

WALSH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



2023 – 2024

Welcome to the President's Report for your Catholic university!

2023 started with the joy of a global pandemic behind us and ended with genocidal attacks on the Jewish people unseen since the Holocaust and the subsequent reverberation of Anti-Semitic language throughout large swaths of American higher education. For some, the craziness of it all fosters a sense of despair – not so for either the Christian or this university.

We remind ourselves that Jesus was born into a poor Jewish family. In the Roman world, Jesus was a member of a persecuted minority. His ministry and messages were in response to his situation and in contrast to his contemporaries.

The critical issue of his day was Rome and its attempts to destroy Judaism – which could never be accomplished unless they crushed the spirit of the people. For it was the individual spirit – the inner life – that held sway to Jesus' approach to weathering the storms confronting humankind.

And His approach holds sway today at His university in North Canton, Ohio.

Much as the Brothers of Christian Instruction did when they opened Walsh College, we continue building Walsh 4.0 in much the same way as did the Brothers when they built Walsh 1.0 – with that humility of the spirit ... an inner strength that can neither be assimilated nor crushed by the challenges of the world as we remain focused with a mission to educate others.

Everything we have accomplished ... in this and all 63 years of our institutional life-changing existence ... has been powered by people – amazing alumni, benefactors, Board members, coaches, donors, faculty, partners, public servants, staff, and students committed to this project of preparing others for their first destination, life, and their life's purpose.

Our academic life continues to evolve as we approach nearly 30 new programs in the past decade. Our athletic life was enhanced with two new sport programs bringing new scholar-athletes into Cav Nation and new institutions into our competitive sphere. Our campus life for residential and commuter students continues its development meeting the unique demands of student life. Our intellectual life was energized with the presence of four world-renown leaders and diplomats in a packed Arena with everyone yearning to listen and learn. Our spiritual life has been enhanced with the arrival of the Order of Preachers (the “Dominicans”) now living with us full-time. All of this, and much more, met great success through the dedication of our marvelous workforce that serves only the needs of others.

Humility ... our #1 virtue.

People ... our #1 resource.

All of this possible with the Lord that truly grants us the increase as we remain faithful to him as we weather the storms of our era just as the Brothers did in theirs.

Enjoy the read ... and be proud of what your Catholic university continues to accomplish knowing how thankful we are for every one of you in supporting all that we do.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us. Swords Up!



Dr. Tim Collins
President



VISION

The Walsh University vision statement was developed as a collective University effort to serve as the University's North Star and emphasize our commitment to develop leaders with a moral foundation and an awareness of the common good.

Become a leading Catholic university known globally for inspiring others to pursue ingenious practices that serve the common good.

MISSION STATEMENT

Walsh University is an independent, coeducational Catholic, liberal arts and sciences institution. Founded by the Brothers of Christian Instruction, Walsh University is dedicated to educating its students to become leaders in service to others through a values-based education with an international perspective in the Judeo-Christian tradition.

Walsh University believes in the desirability of a small university that promotes academic excellence, a diverse community and close student-teacher interactions. The University provides its students a higher education that fosters critical thinking, effective communication, spiritual growth, and personal, professional and cultural development. Walsh University encourages individuals to act in accordance with reason guided by the example and teachings of Jesus Christ.

CORE VALUES

We commit ourselves to these values in all that we do as a framework for helping each other take our place as we discover our life's purpose.

FAITH: We recognize that individual spiritual journeys and prayer are foundational in all of our efforts to fulfill the mission

EXCELLENCE: We embrace the notion that our best efforts and selves are critical components to reaching our goals and ultimate purpose

INTEGRITY: There is harmony and truth in our thoughts, words and deeds

SERVICE: We selflessly place the needs and interests of others ahead of our own

COMMUNITY: We share a passion for the mission of the University and the values espoused therein as we care for and support one another to achieve the common good

More than a degree.

Your Education Partner *for* Life

Walsh University has always been grounded in faith and committed to preparing leaders in service. For 63 years, we've offered endless opportunities for students, faculty, staff, coaches and alumni to gain knowledge, understanding and wisdom through a well-rounded university experience and a values-based Catholic education. The benefits of a Walsh University education extend well beyond a degree. The relationships formed are lifelong and our holistic approach has fostered skills that uphold the test of time. And now, as we look ahead, Walsh University is positioning itself with sustainability in mind.



Building a Path to Walsh 4.0

When we consider the history of Walsh University, the past can be divided into three phases, each with its unique challenges that have created opportunities for the future. With Walsh 1.0, the Brothers of Christian Instruction founded a Catholic liberal arts college for undergraduate men, taking an active role at Walsh during the early years. Walsh 2.0 signaled a transformation to a coed experience for commuter and residential students. Walsh's growth escalated during Walsh 3.0 as the college transformed into a University to meet a diverse set of traditional academic needs as well as a significant expansion in athletics. As we journey towards Walsh 4.0 we lay the groundwork for the strategic vision and innovation to not only survive but to thrive. Let's take a closer look.



Walsh 1.0

Walsh College opens on November 17, 1960, as the vision of its Founders, The Brothers of Christian Instruction, to provide access to higher education to the working class in the Midwest and develop a Christian house of intellect. Named in honor of Bishop Emmet Walsh of the Diocese of Youngstown, who gave a sizeable donation so that the college could build 'College Hall' (now Farrell Hall) and open after many setbacks and delays to a freshmen class of 67 gentleman students. Many in the freshmen class were from nearby Central Catholic High School, while others were recruited by the seven founding Brothers themselves from the East, where they had moved from and had many connections at the area high schools. During this early period, the Brothers not only served as college administrators but also faculty members. These initial years were focused on establishing the college's operations and laying the groundwork for its future growth.

Walsh 2.0

In 1969, Walsh College, now with its first residence hall, transitions to a coeducational institution and welcomes female students to live on campus. This pivotal moment coincided with Walsh also achieving its inaugural accreditation status with the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, as well as surpassing 1,000 students. The backdrop of this era was marked by significant civil and political unrest. In 1978, amidst this turbulent atmosphere, Brother Francis Blouin, F.I.C., a distinguished scholar and humanitarian, was appointed President. Over the ensuing decade, Brother Blouin brought five Nobel Peace Prize Laureates to campus to address various themes of faith and peace, thereby elevating Walsh's reputation. It was also a period of programmatic growth for Walsh College with the launching of the first graduate program, a Master of Arts in Counseling. During this time, our athletic offerings expanded with the construction of the physical education building, now known as the Cecchini Health & Wellness Complex, and the addition of a football program. This period of evolution culminated in 1993 when Walsh College attained official university status, signifying a new chapter in Walsh history.



Walsh 3.0

Throughout the late 1990s and early 2000s, Walsh University continued to undergo significant physical expansion, enhance its programs and attract a growing student body. President Richard Jusseume spearheaded initiatives such as the commissioning of a prayer garden and the construction of Walsh's inaugural freestanding chapel, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, which opened its doors in 2006. During this era, Walsh also launched its first online program, an online MBA, and introduced its inaugural doctoral program, the Doctorate of Physical Therapy. Enrollment soared to an all-time high of 2,800 students, supported by the largest Capital Campaign in the University's history, which facilitated the completion of Walsh's landmark building, the Marlene and Joe Toot Global Learning Center. Furthermore, with the donation of Hoover Park on the north side of campus, the University expanded to encompass 136 acres and 27 buildings. Against the backdrop of shifting demographics and a saturated higher education landscape, the need for innovation was on the horizon.



