charting vision and long-range planning for the university. They are also in charge of the expansion of the university and employee morale.

When looking at university management in America, the smart university administrator

must choose to macro-manage the institution rather than micro-manage. The administrator hires competent, diligent people to manage various parts of administrative structure and allows them to do their jobs. This frees the president of the university to solicit funding for the school as well as focus on broader goals and concerns.

As with any educational institution in today's society, there are of course, financial challenges to be taken into consideration. Increasing costs consist of salaries for teachers and staff, benefits for teachers and staff, electricity, natural gas, and water. Equipment and supplies must be purchased to keep up with the demands of a modern and technological society, and offer the very best in order to attract and retain students. Some financial solutions to these challenges are to raise tuition, seek additional funding from the government, solicit private individual or corporate donations, write grant proposals, and to become more conscious of power usage.

William Carey University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award bachelor and master degrees. Accreditation is quite difficult to maintain and achieve, as requirements are continually changing. Therefore, Quality Enhancement and Institutional Effectiveness Plans must be put into place to secure such accreditation. William Carey University engages continuously in evaluation of its academic programs and administrative units.

In an effort to engage in an ongoing quest for quality, the University maintains a comprehensive system of planning and evaluation in all major aspects of the institution. The Statement of Purpose for William Carey University -adopted in 1997-is used as the foundation for

this evaluation. A variety of assessment methods are used, and the results are implemented to improve both the education programs and support activities. Educational quality is determined by how effectively the institution achieves its established goals. The results of the University's assessment procedures are incorporated annually into the University's planning process in order to achieve continual improvement in programs and services. The University revises its institutional goals on an annual basis, and this annual process of evaluation and planning reflects broad-based campus-wide involvement of faculty, staff, students, administrators, and the board of trustees. In addition, all of the University's academic programs and administrative units annually undergo a similar process of planning and evaluation. Every department or units develops an annual planning and evaluation model that finds its foundation in the University mission statement and the University-wide adopted goals and strategies that issue from the mission statement.

My own personal experience at William Carey University was beyond compare. It was a very influential and pivotal point in my life. When searching for a university, I initially thought that I would attend a very large university where I could be a part of massive extracurricular activities and attend major sports events. I searched the schools in and around my hometown that offered my degree program of choice, and even many schools that were very far away from my hometown. Not afraid to venture off on my own, even as I have done today, I sought out the very best school. In my findings, I came across William Carey University, although at that time, it was still called William Carey College. Initially, I didn't think

very highly of it, because I thought it to be a small school, and assumed that a small school could not be so great. I was very wrong.

With only one campus visit to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, I knew I had found the perfect place for my university studies. I applied, was accepted, and moved in upon graduating from high school. Within my very first evening there, I had already made many friends - some that I still keep in touch with to this day. I found that the classes provided me with the ideal balance of challenge and comfort that I needed to excel. During my four years of coursework at Carey, I was involved in many different organizations. I served as community service coordinator, Student Government representative, President of the Student Music Therapy Organization, a Resident Assistant, Admissions Office assistant, as well as participated in several music groups such as piano ensemble and Chorale singing group. I was also involved in several philanthropic and academic organizations. At this point in my life, I especially value the personal relationship I developed with a number of my professors. Even now I continue to communicate with them, as they are eager to know what I am doing with my life and the many things they invested in me academically and morally. I am so thankful that I chose to attend a small school. Although I believe I could have survived at a larger university, I am not sure that I could have thrived as I did at Carey.

William Carey University has and has had a long history of preparing students for life after graduation, by developing within them a mindset of scholarship, leadership, and service. These principles are at the core of everything Carey promotes in the academic and moral lives of its students. Scholarship is the corner-

stone of the university, which boasts more rotary international scholars than any other institution in Mississippi and the southeast. With small classes taught by respected professors, William Carey offers opportunities for students to learn one on one with the professors and gain more hands on experience in their major field than many other universities offer. Carey proudly fosters academicians from all walks of life.

William Carey does not only produce scholars, it produces leaders, another key goal of the curriculum. Opportunities for leadership are given to the students through student lead organizations, academic groups, and social clubs. Each student is encouraged to participate in these organizations which can aid in equipping them with the leadership skills needed to flourish in today's society. William Carey University truly is shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

In its history and heritage, William Carey University has a legacy of service. Opportunities to serve are given in every area of life at William Carey. From laboratory assistants to community service projects, students are given the chance to expand their education by learning what it means to serve others. Through service, students learn how to better themselves and are taught the disciplines of hard work. Through each of these aspects of scholarship, leadership, and service, William Carey University allows for an unparalleled university experience.

As William Carey University continues to develop, international relations are an important factor to its growth and marketability. William Carey University is both excited and honored to have such relations with Linyi Normal University. It is our hope to continue cul-

tivating this relationship as we hope to see more students and teachers benefit from it as a result. It is important that today's generation be made aware not only of the world around them, but of the world that is not around them. Many people who attend William Carey University have never even been outside of the state of Mississippi. By cultivating these kinds of international relations, we hope to change this grave misfortune. How can one truly learn about China unless they visit and see firsthand the culture and society? How can one truly learn about America without visiting to see through their own eyes the culture, the atmosphere, the people? The twentieth century French novelist, Marcel Proust stated that "The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands, but in seeing with new eyes." It is the hope of William Carey University, that we can assist students in gaining new eyes with which to see the world, and we look forward to partnering with Linyi Normal University to accomplish this.

The historical endeavors of an institution are not only foundational but lead the way into the present. The present endeavors of an institution chart its course into the future. The future endeavors of an institution will make its mark upon the pages of history for all time. The history of William Carey University has been significant and full of life. Due to much ground-work and preparations of those who have gone before us, William Carey University is currently thriving like no other time in all of its one hundred year-long history. It is our sincere hope and desire to see William Carey University chart the pages of history in the present and coming future, as we strive together to attain scholarship, leadership, and service.