

Chapter I.

The Marshall University Story

History

The campus of Marshall University is located in Huntington, West Virginia, just across the Ohio River from Ohio, and thirteen miles from the Kentucky border. It is served by rail, air, and highway transportation.

Marshall University traces its origin to 1837, when residents of the community of Guyandotte and the farming country nearby decided their youngsters needed a school that would be in session more than three months a year. Tradition has it that they met at the home of lawyer John Laidley, planned their school, and named it Marshall Academy in honor of Laidley's friend, the late Chief Justice John Marshall. At the spot called Maple Grove they chose one and one-quarter acres of land on which stood a small log building known as Mount Hebron Church. It had been the site of a three-month subscription school and remained that for another term. Eventually \$40 was paid for the site.

On March 30, 1838, the Virginia General Assembly formally incorporated Marshall Academy. Its first full term was conducted in 1838-39. For decades the fledgling school faced serious problems, most of them financial. The Civil War forced it to close for several years, but in 1867 the West Virginia Legislature renewed its vitality by creating the State Normal School at Marshall College to train teachers. This eased Marshall's problems somewhat, but it was not until the tenure of President Lawrence J. Corbly from 1896 to 1915 that the college began its real growth. In 1907, enrollment exceeded 1,000.

Since then Marshall's expansion has been consistent and sometimes spectacular. The College of Education, first called Teachers College, was organized in 1920 and the first college degree was awarded in 1921. The College of Arts and Sciences was formed in 1924, and the Graduate School was organized in 1948. The College of Applied Science came into being in 1960; the School of Business was formed in 1969. These were merged into the College of Business and Applied Science in 1972. In 1974 the School of Medicine and Associated Health Professions was established. The Community College was organized in 1975 and became the Community and Technical College in 1991, and the College of Science was authorized by the Board of Regents in 1976. In 1977, the Board approved change of name for the College of Arts and Sciences to the College of Liberal Arts, and for the College of Business and Applied Science to the College of Business. In 1978, the School of Nursing was established as a separate entity, the other Associated Health Professions were transferred from the School of Medicine to the College of Science, and

the School of Journalism was authorized as a part of the College of Liberal Arts. The most recent addition was the College of Fine Arts in 1984. Marshall was authorized in 1992 to award the Ph.D. degree, in Biomedical Sciences.

Marshall was granted University status in 1961. As of April 1, 1993 alumni numbered approximately 70,072.

Since the formation of the West Virginia Board of Regents in 1969 and now under the University of West Virginia Board of Trustees, Marshall's progress as an urban-oriented university has been given strong impetus. As a result of this support, and because of its own active leadership and its location in the thriving Tri-State Area, Marshall is a university with excellent prospects for future development.

Statement of Philosophy

While institutions of higher education differ in size and function, they share a common core of values; these help shape and guide their academic life. Marshall University is committed to seven basic principles.

The first and most basic commitment of Marshall University is to undergraduate education.

A second and major commitment of Marshall University is the enhancement of graduate education.

Third, Marshall University is committed to expanding the body of human knowledge and achievement through research and creative arts activities.

A fourth characteristic of Marshall University is its commitment to society through public service.

A fifth commitment of this university is diversity in its student body, its faculty and staff, and its educational programs.

A sixth commitment of Marshall University is to academic freedom and shared governance.

Finally, Marshall University is committed to assuring the integrity of the curriculum through the maintenance of rigorous standards and high expectations for student learning and performance.

Identification of Areas of Current Emphasis

The following areas of emphasis will command the commitment of institutional resources.

A commitment to high quality undergraduate liberal arts education, broadly defined.

A commitment to rural health care, including medicine, nursing, nutrition, health education, health care management, etc.

A commitment to schools and schooling, including

teacher education and the setting of the agenda for education in southern West Virginia.

Economic development, which would include programs in education, science, business, the Community and Technical College, engineering, and a broad range of fields.

A commitment to the fine arts and humanities because Marshall is — and should be — the cultural center of this community.

A new commitment to high quality graduate programs (masters, specialists, and doctoral degrees).

Finally, a university concerned with environmental issues which, unquestionably, will be a dominant factor of life in the 21st Century.

In accord with the first and most basic commitment of Marshall University as outlined in the Statement of Philosophy of the Mission Statement and the above seven areas of emphasis, Marshall University will strive to develop programs that will be recognized nationally for their excellence. Toward this goal strong emphasis will be placed on high quality teaching and interaction with the individual student. Uniform guidelines for monitoring instruction and corrective measures will be developed and implemented by college deans. Programs that have University commitment to independent accrediting will be brought into compliance and maintain accrediting agency guidelines.

Assessment

The assessment initiative is rooted in the University's mission. The assessment initiative grew from both faculty and administration concern for academic quality and instructional excellence. The assessment process provides the institution, colleges, and departments with information regarding academic quality, which relates to the central commitment of the institution to undergraduate education. The institution has developed a comprehensive plan of student assessment which involves students, faculty, staff and administration.

Accreditation

Marshall University is accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The teacher education programs are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the West Virginia State Department of Education. Marshall also is a member of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States. Academic credits earned at Marshall University are fully standardized for acceptance by all other colleges and universities.

For further information on accreditation, consult the Marshall University Catalog or the appropriate academic dean's office.