

Greetings from Mars Hill College!

We have been enjoying a rich relationship with CBFNC, and are looking forward to deepening and strengthening our collaborative efforts. The fruits of this collaboration have been varied and highly beneficial thus far; some examples from the recent past are:

- *Provision of scholarship funds.* The majority of the funding is applied to our general scholarship fund, thereby allowing students to attend Mars Hill College who would otherwise not be able to afford tuition.
- *Funding for mission projects.* The remainder of the funding is applied to the Chaplain's Mission Fund, which assists student groups in local efforts as well as mission trips. Most recently, this funding has been used to support an upcoming trip to Terrier Rouge, Haiti, which will take place over spring break. Nine female students, faculty, and staff will be working with Bethlehem Ministry, and the funding from CBFNC will provide food staples for residents of a deeply impoverished village near the ministry location.
- *Resources and speakers.* Over the past year, we have enjoyed chapel speakers (including Laura Barclay) and special events using resources from CBFNC – such as a screening of the documentary *Gospel Without Borders* with a panel of speakers, some of whom were recommended by CBFNC staff.
- *Campus ministry events.* Our partnership with CBFNC has sparked interest among our students, as well. The Christian Student Movement, which is the largest branch of campus ministry on our campus, voted last year to begin partnering with CBF and CBFNC in addition to their traditional partnership with the state convention. Students from this group will be attending the Midwinter Retreat in January, and are hoping to strengthen relationships with other CBFNC campus ministry groups.
- *Sharing of best practices.* Collaborative meetings allow us to connect with other CBFNC educational partners, allowing for the sharing of best practices in church relations, campus ministry, and mission.
- *Regional and statewide gatherings.* Gatherings held throughout the year allow us, again to reconnect with other educational partners, but also to connect with local churches and with other partners in mission. These special times allow us to tell the story of Mars Hill College and to hear the stories of others nearby and around the state. This allows for development of new partnerships and inspiration for new endeavors.
- *Residency in college ministry.* Work is underway, with the assistance of Wanda Kidd and other partners through CBFNC, to develop a residency program for recent seminary graduates who are interested in college chaplaincy or campus ministry. This program would provide two years of training for a minister on campus and in the local church under the supervision of the Mars Hill College chaplain's office.

At Mars Hill College, we are both grateful for and excited about the many benefits this collaborative partnership has provided. The funding has given new opportunities for potential and current students, but the relationship extends further into the very fabric of our identity, helping to shape the programs we offer to our students and to the local community, and helping us to celebrate our Baptist heritage. We look forward to continued exploration of our shared mission as we continue this collaboration.

With grace and peace to our CBFNC friends,

Stephanie McLeskey
Chaplain
Mars Hill College