Walsh Global offers students the chance to cultivate increased independence, cross-cultural understanding, and language proficiency while earning credits towards their degree.

Study Beyond initiatives facilitate experiential learning opportunities locally, nationally, and internationally, fostering global citizenship and leadership among students. Through strategic partnerships like those with Franciscan University of Steubenville and Carlow College St. Patrick's in Ireland, Walsh expands its reach and enriches students' academic journeys, reinforcing its commitment to providing transformative educational experiences aligned with its Catholic values.

The **Skilled Technical Workforce Program** is recognized by the National Science Board (NSB) as a leader in addressing the urgent need for STEM-capable workers, playing a pivotal role in shaping the emerging workforce and contributing to the regional tech-driven economy.

The **Cavs Cor Cordium**, Latin for "heart of hearts," engages each student in a personal learning network, facilitating connections and learning, community-building, enhancing student involvement both on and off campus, fostering academic excellence and lifelong connections.

Following the Brothers of Christian Instruction's departure, Walsh transitions to an **independent, Catholic University** while affirming the ongoing inspiration of the F.I.C.'s charism in its history and mission.

Walsh University recommits to its Catholic identity by strengthening ties with Catholic partners and formalizing a **Statement of Faith and Understanding**, which embodies our dedication to upholding Catholic principles and fostering inclusivity grounded in reason and inquiry.

Walsh United is established to encompass Walsh's commitment to growth and unity. It is structured around five pillars: Catholic Beliefs & Practices, Diversity & Inclusion, Leadership & Professional Development, Health & Wellness, and Community Engagement. Each pillar, consisting of faculty, staff, and student representatives, ensures a comprehensive approach to campus decision-making, fostering collaboration and activities to enrich our community.



Walsh 4.0

Rooted in the legacy of our founding Brothers, Walsh University propels forward under the leadership of President Tim Collins toward a new phase of development with future sustainability in mind. With a focus on strategic initiatives designed to meet the evolving needs of students and the workforce, foster cross enterprise alignment, enrich the student experience and expand academic offerings globally while cultivating partnerships to address the changing landscape of education and workforce demands, Walsh positions itself as an innovative leader in Catholic higher education which serves students as an Education Partner for Life.



Catholic Beliefs and Practices
Exploring our Catholic Foundation



Diversity & Inclusion
Embracing our Differences with Reverence



Community Engagement
Lending our Time and Talents to the Greater Community



Health & Wellness
Nurturing our Physical, Mental, and Spiritual Wellness



Leadership & Professional Development
Embracing Lifelong Learning

Walsh University is first in the nation to integrate **cultural humility** across the campus community, fostering emotional and cultural awareness, empathy, and humility for an inclusive and positive campus.



The **Presidential Thought Leadership Series** launches, furthering the tradition of intellectual exploration in Catholic higher education, spanning over nine centuries, by providing a platform for discourse on critical issues of global and national importance.

Athletic programs expand with the addition of men's **Sprint Football** and women's **STUNT**, aligning with the University's commitment to offering diverse and emerging athletic opportunities.

The DeVille School of Business achieves accreditation of its business programs from the **Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP)**.

The **Center for Scientific Excellence** opens in partnership with Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, providing extensive networking and research prospects for both faculty and students and collaborative initiatives in the region that advance science and foster global connections, with a focus on advancing the quality of life through scientific innovation and collaboration.

A new **Bachelor of Science in Professional Aviation** launches, in collaboration with American Winds Aviation, to equip students with both a certified pilot license and a bachelor's degree to address the pilot shortage and increasing demand in the aviation industry.

Walsh University embarks on a groundbreaking journey with the launch of **Alumni and Career Connections**, redefining the traditional career preparation model for graduates first career destination and beyond by harnessing the strength of alumni networks, employer engagements and community partnerships.

A dedicated **Center for Veteran Affairs** opens on campus staffed by a full-time Coordinator, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to supporting veterans and military members and providing vital resources for veteran and military students and their families.

Three new academic and community centers launch. The **Center for Academic and Professional Enrichment** and the **Center for Restorative Justice and Community Health** and the **Center for Sustainable Food Design**. These Centers offer formal pathways for engagement with faculty, staff, alumni, students, and the regional community, aiming to expand outreach and complement formal academics.

Walsh expands academic programs to include **Master of Business Administration Program in Educational Leadership**, **Post-Professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program** offered 100% Online and online **Master of Science in Exercise Physiology** (anticipated 2025), reflecting its strategic plan and historical commitment to adapting to educational needs since its inception in 1960.



STATEMENT OF FAITH AND UNDERSTANDING: ARTICULATING WALSH UNIVERSITY'S CATHOLIC IDENTITY

In the past year, Walsh University has made significant strides in reaffirming and fortifying its Catholic identity by developing a Statement of Faith and Understanding. This document stands as a testament to our commitment strengthening our institution's Catholic identity, aligning with the rich tradition of Catholic higher education. Furthermore, it encapsulates our dedication to upholding Catholic principles while fostering an environment that values reason, inquiry and inclusivity.

The pressing need to assert and defend our Catholic identity arises from the increasing threat to religious liberty faced by Catholic colleges and universities. Secular regulators, judges and legislators pose challenges that necessitate a proactive response. In line with the guidance from the Vatican, Catholic bishops, families, and educators, Walsh University recognizes the imperative to engage in self-evaluation and documentation to safeguard our religious mission.

The challenges confronting Catholic institutions underscore the importance of protecting religious liberty and maintaining institutional fidelity to Catholic principles. Legal experts emphasize the necessity of consistent adherence to religious tenets to uphold exemptions and navigate external pressures. Recent adverse rulings serve as reminders of the precarious position of Catholic institutions and the need for vigilant self-evaluation and compliance with Church law.

Walsh University, guided by the legacy of the Brothers of Christian Instruction (F.I.C.), operates within the context of the esteemed 935-year tradition of Catholic higher education. Our decision-making processes and policies are informed by the principles articulated in our Statement of Faith and Understanding. Through rigorous self-evaluation and unwavering commitment to our Catholic mission, we ensure the preservation and enhancement of our institution's identity and legacy.





Meeting Today's Campus Security Needs with Modern Equipment and Technology

Campus policing has evolved at Walsh University from a sparse security personnel presence in years past to a 24-hour patrol by the full service Campus Police Department that uses modern law enforcement techniques and equipment, and employs sworn officers, all of whom have prior experience. Chief of Police Ron Perdue joined Walsh in 2015 after a 24-year career with the Stark County Sheriff's Office. Captains Ron Springer* and Steve Miller also came from careers at the Stark County Sheriff's Office. Between the total staff including 23 full-time and part-time officers, Walsh University benefits from a combined 540 years of law enforcement experience. Their daily efforts touch every part of our academic community.

