ABHE

Association for
Biblical Higher Education

FLOURISHING INSTITUTIONS MISSIONAL GRADUATES

ABHE'S *Enduring Legacy*

In the late nineteenth century, a spiritual movement began that has had a profound influence on the Kingdom of God. Its impact has been felt in every part of the world, producing a large percentage of North American evangelical missionaries and serving as a primary educational enterprise for local church development and growth. In 1947, a group representing several Bible institutes and colleges formed what is now known as the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) to seek U.S. recognition as an accreditor. U.S. authorization as a national accrediting agency was granted in 1952.

Today ABHE serves just over 150 institutions enrolling 63,000+ students across North America. Our mission is to ***advance biblical higher education for Kingdom impact***. Collectively, we are a powerful force that is changing the world with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. Amid social, political, and economic complexities, we forge ahead with a humble confidence that is grounded in God's favor and faithfulness.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1880's
Bible institutes emmerge out of 2nd Great Awakening

1947
Creation of Association of Bible Institutes and Bible Colleges (ABIBC)

1952
ABIBC receives recognition by U.S. Department of Education as a national accreditor

1957
Name changes to Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges (AABC)

1958
S.A Witmer begins as AABC's first executive director

1975
John Mostert leads the effort to become a charter member of COPA/later CHEA (Council for Higher Education Accreditation)

2004
Larry McKinney leads expansion of scope and name change to Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE)

2006
Ralph Enlow lays the groundwork for expanded scope of ABHE services

2012
Randall Bell completes 34 years of COA leadership

2022
ABHE celebrates 75th Anniversary and launches strategic plan — Philip Dearborn, President

STRATEGIC PLANNING JOURNEY

The genesis of our strategic planning process dates back to 2006 when ABHE's president, Ralph Enlow, suggested to the Board of Directors to reimagine ABHE beyond its primary service as an accreditor. From that point to today, under the creative leadership and execution of David Medders and Carol Dibble, ABHE developed what have become robust professional development opportunities and services for our college and university leaders.

In summer 2020, an organizational SWOT analysis propelled a discussion with the Board of Directors to formally launch a strategic planning process that would set a foundation and trajectory for biblical higher education beyond our 75th anniversary year. In June 2021, the Board of Directors along with the Commission on Accreditation executive officers, met in retreat with Tim Fuller (founder and consultant, Fuller Higher Ed Solutions) to develop a revised mission statement, new vision statement, and strategic planning themes that would guide our strategic plan. In Fall 2021, this work was presented to the ABHE membership through a series of twelve Town Hall gatherings throughout North America.

The input collected from those Town Hall gatherings was presented to the Board of Directors in November 2021 who formally approved our revised mission statement, new vision statement, and strategic plan. Since the mission statement was part of our Constitution, the President's Congress approved the revised mission statement in January 2022.

This viewbook has been created to paint a picture of our preferred future. It represents broad input and buy-in from the biblical higher education community — the Board of Directors, the Commission on Accreditation, the ABHE staff, and most importantly, our member institutions.

In summary, the essence of our strategic plan is . . .

> **Over the next 5 years (2022-2027), ABHE envisions a future where more and more of its member institutions are flourishing. A flourishing institution is ultimately characterized as fulfilling its mission and that of Christ through its graduates. ABHE serves its members by shepherding, cultivating, and championing biblical higher education resulting in flourishing institutions.**

Join us in praying for God's continued favor and our faithfulness as we work together to now implement our strategic plan!

Philip E. Dearborn, EdD
ABHE President

MISSION

OUR MISSION: ***Advancing biblical higher education for Kingdom impact***

ADVANCING — moving purposefully forward with a sense of urgency — **OUR DISPOSITION**

BIBLICAL HIGHER EDUCATION — a biblical and theological learning community — **WHO WE ARE**

KINGDOM IMPACT — seeing students serve Christ by going and making disciples — **OUR ULTIMATE PURPOSE**

ABHE is unapologetically driven to serve Christ and the Church through the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Member institutions engage students in transformational, experiential, and missional education that is grounded in the truth of God's Word. The end goal of biblical higher education is to go and make disciples.

As we began our strategic planning process in 2021, the need to refresh and refine our mission statement became evident. A mission statement should be focused on our **WHY**, rather than **WHAT** or **HOW** we accomplish our mission. It ought to be memorable, compelling, and capture the essence of why we exist, providing a sense of direction.