**Captain Ron Springer passed away following the reporting of this article.*



Walsh University continuously addresses campus safety through programming, educational efforts, strategic partnerships, campus-wide threat assessments and technological advancements. Some of these new measures include the installation of surveillance cameras and lighting, swipe access and electronic

locks across all academic buildings and residence halls, strategically placed signage and safety resources. The WU Alert system, which disseminates information quickly via text, phone and email, also has communication protocols for emergencies on campus, differentiating between timely warnings that provide advanced notice of potential threats and emergency notifications for imminent dangers requiring immediate action.

A significant stride in enhancing campus safety was achieved through the alignment of the Campus Police Department with the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) through the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway. The utilization of NIBRS brings a heightened level of specificity to the reporting of offenses, allowing for the collection of more detailed crime-related information. This nuanced approach not only provides valuable context to specific crime issues but also affords greater analytic flexibility in interpreting the crime data collected. Leveraging this compliance, Walsh University is able to pursue federal and state grants. As a



“The safety and security of the Walsh University community is our highest priority,” said Chief Perdue.

“With the backing of President Tim Collins and

result, the University has secured funding for the Ohio MARCS (Multi-Agency Radio Communications System) under the auspices of the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. The radio system facilitates seamless communication with local, state, and federal agencies during emergencies, thereby bolstering the institution's preparedness and response capabilities. The University also secured the State of Ohio Body-Worn Camera Grant which has been instrumental in equipping the Campus Police Department with essential resources, including state-of-the-art body-worn cameras, docking stations, computers, monitors, cloud storage and training. This comprehensive package not only enhances the effectiveness of law enforcement on campus but also aligns with contemporary standards for transparency and accountability.



Cross-Enterprise Collaboration

While there are many similarities between campus and traditional policing, particularly in terms of officer safety, emergency preparedness, investigations and arrests, campus police officers have the added responsibility of working with other university departments to ensure everyone on campus takes an active role in campus safety. Their work now calls for wide-ranging expertise with a broader scope. Campus police conduct orientations for new employees, Resident Assistants, parents and first-year students and every athletic team, and “Run, Hide, Fight” trainings for students and employees. They also serve as the law enforcement arm of the Cav

Safeguard Initiative, a campus-wide, cross-enterprise grant project funded by the Office on Violence Against Women through the U.S. Department of Justice. The project, led by Melanie Timco, Director of Prevention Education and Programming, uses a comprehensive approach to improving both the prevention of and response to dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

When necessary, the Campus Police Department partners with the Stark County Prosecutor’s Office, COMPASS, Domestic Violence Project, Inc., the Stark County Domestic Violence Collaborative, Ohio Intimate Partner Violence Collaborative and the Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter.

“Our Campus Police Department is incredibly fortunate to have strong, collaborative relationships with the broader community,”

said Chief Perdue. “We rely on these partnerships to develop impactful public safety strategies.”

Campus police routinely engage in collaborative training sessions with various community law enforcement partners, such as the North Canton police and fire departments, Canton K-9 units, and the Stark County SWAT co-op.

“Participating in these joint trainings isn't just about building connections ... it's our way of saying, ‘we're in this together’ with external law enforcement agencies,” Chief Perdue said. “Working hand-in-hand ensures we're all on the same page, ready to tackle any challenges that come our way. It's about contributing to the overall safety and security of both the campus and the surrounding community.”

Alternative Approaches to Public Safety and Policing

Campus police prioritize training in alternative approaches to public safety and policing, including crisis intervention, restorative justice and community policing. Chief Perdue



and Captains Springer and Miller have each completed 40 hours of crisis intervention training and 12 hours of restorative justice training, which equips officers with proactive and community-oriented strategies to address conflicts and misconduct on campus.

Campus police are also involved with Walsh University's CARE team, a cross-enterprise threat assessment team, consistently evaluating and proactively managing potential risks.

“This is where red flags potentially come up. There are many things we can prevent, whether it's self-harm or harm to others. We are able to surround the student with all the community resources available to help resolve it,” said Chief Perdue.

“Our commitment to building trust and enhancing the overall quality of life on campus means not only being visible in uniforms and marked police cars but also present and proactive,” explained Captain Springer. “We strive to be guardians for our students, embodying an approach that transcends the traditional policing mindset. This involves actively participating in campus programs, engaging in open dialogues with students about their experiences, and fostering a sense of security through collaborative initiatives. By consistently being present and approachable, we aim to create an environment where students not only perceive us as protectors but also feel comfortable seeking assistance and building positive relationships with campus police officers.”

Walsh University's Proactive Stance Against Anti-Semitism Affirms Longstanding Solidarity with Jewish Community

In response to the escalating wave of anti-Semitism in the United States and the October 7 attack in Israel, Walsh University has taken a firm stance against discrimination. President Tim Collins joined fellow Catholic university presidents in signing a joint statement denouncing anti-Semitism, affirming the University's commitment to combatting bigotry and racism. President Collins has underscored the urgency of condemning global acts of terror and hatred against the Jewish people, reinforcing the University's deeply rooted Catholic conviction in advocating for the intrinsic dignity of all human beings. The joint statement against anti-Semitism, signed at the Franciscan University of Steubenville on October 24,



reflects Walsh University's collective dedication to combating discrimination and fostering a harmonious and inclusive environment.

The University's commitment to supporting the Jewish community was taken a step further by issuing direct admittance to Jewish students who are experiencing Anti-Semitism. The proactive measure is an extension of mission and an affirmation of a longstanding solidarity with the Jewish community. The expressed appreciation and gratitude from the Jewish community, including Walsh alumni, affirm the meaningful impact of the University's actions.

Acknowledging the concerns raised by Jewish students at various college campuses, Walsh University is dedicated to accelerating its transfer process for those facing

discrimination or hostility. The provision of immediate support, encompassing expedited transfers, matching scholarships for the first semester, and assistance with housing, is aimed at facilitating a prompt and smooth transition for students affected by these challenges.

Walsh University's collaboration with the Jewish community is longstanding, evident in programs such as the Institute of Jewish Catholic Studies and The Wilkof Jewish Study Project. Actively fostering interfaith understanding through events like the Education for Life Colloquium, our University honors notable members of the Jewish community, including Holocaust survivor Barbara Turkeltaub and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, for their unwavering dedication to social justice.



Strengthening our Ties to the Community through Partnerships and Beyond

Walsh University's commitment to fostering meaningful connections extends beyond its campus borders, exemplified by strategic initiatives that have significantly shaped the institution's impact on education and workforce development through impactful partnerships, programs and achievements.

Center for Veteran Affairs Supports Seamless Transition from Military to University Life for Students



The Center for Veteran Affairs, under the leadership of U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and Walsh alum Joshua Ruiz '21, has forged impactful partnerships over the past year, solidifying our position as a beacon for veteran support. Ruiz's commitment to growing the veteran

population on campus has been instrumental in achieving significant milestones. As a result, Walsh has already seen an increase in Veteran enrollment.

Proactively engaging with directors, marketing personnel, and managers across diverse organizations, Ruiz has initiated meetings, attended events, and facilitated discussions on potential partnerships locally, regionally and nationally. This strategic approach extends to education fairs, community service, and providing insights into Walsh's programming

and has yielded notable success in veteran enrollment and general interest from that demographic. Ruiz, who has also collaborated with the University's admission and enrollment teams for undergraduate, degree completion and graduate programs, has spearheaded numerous initiatives and actively participated in nearly 20 veteran and military-driven events over the past year. This engagement not only showcases Walsh's commitment to the military community but also contributes to the growing interest and enrollment of veterans at Walsh.

“Recognizing their sacrifices extend beyond the battlefield, we aim to create a welcoming, supportive environment, equipping them with the tools needed to invest in themselves and shape their future,” said Ruiz,

who plays a crucial role in connecting veteran and military students with essential resources while also recruiting potential military students, developing programming for their success, and leading policy reviews for military-friendly changes. “In the short time I have been in this role, I have been able to create partnerships with local VA agencies and organizations that are immersed in the veteran community.”



Walsh University proudly holds designations as a Top Ten Military Friendly® School, a member of the Yellow Ribbon Program, and it is designated a Collegiate Purple Star campus by the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) Chancellor Randy Garner. These recognitions underscore Walsh's commitment to creating an environment where service members and their families can flourish.



The Center for Veteran Affairs is currently embarking on a new and exciting phase, marked by the establishment of an onsite Veteran Resource Center. This specialized facility will serve as a focal point for collaboration, providing our military-related students with a dedicated workspace and lounge. Here, they can foster connections with fellow veterans and military members, creating a vibrant and supportive community within the academic environment.

Walsh University Partners Program Paves the Way for Local and National Workforce Impact

The Walsh University Partners Program, situated within our Degree Completion and Graduate Enrollment office, is dedicated to offering compelling educational advancement opportunities tailored for organizations and corporations. Through strategic collaborations, Walsh strives to forge symbiotic partnerships that address specific community needs. Our overarching aim is to cultivate a robust connection between Walsh and the local community, concurrently enriching the educational and professional journeys of our students.

This initiative serves as a catalyst for employees seeking higher education and degree completion. By extending discounted tuition rates, companies can make education more accessible and affordable for their workforce. This mutually beneficial arrangement empowers employees to pursue further education, enhance their skills, and contributes to our expansion of the student base, thereby fostering the professional development of the local workforce.

“We are thrilled to actively connect with our alumni, dedicated university advocates, and influential local business leaders to showcase the incredible potential of our program,” said Rebecca Coneglio, Vice President for Enrollment Management. “We are excited to extend exclusive opportunities to businesses and organizations in our community, offering discounted tuition to empower their workforce through upskilling initiatives. Our enthusiasm drives us to amplify our promotional endeavors, utilizing engaging social media platforms and actively participating in diverse career events and job fairs. This outreach is designed to foster strong relationships with community business leaders who share a passion for supporting their employees' growth through accessible and affordable tuition reimbursement programs.”

While our current focus centers on solidifying relationships with local companies, the potential for national expansion is noteworthy, given that our programs are offered online. Online program offerings significantly diminish geographical barriers, enabling us to connect with companies and organizations on a national scale. We envision a future

where the Partners Program transcends local boundaries, creating educational and professional opportunities for individuals across the nation.

Igniting Innovation and Workforce Development Through Strategic Partnerships



As the worldwide demand for STEM-capable workers continues to grow and becomes increasingly urgent, the National Science Board (NSB) published the Vision 2030 and the Blue-Collar STEM reports, detailing the need for an increase in strategic collaborations

between government, industry, nonprofits, and academia to produce more STEM workers. Walsh University heard the call and is playing a key role in providing transformational STEM opportunities for our students, our community and our country. Walsh's Skilled

Technical Workforce Program (STWF), recognized by the NSB as being at the forefront of the national conversation and a leader among institutions of higher education in addressing the warnings sounded by the NSB, is actively shaping the emerging workforce and contributing to the regional and statewide tech-driven economy.

Aligned with national priorities and industry needs, Walsh has enrolled more than 70 companies in the STWF Program since its inception in 2020 and issued more than 1,500 technology-based credentials. Credential topics include Microsoft Office, Data Analytics, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Robotic Process Automation and Microsoft Office 365. Courses place an emphasis on relevant digital competencies which qualify Ohio employees for full tuition reimbursement for credentials earned under Ohio's TechCred Program.

While other education provider programs offer credentials in traditional, one-size-fits-all courses, the STWF Program is unique in that it tailors each program to each company's specific needs.





“Walsh’s programs are designed and taught by industry professionals with expertise in specific areas that have partnered with the University,” said Dr. Dan Passerini, Executive Director of Cross-Enterprise Operations. “Not only do our programs upskill participants with the knowledge they need to excel in the modern workplace, but we help companies adapt and advance a technology-driven culture within their organization which catalyzes productivity and innovation.”

Walsh University, driven by its mission, secured a congressional appropriation grant in 2022 to expand the STWF Program. In February 2023, STWF began offering educational benefits to unemployed and under-represented local residents at no out-of-pocket cost to these individuals. Collaborating with organizations like Strengthening Stark and the Stark County Manufacturing Workforce Development Partnership, Walsh and their partners identify candidates seeking meaningful, long-term employment and enroll them in a professional development program. The program aims to enhance their technology competencies and

foster essential workplace skills. With 204 enrollees to date, 111 have successfully earned credentials, and more than 30 have self-reported full-time employment for over 90 days-exceeding expectations and demonstrating significant progress toward sustainable employment.

The significance of these initiatives is amplified as the state of Ohio witnesses a surge in tech industry growth, with major global players like Intel, Facebook, Google, Amazon Web Services, IBM, and others expanding operations. At Walsh’s 2023 Science and Technology Summit, Dr. Jonathan Gruber of MIT highlighted the potential of the Canton-Akron-Massillon corridor to become a “superstar city” for innovation and economic development. The collaboration between business, academia, and government is vital, a sentiment echoed by other distinguished speakers, including Dr. James Moore III of the National Science Foundation.

The Summit also marked another milestone for Walsh University, with Shimadzu Scientific Instruments awarding a second SPARQ grant, infusing millions of dollars into the University’s Center for Scientific Excellence. This grant positions Walsh University as a key player in economic development opportunities through the sciences.

Meeting the Demand for Future Jobs

As technology and workforce needs evolve, higher education must ensure college graduates are not only prepared for their first job but equipped with the skills and knowledge that will help them throughout their lives. Research shows this new generation of students is going to change jobs 11 times before they retire, and we must prepare them for that by promoting the key ingredients of Catholic education that create men and women of character. Thus, Walsh University is not only preparing students for that first destination in their life but also their whole life's purpose. Building on the momentum created by the Brothers of Christian Instruction in 1960, and a goal of the Walsh 4.0 strategic plan, the University has experienced the largest increase in ten years in new areas of study with the strategic addition of several new academic programs for traditional and non-traditional students.

Master of Business Administration Program: Bridging the Leadership Gap in Education

With the imminent retirement of superintendents and other school district executives in the next five to ten years, Walsh University has taken a proactive approach to address the predicted leadership void. The specialized Master of Business Administration (MBA) program in School District Leadership is designed to prepare future administrators while improving succession and leadership planning.

The first cohort, in partnership with the Stark County Educational Service Center (ESC), has already enrolled nine students. The next cohort will begin summer of 2024. In addition to public-school districts, Walsh is in talks with Benedictine High School in Cleveland to recruit among Catholic school leadership.