In the Fall of 2021, we introduced the revised mission statement at our twelve strategic planning Townhall gatherings across North America. Attendees rated the statement a 4.7 out of 5 stars, a strong expression of support. This was approved by the Board of Directors in late 2021 and the President's Congress in early 2022.

THIS IS NOW THE OFFICIAL MISSION STATEMENT OF ABHE . . .

Advancing biblical higher education for Kingdom impact

VISION

OUR VISION: Flourishing Institutions Missional Graduates

FLOURISHING INSTITUTIONS — Our aspirational goal — **WHO WE SERVE**

MISSIONAL GRADUATES — Our ultimate desired end — **WHO SERVE GOD**

Biblical higher education is a movement of institutions committed to fulfilling the Great Commission. ABHE exists to promote, advance, and protect the essence and ethos of biblical higher education through its member institutions. We are focused on cultivating flourishing institutions. This effort employs various means such as quality assurance through the Commission on Accreditation, networking, and leadership development opportunities with a goal to see our institutions flourish. When our institutions are flourishing, they will produce missional graduates. Missional graduates will go and make a difference for the cause of Jesus Christ around the world.

A vision statement is aspirational. It identifies a preferred future, a destination. Over the next 5 years (2022-2027), ABHE envisions a future where more and more of its member institutions are flourishing. A flourishing institution is ultimately characterized as fulfilling its mission and that of Christ through its graduates. ABHE serves its members by shepherding, cultivating, and championing biblical higher education resulting in flourishing institutions.

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE? IN FIVE YEARS . . .

- A palpable sense of spiritual vitality throughout ABHE
- More students enrolled across ABHE
- Higher student completion rates
- More faculty engaged with ABHE
- Fewer institutions in fiscal jeopardy
- More member institutions
- A curated hub of resources for member flourishing
- Increased member engagement with ABHE
- A robust commitment to biblically grounded, Christ-centered education
- Broader understanding of and appreciation for biblical higher education

Flourishing Institutions Missional Graduates

THEME #1 — SHEPHERD A SPIRITUAL MOVEMENT

BIBLICAL HIGHER EDUCATION IS A SPIRITUAL MOVEMENT. This was true in its founding and is still true today. Without intentionality, the tyranny of the urgent and the pressures to operate sustainable organizations can push us away from our roots. That's the typical mission drift of higher education.

However, God's plan for this age is accomplished through Christ and His bride, the Church. That's who we serve. So we must continually seek God's favor and direction as we strive to model and nurture holy living in ourselves and those we serve, shepherding our institutions as a spiritual movement.

> I see ABHE as a movement to advance the Kingdom of God through our own human effort to bring the world closer to what God intended for it — human flourishing for all.
>
> Dr. Forrest E Harris, Sr., President
> American Baptist College

ON OUR WATCH, WE WILL . . .

- Serve the Church through meaningful engagement and partnerships
- Model and promote holy living among students and other stakeholders
- Foster individual and institutional spiritual vitality through events and initiatives
- Nurture an awareness of and a catalytic environment for a fresh moving of God's Spirit

> God is up to reaching everybody everywhere and there is no distinction with Him between race, color, origin or socioeconomic level. God loves everyone. And when the Church is at its best we reflect that.
>
> David Medders
> Executive Vice President
> ABHE

Shepherd

CULTIVATE

> I believe ABHE is speaking prophetically to a nation that needs a voice of hope, a voice of reason, and a voice to help it navigate through an incredibly complex social milieu.
>
> Dr. Paul Alexander
> President
> Trinity Bible College
> & Graduate School

> ABHE wants to help support, coach, navigate, empower, and be more proactive in helping our institutions thrive.
>
> Dr. Mark Jobe
> President
> Moody Bible Institute