What sets this program apart is its hybrid format, combining in-person sessions with online content, customized case

studies and more. The curriculum incorporates three courses from Walsh's master's in education program, along with an experiential learning co-op, to enhance the leadership skills of future public and private-school leaders. By merging best practices in business with K-12 educational best practices, the program not only prepares individuals for roles such as business managers and treasurers but also provides educational support for those on a pathway toward becoming a superintendent.

Post-Professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program Offered 100% Online

Walsh University has recently expanded its advanced online degree program offerings. As part of this expansion, the School of Behavioral and Health Sciences launched the Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate (PP-OTD) program, which comes with a unique advantage – no residency requirements.





The PP-OTD program is specifically designed for licensed occupational therapists who hold a bachelor's or master's degree. It offers a flexible learning experience that allows professionals to pursue academic studies while maintaining their employment. This program empowers occupational therapists to elevate their careers and assume leadership roles within the profession. Through critical thinking, collaboration, cultural humility, and spirituality, students will develop the skills necessary to shape the future of occupational therapy. The program also provides many opportunities for career development and advancement.

Upon completion of the program, graduates will be equipped to contribute to the field through scholarship, teaching or integration. They will have the skills to design and implement innovative programs, advocate for equitable and inclusive communities, raise awareness for occupational therapy professionals and impact global health concerns.

Paving the Way for the Next Generation of Occupational Therapy Leaders

Walsh University is also laying the groundwork for an exciting addition to its academic offerings in the School of Behavioral and Health Sciences with the Entry-Level Occupational Therapy Doctorate (EL-OTD) program. With an expected launch in 2026, the program represents a strategic response to the evolving landscape of occupational therapy. Prospective students who look forward to a

transformative educational experience that prepares them to lead, innovate and service in the field of occupational therapy will have the option to complete an EL-OTD degree in five graduate semesters that require 100 credits.

Academic-Business Collaboration Has Potential to Revolutionize Aviation Education



Walsh University, in collaboration with the FAA-approved American Winds College of Aeronautical Sciences, has recently restructured its aviation program to better serve students aspiring to become professional pilots. The new Bachelor of Science in Professional Aviation 2+2 offers a streamlined pathway for students to earn a bachelor's degree from Walsh University while simultaneously building flight hours and obtaining an associate degree in Aeronautical Science from American Winds College of Aeronautical Sciences. This innovative program has the potential to revolutionize aviation education and address the ongoing pilot shortage while benefiting students.

The key benefits of this academic program include:

Reduced Flight Hours and Costs: The 2+2 program allows students to complete the Private Pilot course within a few months, followed by the Instrumental Rating course, significantly reducing the time and financial investment needed to obtain their pilot's license.

Seamless Process: Students can register for their major courses at Walsh University while simultaneously beginning their flight training with American Winds. This integrated approach ensures a smooth transition between academic studies and practical flight experience.



Competitive Advantage: Walsh University's Bachelor of Science in Professional Aviation combines psychology, business, professional development, and aviation courses, providing graduates with a well-rounded skill set that gives them a competitive edge in the aviation industry.

Furthermore, Walsh University is actively working with the airline industry to develop cadet programs, co-ops and other benefits for aviation graduates. This strategic collaboration aims to address the growing shortage of commercial pilots and opens many career opportunities for program graduates.





To ensure the success of these programs, we have consulted with our MBA (Master of Business Administration) colleagues, and we are considering the landscape of online courses and the needs of adult learners. Our curriculum is designed to provide graduates with both scientific and business acumen, giving them a competitive edge in the job market. The program launch date is tentatively set for Fall 2024.

Master of Exercise Science Offered in Thriving Field of Study

Exercise Science has quickly become one of Walsh University's most popular majors and we are thrilled to offer a range of programs that cater to the growing demand in this field. Our exercise science degree provides a solid foundation in human anatomy and physiology, biology, chemistry, exercise physiology and research practices. Thus, opening various career opportunities in physical therapy, occupational therapy, athletic training, coaching and other fields of clinical practice.

Additionally, we are excited to introduce the online Master of Science in Exercise Physiology program, which prepares new graduates and working fitness professionals to perform at a higher level in their profession. This program offers a more comprehensive understanding of the human body and its response to exercise, and includes business skills, preparing students for careers as health and fitness managers and team leaders, strength and conditioning specialists with advanced knowledge and skills, or clinical physiologists seeking advancement. Graduates can pursue fulfilling careers in research, clinical settings, and sports performance, making a broader positive impact on the health and well-being of individuals touched by their organization.



Partnership in Vietnam to Offer Walsh Bachelor of Business Administration

Business majors in Vietnam will be able to enroll soon in a new collaborative Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) offered in Vietnam as a Walsh University degree. Partnering with Dai Nam University in Hanoi, this program is expected to be approved by the MOET (Vietnamese equivalent to ODHE, HLC) and to potentially start as soon as Summer 2024, but certainly by Fall 2024. Walsh University faculty and Dai Nam University faculty will each teach about 50% of the curriculum on ground in Vietnam. The program will serve as a model for other similar partnerships in the future.

Post-Master's Doctor of Nursing Practice in Reproductive Health



Leveraging a strategic partnership with Reproductive Health Medicine (RHMG) led by Dr. Nicholas Kongoasa, based in Atlanta, Georgia, and Birmingham, Alabama, Walsh University will offer a unique new track to help our graduate nurses focus on a Catholic perspective with women's reproductive health. Students

in the PM DNP Reproductive Health degree program will complete 27 credit hours that are already developed and part of the BSN-DNP and PM DNP Leadership programs. The specialty specific course work will include 9 credit hours of residency practicum that will be developed by Walsh nursing faculty in collaboration with RHMG medical providers. Six additional specialty specific credits are established courses through Fertility Education and Medical Management (FEMM) and Fertility Appreciation Collaborative to Teach the Science (FACTS). FEMM and FACTS are national and international organizations that teach medical providers, students, and other healthcare professions about natural or fertility methods of family planning (FACTS) and how a women's monthly cycle affects overall health (FEMM). Upon completion of the FEMM coursework, students will be FEMM certified medical providers. The entire program will consist of 41 credit hours which can be completed, full-time, within 2 years (6 semesters). Students are expected to start enrolling in Fall 2024.

Additionally, there has been a concerted effort to upgrade existing programs in physical therapy, counseling and human development, exercise science, chemistry, general education and others in the spirit of continuous improvement and serving the needs of modern students.

Walsh University's Blouin Scholars Serve as a Beacon of Leadership to Serve Society

For more than a decade, the Blouin Scholars have been making impactful contributions to our community while simultaneously providing an immersive and transformative educational and experiential opportunity for the students. Selected as interdisciplinary teams of justice-oriented students who demonstrate our mission-aligned qualities as incoming freshmen, they are charged to address local and global issues through service and experiential scholarship as an extension of their academic pursuits. Each scholar works strategically with peers, faculty advisors, and topic experts to make positive impacts on a particular community issue while earning their degree. Blouin Scholars receive an annual scholarship and are provided domestic and international field study opportunities.

From day one as freshmen, Blouin Scholars and their advisors embark on a profound exploration of the greatest challenges facing the world, delving into the complexities of social justice issues, in seamless collaboration with our extensive network of community partners for the betterment of our local and global society,

*said Blouin Scholars Faculty
Director Dr. Nick Morris.*

Blouin Scholars Class of 2024: Applying Food, Hunger and Sustainability Learnings to Real-World Applications Locally and Abroad

Advisors: Dr. Karen Stock and Professor Jennifer Vokoun

The Blouin Scholars Class of 2024 has been making significant strides in addressing food, hunger, and sustainability locally and across the globe, by examining these issues from an academic perspective as well as the Catholic world view. Through a comprehensive curriculum and hands-on experiences, these scholars have developed a deep understanding of the challenges and potential solutions in these critical areas.

During their freshman year, the 2024 cohort delved into the autobiography of Brother Frances Blouin, gaining valuable insights into his journey and the importance of addressing social justice issues. They also organized a campus food drive, collecting donations that were then generously given to the



Stark County Hunger Task Force. Additionally, the scholars were introduced to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and systems thinking, broadening their understanding of the interconnectedness of these issues.

Their second year, they participated in advocacy training with students from across the country and the Alliance to End Hunger. The scholars also took part in a poverty simulation, gaining firsthand experience and empathy for those facing food insecurity. Creativity and design thinking were explored in a cohort course that integrated experiences in Nashville, Tennessee, where the scholars investigated various aspects of food, hunger, and sustainability through site visits and volunteering. Their efforts included working with the

Second Harvest Food Bank, volunteering at an organic farm, and meeting with an urban design firm.

As the Blouin Scholars entered their junior year, they continued to engage with local organizations such as the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank, Meals On Wheels, Stark County



“Being a leader in service has been one of the most fulfilling journeys of my life. I have become a changemaker in my community and beyond,” she said. “I have traveled domestically, to Nashville, Tennessee, to work with food banks to learn better, sustainable ways of feeding communities, and internationally, to London, England, to measure carbon footprint and make recommendations on how the Portsmouth Diocese can become carbon neutral.

Isabell Gill '24
Elementary P-5 Education

Hunger Task Force, StarkFresh and the McKinley Presidential Library and Museum. They also delved into the Poverty Report on Stark County, further deepening their understanding of the challenges faced by their community.

To gain a global perspective, the scholars studied *Laudato Si*, exploring the Catholic Church's position on sustainability and developed skills in data collection, analysis and visualization. In the summer of 2023, the Blouin Scholars embarked on a journey to England. While in London, they explored cultural differences relating to food, hunger, and sustainability by visiting a local food bank, volunteering at a park to help sustainably “Reclaim the Riverside” and met with Historic England to learn about sustainable renovations for listed buildings. They traveled to Oxford to meet the representatives from the *Laudato Si* Research Institute before embarking on their signature project, to calculate the carbon footprint for the dioceses of Northampton, Birmingham, Clifton and Portsmouth. This initiative is in collaboration with the Guardians of Creation project at St. Mary's University in Twickenham. This hands-on experience allowed them to apply their knowledge and make tangible contributions toward sustainability efforts. In the fall, they submitted and adapted their carbon footprint presentations to the Diocese of Youngstown Office of Peace and Justice.

This spring, the cohort is reflecting on their four years of Blouin Scholarship and crafting their own personal narrative for career and graduate school success.

Blouin Scholars Class of 2025: Advancing Community-Engaged Learning in Human Exploitation, Trafficking and Response

Advisors: Dr. Michelle Lenarz and Professor Zana Zawahri

The Blouin Scholars Class of 2025 has made significant strides in their mission to combat human exploitation and trafficking. Over the past two years, these dedicated students have immersed themselves in academic learning





organizations such as the Canton YWCA, COMPASS Sexual Assault Education, Prevention & Support, Hartville Migrant Ministries, and Our Lady of Peace Elementary School, all of which play a crucial role in responding to these pressing issues. The students also completed service-learning projects with Canton City Public Health, Immigrant Workers Projects, Stark Blessing Box Initiative, Stark Fresh and Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority.



In Spring 2023, the cohort participated in an overnight retreat at Lighthouse Ministries, where they took part in panel discussions on redlining in Southeast Canton and the community's response to human exploitation, engaging community partners Habitat for Humanity and Refuge of Hope. Additionally, the students conducted a thorough windshield survey of five zip codes in Canton, assessing the availability and quality of resources in the area.



They embarked on a road trip in May 2023, focusing on civil rights, the abolitionist movement and modern-day slavery. They visited renowned museums such as the Underground Railroad Museum and Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, the Rosa Parks Bus Boycott Museum at Troy University in Montgomery, Alabama, and the Whitney Plantation in Edgar, Louisiana. The cohort also collaborated with local outreach organizations, including Eden House and Giving Hope NOLA, to gain a deep understanding of the fight against human trafficking and exploitation.

and community engagement, gaining valuable insights into the factors that contribute to vulnerability in Stark County. Through their studies, the Blouin Scholars have delved into various aspects of education, economics, income, poverty rates and health factors in the local community. This comprehensive understanding has allowed them to explore

Building on their experiences, the Blouin Scholars presented four thought-provoking posters at the Academic Celebration of Excellence Symposium (ACES) in Fall 2023. These posters highlighted the importance of addressing vulnerability in populations, fostering a strong cohort community, engaging with the community through service and utilizing effective storytelling to raise awareness.

Also, in Fall 2023, the cohort conducted a research opinion survey on human trafficking, with the aim of creating an educational artifact for the campus community. The cohort began partnering with the local anti-human trafficking organization Not For Sale their freshman year, initially participating in logistics and working their way up to assisting with research and marketing their annual Community Freedom Summit held at Walsh University. This led to the establishment of the student-run Cavs Coalition against human trafficking.

Looking ahead, the Blouin Scholar cohort will travel to Carlow College St. Patrick's in June 2024 to learn from their work in supporting vulnerable populations in Ireland and to share knowledge and experiences from the Blouin Scholar perspective. The students hope to bring similar resources and strategies back to their own community.

**Blouin Scholars Class of 2026:
Contributing to a Brighter Future for
Stark County Through Housing and
Neighborhood Development**

Advisors: Dr. Mark Rogers and Mike Cinson

The Blouin Scholars Class of 2026 has dedicated their academic journey to exploring infrastructure and human flourishing, with a specific emphasis on housing and neighborhood development. This focus aims to seamlessly integrate academic pursuits with substantial contributions to the overall well-being of the Stark County community.

During their freshman year, they actively engaged with knowledgeable speakers, including former Walsh University faculty members Larry and Penny Bove, who delved into topics such as Brother Francis Blouin's legacy, Walsh's mission and the history of the Brothers of Christian Instruction. Serena Draper Hendershot '17, from the Canton Community



Health Department shared her expertise on the intersection of infrastructure and public health, while Bob Gessner from The Stark Community Foundation added depth to their discussions by exploring the issue of broadband access in Stark County. Field experiences at SARTA, Nimisilla Park and StarkFresh enhanced their perspectives.

The cohort's journey involved a comprehensive exploration of the 2020 report titled "Protecting Stark's Future: A Call to Coordinate Child Poverty Strategies," developed by The Stark Community Foundation and the United Way of Stark County which explored fostering positive transformation, promoting ongoing dialogue, and exploring innovative approaches to tackle this pressing issue.