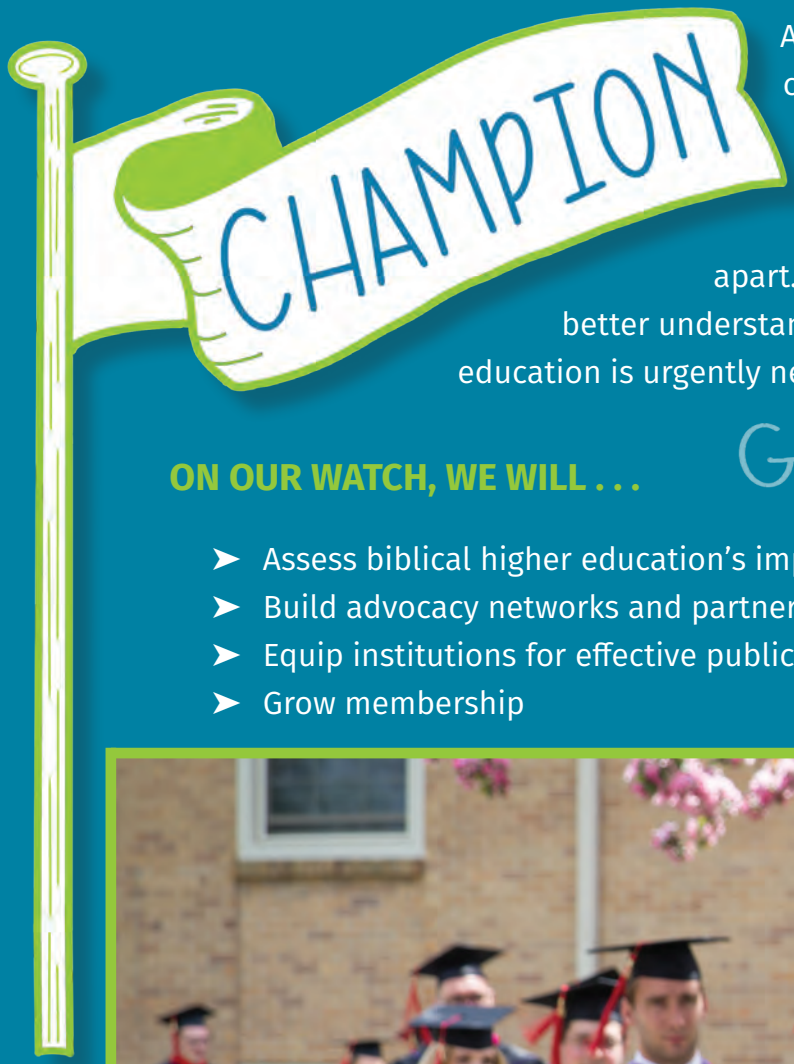
THEME #2 — CULTIVATE FLOURISHING INSTITUTIONS

THE CORE OF OUR VISION IS TO CULTIVATE AN ENRICHED ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR MOVEMENT WHERE EACH OF OUR INSTITUTIONS CAN FLOURISH. Providing resources, networking, training, and experiences are catalytic for creating an optimal context for institutions to pursue thriving.

ON OUR WATCH, WE WILL . . .

- Create an online pedagogy and biblical integration institute provided as a member benefit
- Identify and promote qualitative and quantitative characteristics of flourishing institutions
- Expand and enrich leadership consultation, collaboration, networking, and development
- Review and revise accreditation policies and processes to promote increased innovation and flexibility

THEME #3 — CHAMPION BIBLICAL HIGHER EDUCATION



ABHE's professional market research has confirmed there is a significant lack of general understanding about the nature and value of biblical higher education. In addition, there is growing hostility for much of what sets us apart. Crafting the message that helps the public better understand the nature and value of biblical higher education is urgently needed.