In Spring 2023, the Blouin Scholars hosted speakers from ICAN Housing, including Walsh alumna Julie Sparks '89, as well as speakers from Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio and Canton for All People. As part of their immersive experience, the cohort visited Lighthouse Ministries in Southeast Canton, engaging in a service project while gaining insights into the historical and economic factors influencing poverty and resources in Canton neighborhoods. Additionally, the scholars visited the site of the community center on Gonder Ave. in Southeast Canton, where Canton for All People is developing facilities,



including a health center and a grocery store, contributing to their understanding of community development initiatives in the region.

This past fall, they explored the operations of Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio, ICAN Housing offices in Canton, where they participated in a service project, and returned to the Canton for All People project to explore the ongoing progress in the Shorb neighborhood – a house rehabilitation and a community grocery store.

To enhance their collaborative efforts, the scholars divided into four teams, each assigned to work closely with a different community partner across the socio-economic spectrum. These teams actively engaged with their respective partners during the spring terms, fostering meaningful contributions to community development initiatives.



concepts of cultural humility and the true meaning of poverty. Guided by selected sections from Dr. James Knight's book, "Heart: A Journey Toward Cultural Humility," the students have gained valuable insights into how these principles can be applied within a Blouin Scholar perspective.

Looking ahead to the spring semester, the focus will shift toward understanding how poverty affects students at various levels within the school environment. The cohort will examine the impact of poverty on families, schools, and districts, and explore the existing interventions in these contexts. They'll work with community partners representing county services, nonprofit organizations, school districts, individual schools and early childhood services. The ultimate goal is to develop research questions that will help the community address any gaps in serving their stakeholders.

By the end of their first year, the cohort aims to narrow down their areas of interest for further exploration in the fall. Through their exploration of poverty and its impact on school performance, the cohort is gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by students from disadvantaged backgrounds. By addressing these challenges head-on, the Blouin Scholar Program aims to create a more equitable and inclusive educational environment for all.

As all of the Blouin Scholar cohorts progress in their transformative journey, their interdisciplinary approach and collaboration with community partners showcase the program's enduring impact on local and global issues, standing as a testament to the institution's commitment to developing justice-oriented leaders dedicated to service and experiential scholarship.



Blouin Scholar Class of 2027: Explores Poverty and School Performance

Advisor: Dr. Nick Morris

The Blouin Scholar Class of 2027 is one of the most diverse including international students from Ghana and India.

Their freshman year has been focused on their exploration of poverty and its impact on school performance. Beginning day one, these dedicated students have delved into the

Courage Cor



Finding Confidence and Success Through Campus Involvement

Leah DiMichele, a Professional Writing major, may not have been the most loquacious student at Walsh University, but she will always appreciate that her professors and advisors took an interest in her learning and encouraged her to get involved on campus. DiMichele became a Cavs Cor "Courage" leader in the Cavs Cor Cordium mentorship program, where leaders like her mentor first-year students and plan activities throughout the academic year for all undergraduate students. The Courage cohort is a community that embraces courage and faces challenges bravely. Reflecting on her time at Walsh, DiMichele acknowledges that the experience helped her gain confidence in opening up to others. She attributes much of her personal growth during her sophomore year to Cavs

Cor and the connections she made in the Courage cohort. The positive impact extended beyond her role as a leader, influencing her ability to communicate with other students and contributing to her overall confidence. "The most important lesson I learned was to step out of my comfort zone," she said. "I have allowed myself to feel uncomfortable at times to grow as a person. Now, I navigate situations in an authentic way that aligns with my values and doesn't feel forced, and I feel confident speaking up for my beliefs." Completing her studies a semester early, DiMichele secured a position as a Human Resources and Total Rewards Assistant, a testament to the skills and confidence she developed through her involvement at Walsh University.

Leah DiMichele '23

Professional Writing

Empowering Non-Traditional Learners By Fostering Belonging and Career Growth Opportunities

With non-traditional adult learners making up a large percentage of education enrollments, Walsh University's close-knit community cultivates a sense of belonging and engagement between advisors and students, including remote distance learners, that is unmatched by larger universities. Jemiran Hunter, a Data Analytics major, who enrolled at Walsh as a transfer student after taking time off from college has found a way to balance school, work and family commitments by working remotely. During his time as a student at Walsh, he has met alumni who have helped him make the connections he needs to explore internships and grow as a professional. "I'm very proud of the alumni we have and the passion they

express when it comes to professional development," he said. "It's like the saying: "Iron shapes iron." As a non-traditional student, I was reluctant to use campus resources, but I have met so many alumni who had similar stories to mine, and they encouraged me to use the Alumni and Career Connections office on campus and professional networks on LinkedIn." Hunter was inspired to pursue a career in Data Analytics after serving on the board for Ekaza, a STEM-based organization he is involved in with his children, and seeing how data is a driving force in decision making and scaling a business. His career interests include roles as a data engineer, data scientist or data analyst.

Jemiran Hunter '25

Data Analytics





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Garage
at WALSH UNIVERSITY



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Embracing a Deeper Calling with a Focus on Vocation

Audrey Dornisch, a Finance major with a Data Analytics minor, has found more than an academic institution in Walsh University – she has discovered her life's purpose. Though she was drawn to Walsh's mission, strong Catholic faith, and close-knit community, it was the prestigious Blouin Scholar program that convinced her to choose Walsh.

Reflecting on her decision, Dornisch said, “Being a Blouin Scholar not only aligned with my personal values, giving me a profound sense of meaning and direction, but it also introduced me to service minded individuals walking in Christ's footsteps. The people I've encountered have become integral to my growth.” Dornisch actively engages in various facets of campus life as a member of Campus Ministry, Student Managed

Investment Portfolio, Crafty Cavs and the Business Club. She is also the CEO of The Garage and serves as a Student Ambassador. “Walsh encourages students to form real and meaningful relationships throughout our time here,” she said. “Consistently hearing different and new perspectives has led me to find role models on this campus that have led me closer to Christ and have helped inspire me to create my future goals.” Looking beyond graduation, Dornisch envisions a daily commitment to her vocation, seeking personal growth intertwined with her faith. She contemplates a future career with financial consulting firms, driven by the values instilled during her transformative journey at Walsh University.

Audrey Dornisch '26
Finance

International Student's Nursing Aspirations Soar at Walsh University

Each year, Walsh University welcomes international students from dozens of different countries. Before they can begin their academic pursuit in the United States, they apply for a student visa and wait for it to be approved. Along with the uncertainty of knowing when they will begin their freshman year, they often feel apprehensive about living abroad. Gloria Tindana traveled about 5,000 miles from Ghana, a country in West Africa, to study nursing in The Byers School of Nursing, a noble profession she has wanted to pursue since she was a young girl. She found Walsh's program to be among the ten best nursing schools in Ohio. "I chose Walsh

University because of its highly-rated nursing program and opportunities to do my clinicals at top hospitals in the state," she said. "I also wanted a school with a mission and values that will help me grow spiritually as well as academically. Coming from Ghana, one of the developing countries in the world, I feel special because most people back home would love to be in my shoes. Walsh has welcomed me with open arms and given me the opportunity to explore a talent I never knew I had. Tindana hopes to work for Aultman Hospital and then continue her education at Walsh in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

Gloria Tindana '26
Nursing



Cultivating Mission-Driven Philanthropy: Purposeful Impact through Inspired Relationships and Shared Vision

In the ever-evolving landscape of higher education, Walsh University stands out as a beacon of academic excellence, devoted to its Catholic mission and guided by the principles of faith, reason and service. As we reflect on the past year's successes, we are also thrilled to share the strategic decisions that have positioned us for a future of continued success.