Assess

GROW

EQUIP

BUILD

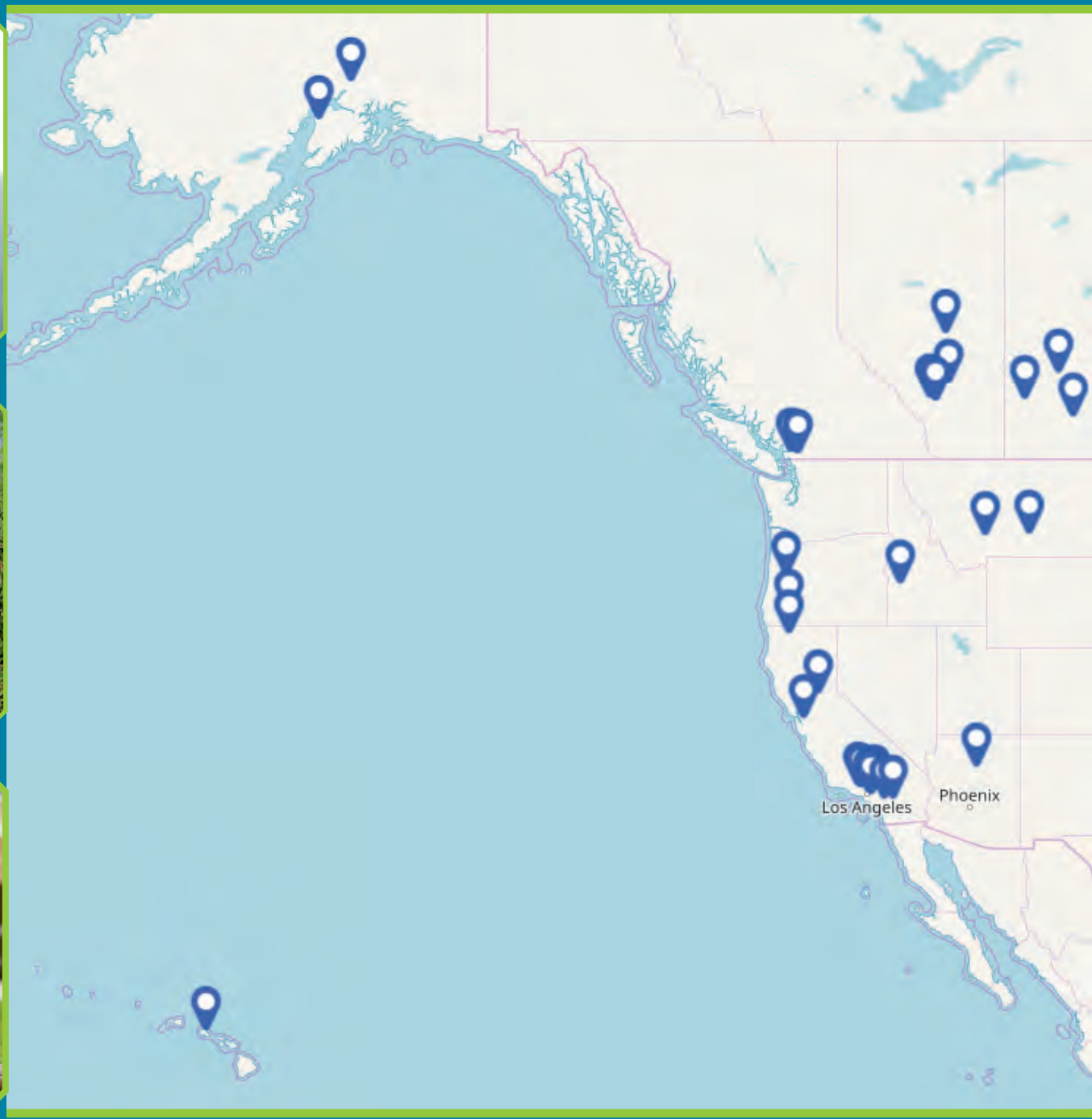
ON OUR WATCH, WE WILL . . .

- Assess biblical higher education's impact and tell our story
- Build advocacy networks and partnerships
- Equip institutions for effective public engagement
- Grow membership

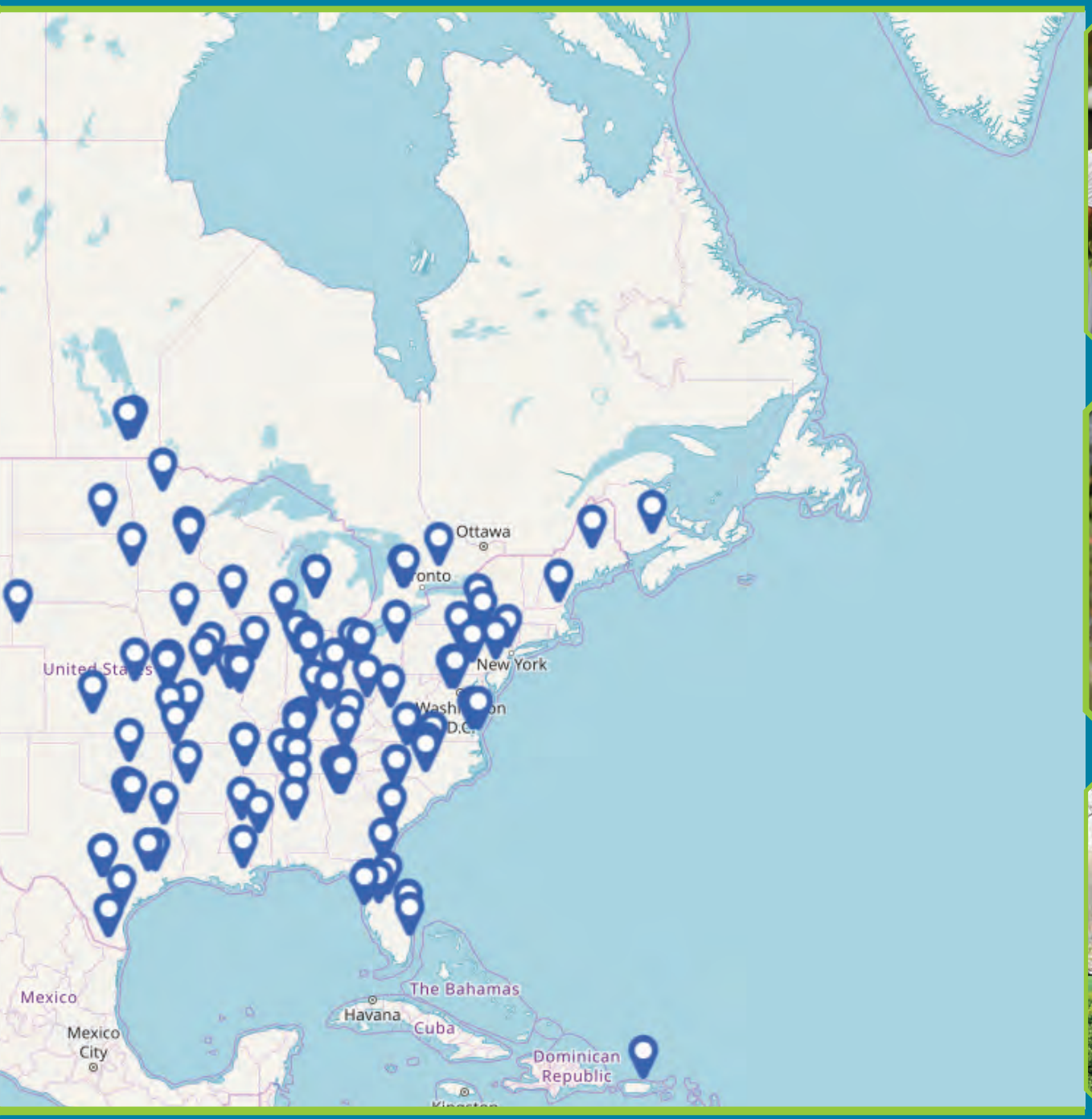
> We are supporting God's mission in the world with the work that we are doing. Training a new generation of servant leaders to be able to serve Christ through their work, whether it's in ministry or the marketplace.
>
> Dr. Lisa Beatty
> COA Executive Director
> ABHE

> Many are saying these are going to be the most challenging days for biblical higher education. My view is *bring it on*. We are ready for it. This is what Christians do. We face forward. We keep moving. It gives me great hope and anticipation for what the Lord will do in and through ABHE and its member schools.
>
> — Dr. Todd Williams, President, Cairn University.

ABHE ACROSS NORTH AMERICA . . .



155 INSTITUTIONS 63,000+ STUDENTS



KEY DATA POINTS

*Reported from the 2021 Institutional Annual Report

MEMBERSHIP - 155 INSTITUTIONS

114	COA* Accredited
5	COA Accredited Programs
3	Accredited by Other Agencies
15	COA Candidate
18	COA Applicant

COA* (Commission on Accreditation)

2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR UNDUPLICATED STUDENT HEADCOUNT

45,090	Unduplicated Undergraduate Headcount
18,199	Unduplicated Graduate Headcount
63,289	TOTAL Unduplicated Headcount