Soirée Firms Up Position as the Little Event with the Big Purpose

In 2023, the Southern Soirée, an event conceived by President Tim and Drenda Collins to raise much needed dollars to bridge the tuition cap for Walsh students, gained traction in the community, showcasing the unparalleled generosity and spirit that define Walsh University. In its



second year the event surpassed its \$125,000 fundraising goal to raise \$134,000 in a single night, an 85% increase over the previous year, and the highest funds ever raised for a single event in Walsh's history.

The Southern Soirée's success can be attributed to committed volunteers and supporters, a harmonious blend of cultural celebration, student engagement, and innovative fundraising components, including the "Tree of Dreams" initiative and unique and exciting auction items. This year, plans are underway to achieve an even more ambitious goal of \$250,000 to support Walsh students in need.

Dr. Eric Constant Brings Fresh Take on Philanthropy



Also, within the past year, the Office of Advancement has evolved into the recently established Office of Philanthropy. This strategic shift underscores our commitment to fostering meaningful relationships with cherished alumni, supporters, and donors, including those whose generosity has propelled our mission over the past 63 years.

An integral move was the appointment of Dr. Eric Constant as the Vice President for Philanthropy in August 2023. Dr. Constant, an accomplished fundraising veteran, brings a wealth of experience in both higher education and two national Catholic non-profits. Mostly recently, Dr. Constant directed efforts that raised \$25 million annually at the

Dynamic Catholic Institute. His energy, purpose and commitment to our mission align seamlessly with our vision for the future.

Driven by a passion for advancing higher education and the Catholic faith, Dr. Constant leads the philanthropic effort for the University with a fresh set of expertise and ideas to branch out beyond our region and achieve our goals.



Philanthropy in support of Walsh 4.0

This year also included much research and planning throughout the University with its key constituents to assess and prioritize the areas of greatest needs and how Philanthropy and Walsh's benefactors can help the University continue to grow and prosper and to fulfill its mission for our students and community. With Walsh 4.0 in mind, planning for not only sustainability but for the future growth and innovative advancement of Walsh to accomplish our strategic goals are all top of mind.

At Walsh University, philanthropy is not just a means of financial support; it is a testament to how we come together as a community. Private support, spanning over six decades, has left an indelible mark on our institution, supporting student scholarships, academic programs, athletics and facilities.

We welcome our esteemed alumni and friends to be part of this enriching journey in the coming years as we strive to elevate student success, advance University initiatives and embark on impactful capital improvements. Together, we ensure a brighter future not only for our students but for the global community.

Global Scholar Serves as Visiting Professor

Walsh University's commitment to academic excellence extends beyond its campus borders, welcoming some of the world's brightest minds as research collaborators, visiting professors and guest lecturers. This approach not only enriches the learning experience for students but also provides unique opportunities for faculty members to grow professionally, tackle complex problems and expand their teaching and research horizons with new perspectives.



Following his recent role as moderator for the U.S. National Security Policy Panel with World Leaders, Walsh's 2023 Presidential Thought Leadership Series, renowned philosopher and former national security advisor, Dr. Joe Wood, brought his expertise from the global stage to the classroom this past year, serving as a visiting professor of philosophy. His courses, Introduction to Philosophy and Catholic Belief and Practice, offered students a unique opportunity to engage with his wealth of knowledge firsthand.

“There is a real sense of mission here at Walsh that is bigger than all of us as individuals,” *Dr. Joe Wood said.*

“Walsh can take students from the local area or from 39 different nations and can give them the skills to have a good life, whether that is making a living, which is a good part of it, but also with some parts of the curriculum, to ask the questions that matter even more than how am I going to make a living. What is a fulfilling life? What defines humanity? What is it to really be able to help the people around me? Walsh seems to me, at least, to be focused on those questions, trying to build whole people and give them the start to have a successful life.”

Having served as National Security Advisor and Chief of Staff for Vice President Dick Cheney from 2005 to 2009, Dr. Wood's insights into global affairs are unparalleled. He holds a Bachelor of Science from the U.S. Air Force Academy, a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a Ph.D. from the School of Philosophy at the Catholic University of America, among other notable credentials.

“I think it's important for everyone to try to understand very difficult issues in a very complex world if we're going to be able to govern ourselves,” said Dr. Wood.

With a background that includes teaching engagements around the world and at prestigious institutions such as the University of Notre Dame Australia and the Institute of World Politics in Washington, D.C., Dr. Wood's expertise in moral and political philosophy will undoubtedly enrich the academic experience for Walsh University students.

“My advice to students is to be alert to the voice of God who is always calling on us in one way or another. Be alert to the fact that it may not be exactly what you think it is or even what you want it to be. Be aware of the importance of being in relation to those around you and with God. “Be not afraid,” those were the words of Pope John Paul II. Be not afraid of doing what's right and finding what's right for you.”

As Walsh continues to foster collaborations with scholars of Dr. Wood's caliber, students and faculty alike can look forward to engaging with diverse perspectives and tackling complex issues in the classroom and beyond. Dr. Wood intends to resume his stewardship of Walsh University and its students, extending his commitment to return to Walsh this summer and potentially beyond.





Our Impact

2,160 Students



3.39 GPA

42 states and 27 countries

18,000 Alumni

Spanning all 50 states and 48 countries



FY 24 Operating budget = **\$70,479,000**

Endowment value as of 6/30/23 = **\$36,650,616**

Full time employees **273**

North Canton tax withheld on all employees calendar year 2023

\$268,637

Financial Aid paid in FY23 = **\$28,262,865**

Accolades



Recognized as One of the Nation's **Top 25 Catholic Universities** in The Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College Since 2013.



Designated a Collegiate **Purple Star Campus** for Supporting Military-Connected Students.



No. 15 Best Online MBA in Healthcare Management Degree
No. 17 Best Online College in Ohio
No. 18 Quickest Online Bachelor's Degree Program



Featured among the top Catholic colleges and universities.



Ranked nationally as a **Top University, Top Performer** and **Top Nursing School**



National College of Distinction for Catholic Institution, Career Development, Military Support, Business, Education, Nursing and Ohio.



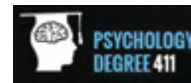
No. 16 Best School for Online Learning at the Master's Level



Recognized as a Peace Corps Preparatory Institution since 2015.



No. 1 in the Top 15 Hidden Gems in Ohio By Ohio Online Schools Guide



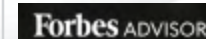
Top 25 Bachelor's in Psychology Programs in Ohio



No. 10 in the Nation for High-Quality Online Doctor of Nurse Practitioner Program
No. 9 in the Nation for Best Online Business Management Degree Programs



Recognized by members of the National Science Board for being a leader in STEM and workforce development.



Named one of the nation's **Best Online Organizational Leadership Degrees**.



No. 4 for Private Schools offering a Doctorate



No. 3 Best BSN Nursing Program in Ohio Online and Campus
No. 13 Best Online MBA in Healthcare Management



Walsh University's online courses earned national recognition by Quality Matters.



No. 21 Best Small Colleges in Ohio





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