FALL 2021 TOTAL ENROLLMENT SUMMARY

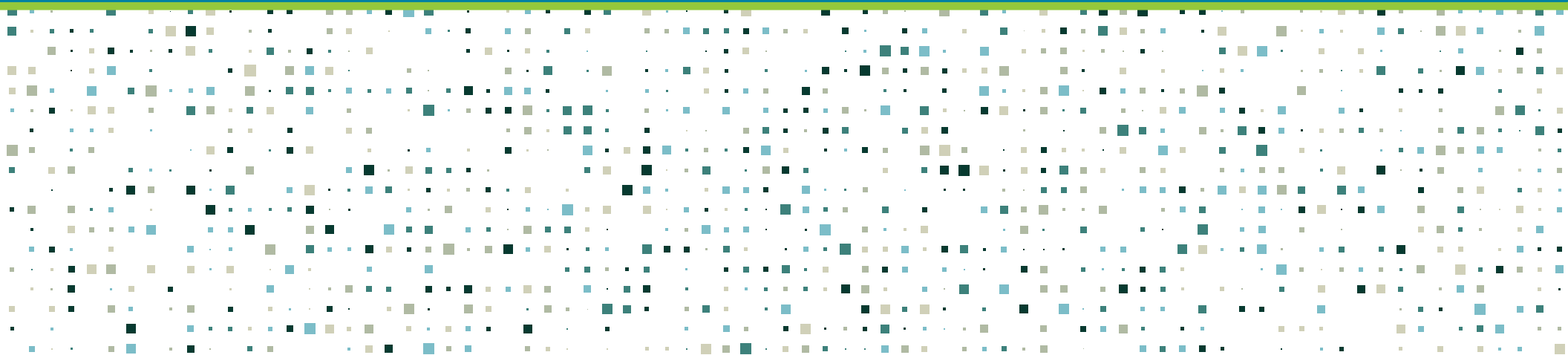
50,358	TOTAL Headcount
39,196	TOTAL FTE

FALL 2021 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ENROLLMENT SUMMARY

22,296	Full Time Undergrad Headcount
13,788	Part-Time Undergrad Headcount
36,084	TOTAL Undergrad Headcount
70,649	Part-Time Credit Hours Sold
28,183	Undergrad FTE

FALL 2021 GRADUATE STUDENT ENROLLMENT SUMMARY

7,480	Full Time Grad Headcount
6,794	Part-Time Grad Headcount
14,274	TOTAL Grad Headcount
31,800	Part-Time Grad Credit Hours Sold
11,013	Grad FTE



2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR CREDIT HOURS SOLD

859,601	Undergraduate Credit Hours Sold
216,937	Graduate Credit Hours Sold
1,076,538	TOTAL Credit Hours Sold

TEACHING FACULTY

2,058	Full Time Faculty
4,422	Part-time/Adjunct Faculty
6,480	TOTAL Faculty

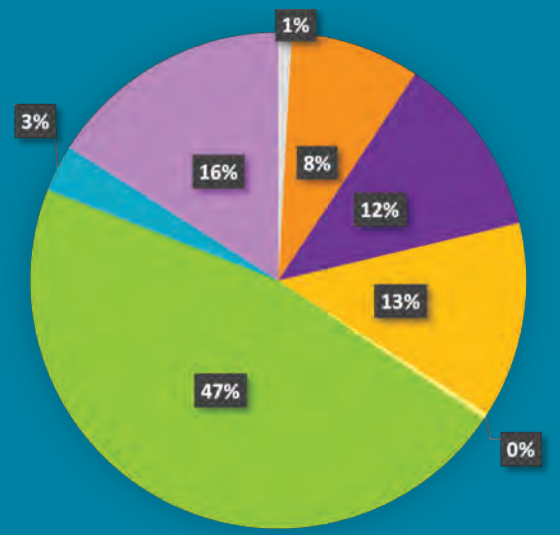
2021 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT

503	Leadership Development attendees during **14** conferences
181	Town Hall attendees during **12** events
610	Webinar attendees during **18** webinars
40	Commission on Accreditation campus visits

AGGREGATE MEMBERSHIP FINANCES

$2,303,843,708	Total Assets
$1,638,490,286	Net Assets
$620,413,531	Educational & General Expenses
$276,133,528	Gift Income
$321,153,650	Long Term Debt
$343,565,079	Undergraduate Tuition Revenue
$115,790,586	Graduate Tuition Revenue
$22,287,361	Student Aid (Funded)
$121,842,281	Student Aid (Unfunded)
36.2%	Average Undergrad Discount Rate
17%	Average Graduate Discount Rate
31.4%	Overall Average Discount Rate

STUDENT ETHNICITY



COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION

The historic means of assuring the quality of North American higher education is conducted through the peer review process of institutional accreditation. The Commission on Accreditation (COA) is the independent national accrediting agency of the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE).

ABHE'S COA . . .

- Accredits institutions and programs of biblical higher education in Canada, the United States, and U.S. Territories based on standards of quality that reflect both higher education and spiritual contexts — where the Bible is central and the development of Christian life and ministry is essential.

- Is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as a national, faith-related accrediting agency. ABHE is one of only four recognized national, faith-related accrediting agencies, and was a charter member of the Council on Postsecondary Education (COPA) and the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation (CORPA), the predecessors to CHEA. ABHE's scope of recognition under CHEA extends to institutions and programs in the United States, Canada, and related territories that offer certificates, diplomas, associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degrees aimed at preparing students for Christian ministries through Biblical, church-vocational and general studies.

- Is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a national, specialized institutional accrediting agency. ABHE recognition by the U.S. Department of Education has been continuous since 1952, when the federal government first began recognizing accrediting agencies. The agency's scope of USDE recognition (i.e., for the purpose of participation in U.S. Higher Education Act financial aid programs) relates to the accreditation and preaccreditation (*Candidate for Accreditation*) of Bible colleges and institutes in the United States offering undergraduate programs through both campus-based instruction and distance education.

- Is the North American representative among the nine continental/regional networks of international accrediting agencies that make up the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE), the official theological education entity of the World Evangelical Alliance.

ANNUAL MEETING

For 75 years, leaders from institutions of biblical higher education across North America have gathered annually for ABHE's Annual Meeting — to connect, confer and expand the capacity of their leadership gifts and abilities. In the last decade, the program has included a significant expansion of workshops and forums for enhancing professional development, promoting best practices and championing biblical higher education. This has included workshop tracks for all c-suite institutional leaders, trustees, as well as select specialty areas of institutional development such as online education. Newly accredited institutions are recognized along with certifications for c-suite leaders and boards.

In addition, institutional leaders connect with dozens of resource and service providers who attend as exhibitors, sponsors, and partners, providing an opportunity to leverage external resources and services to advance institutional mission.

AT THE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING . . .

- Over 600 in attendance, representing 125 institutions
- 12 preconvention targeted day-long forums
- 72 professional development 1-hour workshops
- A sold-out exhibit hall with 69 vendors, sponsors, and partners
- 31 diamond, premier, major, and contributing organizational sponsors
- Enriched opportunities for networking and relationship renewal
- Vibrant times of worship, and a musical concert by Steven Curtis Chapman
- 4 plenary sessions addressing vital areas of institutional focus, providing a compelling vision for biblical higher education flourishing

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

GROWING LEADERS FOR A GROWING MOVEMENT

LEADERSHIP TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

What do highly-effective institutional leaders need to know and what professional skills must be consistently exercised for an enduring and distinguished leadership legacy? ABHE offers leadership development & certification programs designed for institutional leaders. They are created to expand the capacity and enrich the competency of our top institutional leaders.

> Outstanding Value! I gleaned an incredible amount of information in two days that I will be able to take back and begin implementing immediately. I was impressed by all the presenters and material presented.
>
> — Conference Attendee

Each of the training programs are delivered during two-day conferences offered in a hybrid format along with webinars and Annual Meeting workshops. They focus on executive skills, deeper understanding of important issues, leadership wisdom, best practices, oversight essentials, and excellence in professional and personal development.

Certification is offered for leaders who enroll in the executive certification program and complete a 100-hour professional development action plan.

BOARD LEADERSHIP TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

Training is also offered to board leadership teams to advance the sustainability and missional success of biblical higher educational institutions by instructing and mentoring board leaders regarding essential principles and practices for effective board governance. Assisted by distinguished board coaches, participants will grow in their understanding and experience of . . .

- Appropriate board roles & fiduciary responsibilities
- Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) for effective institutional oversight
- Prudent board engagement in strategic thinking and planning
- The vital partnership between the board, board chair, and president
- Purposes and essential elements of a sound Board Policy Manual

Excellence in Board Governance Certification is based on successful engagement by the 5-member board leadership team in the four days of training, subsequent meeting of the coach with the full board, and appropriate steps being taken to accomplish the *Five Strategic Action Steps*. Qualifying boards will be recognized at the subsequent ABHE Annual Meeting with the *Excellence in Board Governance* certificate.

ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLICAL HIGHER EDUCATION
5850 T.G. LEE BLVD, STE 130
ORLANDO, FL 32822

407.207.0808 | www.abhe.org

For quantity copies of Viewbook, contact info@abhe.org

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Review
flourish
EXPAND
EQUIP
GROW
Model
BUILD
Enrich
Assess
FOSTER
Shepherd
REVISE